



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**Day 8**

**15<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, June 8, 2006**

Pages 241 - 270

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Thursday, June 8, 2006

**Members Present**

Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul Delorey, Honourable Charles Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Honourable David Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Honourable Michael McLeod, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Yakeleya

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the House. Welcome to our guests in the gallery today. Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Roland.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 23-15(5): Premier Absent From The House**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise the House that the Honourable Joe Handley will be absent from the House today to attend the Council of the Federation meeting in Edmonton, Alberta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

**Minister's Statement 24-15(5): Extension Of The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP)**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to inform this House that the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation and Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation have reached agreement on an extension of the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program, better known as RRAP, for another year. Through RRAP, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation is able to repair northerner's homes to meet acceptable levels of health and safety.

Through this partnership, the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation will complete \$460,000 in home repairs during 2006-2007. Through RRAP, the corporation can also carry out home renovations that will increase energy efficiency. Perhaps more significantly, RRAP also contains components that provide assistance specifically to meet the needs of seniors and persons with disabilities to improve accessibility and increase the ability of these residents to lead independent lives.

I have been informed that the Government of Canada is considering extending this program over a longer term. Along with my colleagues in other provinces and territories, I will be lobbying the Minister responsible for CMHC, the Honourable Diane Finley, to express our desire that funding become permanent.

Mr. Speaker, RRAP is one of several successful homeowner repair programs delivered by the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

The ability to renovate existing homes to improve health, safety standards and energy efficiency is a critical part of our efforts to provide adequate, suitable and affordable housing to our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Dent.

**Minister's Statement 25-15(5): Workers' Compensation Board 2005 Annual Report**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today I will table the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut 2005 Annual Report. Mr. Speaker, it contains good news for northern stakeholders.

Everyone agrees the sooner an injured worker is helped to return to work, the better. The WCB offers injured workers the Healthy Return to Work Program. Through this innovative program, the average duration for lost-time accidents is under 44 days.

Mr. Speaker, last year the WCB registered 3,321 new claims. Of these, 950 were from workers who lost time at work. Of all the claims registered, there were a total of 128 requests -- 108 to the review committee and 20 to the appeals tribunal -- for review. The review committee completed 81 reviews and the appeals tribunal concluded 24.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, last year there were 10 deaths as a result of workplace accidents. All workplace deaths are avoidable, and we all need to keep that in mind. WCB continues to institute programs to reduce workplace injuries, including the strategic safety plan that focuses on the need to change attitudes on workplace safety. As well, Safe Advantage, a merit/demerit program that will recognize employers with good safety records, will be introduced in 2007. This program will encourage employers to work even harder to ensure safe work places for their employees by providing an incentive for good safety practices.

Mr. Speaker, in 2005, the cost of claims was lowered by approximately \$1 million from 2004, and the WCB reduced administration costs by \$300,000. A change in accounting rules and good administration of stakeholders' money has resulted in the WCB being one of the best financed boards in Canada, with assets totalling \$295 million and liabilities of \$211 million. That means there is more than enough money in the accident fund to cover all existing and expected claims, which is good news for both employers and workers. Mr. Speaker, it also means the WCB will plan to reduce employer assessments in 2007.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Hear! Hear!

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Mr. Speaker, the board and governance council focus on workplace and worker safety, along with good financial stewardship, means the WCB of the NWT and Nunavut is well positioned to look after the interests of both workers and employers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Minister's Statement 26-15(5): Update On NWT Barren-Ground Caribou Management Strategy**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In February, the NWT Barren-Ground Caribou Management Strategy was released. It identified the actions this government, our partners and users need to take during the next five years to help caribou herds recover. Today I would like to update Members on the actions we have taken to date:

- Measures identified by the wildlife co-management boards are being implemented.
- Harvest levels have been reduced.
- A two-week delay in the release of maps showing the locations of caribou has been implemented.
- Additional collars were deployed during the spring distribution surveys in March. The collars are used to determine locations of caribou during summer surveys.
- Additional compliance patrols were carried out throughout the Northwest Territories this winter.
- There has been an increase in public information materials, including radio and newspaper advertisements.

Mr. Speaker, the following further actions are planned for this summer:

- Additional regulations to restrict harvesting, based on recommendations of the co-management boards, will be completed in July.
- The department is working with Industry, Tourism and Investment to address hardships resulting from the low caribou numbers.
- Public information materials, including radio, television and newspaper advertisements, are being developed to help harvesters prepare for the fall hunting season.

A commitment was made to this House to survey the caribou herds again this year to confirm the numbers from last summer and some of this work is already underway with more planned for later this summer. A photographic calving ground survey to obtain a new estimate of the Bathurst caribou herd is underway. A reconnaissance of the calving ground of the Ahik herd is scheduled for later this month and post-calving photo census for the Cape

Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose East survey is scheduled for mid-July.

Computer technology has made counting caribou easier and more accurate. The photos are loaded into a computer program and as staff point at each caribou, the program tags it with a number. The results from the summer surveys will be provided to our partners and the public in September. Workshops involving wildlife co-management boards and users will be held this fall in Inuvik and Yellowknife to evaluate herd-specific results and to review management actions.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned before in this House, plans are underway to host a caribou summit with all stakeholders across the North, once we have gathered the information needed to give us a comprehensive picture of the current state of our caribou herds.

We will continue to work with the people of the Northwest Territories and our partners to ensure our caribou herds are conserved and treated with respect so we can continue to depend on this valuable renewable resource. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Ministers' statements. Members' statements. The honourable Member from Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**

**Member's Statement On Recognition Of Father's Day**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with Sunday being Father's Day, I thought I would devote my Member's statement today to some very special fathers.

Mr. Speaker, my own father passed away almost 10 years ago. I miss him but I do have the wonderful and vivid memories of him. He was colourful, opinionated and larger than life.

The testament to a good relationship is when you lose someone and you can say that you have no regrets. I was very close to my dad. To me he was human, but he was very savvy and discerning. One of the best legacies that a father or a parent, for that matter, can leave to their children is their unconditional approval. Oh, I got into my share of trouble, like everyone else, but I knew that beneath his gruff British exterior, I met with his approval. When I was little, he was my sense of security. If the teachers didn't like me, if my friends deserted me, if my siblings criticized me, it didn't really matter because my dad loved me and he was always there not far away. I was like his shadow; I wanted to go everywhere he went. I always knew where he was. He was at the family business behind the meat counter in his white butcher's apron. As long as I knew where he was and I could go to him any time, life was good.

That doesn't really explain why I left home at 17 years of age and moved 3,200 miles away, but even that I could do because of my father's constant assurance that I could do anything that I wanted to do.

The love of a mother is important, but the approval of a father has immeasurable value. Many children,

regrettably, grow up without the strong influence of a father in their lives. This creates a challenge for them in life that's difficult to put a cost on. Fathers have a unique role to play in childrearing and family life and it's a part that should be honoured and celebrated as we will this Sunday.

Mr. Speaker, in my 32 years in Hay River, I have been away from by dad but I would like to make mention of a very special Hay River father who recently passed away. Frank Hirst, Sr. passed away on March 23, 2006, at the age of 84. He had a large family of his own with many grandchildren and great-children, but he had the type of kindness that extended to a larger family in the community of Hay River, and, like my dad, he was a war veteran. He knew hard times and losses, but he embraced life with an extraordinary passion. If you've ever been to Hay River in the summer, you could see his beautiful trademark at the corner of Woodland and McBryan. When he wasn't out golfing, he was in his yard. He had to stop and wave or chat with so many passers-by that I'm still not sure how he had such a perfect garden. We will think of him every time we drive by his house, and thankfully his memory will also live on through his numerous family members who live in the North.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to mention my husband, Rick, who is also a wonderful father to my children. He was good with the kids when they were little and that's why I know he'll make a super grandfather, but we'll have to keep you posted on that front.

---Laughter

No pressure, kids. To you, Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues who are fathers and grandfathers here in this House, to the fathers of Hay River and to the fathers of the Northwest Territories, Happy Father's Day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements. The honourable Member from Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### **Member's Statement On Shared Child Custody Legislation**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank Mrs. Groenewegen for her statement today. Today I'd like to talk about fathers' rights and custody cases. Statistics show that most marriages are ending in divorce, Mr. Speaker. Forty-six percent is the national average. In some cases, Mr. Speaker, the consequences are only financial. In cases that involve the custody of children, the consequences can be far-reaching and can impact on the lives of the children for decades to come.

When a marriage or relationship breaks down, the issues that lead to the breakup seem to supersede what should

be the primary focus of any proceedings: the welfare and the wellbeing of the children of the relationship. The needs of the children often get overlooked by the need to punish their former partner. All too often, Mr. Speaker, this punishment takes the form of trying to restrict access to children. The children don't understand this. They want and need both parents in their lives.

The adversarial approach that exists under current divorce legislation can, through the awarding of sole custody to the mother, deny fathers any meaningful role in the upbringing of the children and lead to these children being brought up in what is essentially a single-parent household.

Statistics show that children brought up in a single-parent home are more likely to come into contact with the law, abuse drugs and alcohol, and do poorly in school. Studies show that conflicts between joint custody parents diminish over time. Whereas in the case of sole custody, court battles often rage on for years after the actual physical separation. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that the adversarial approach to custody matters serves no one, least of all the best interests of the children, and that it's time for the federal government and the territorial government to introduce and amend the current legislation to allow for automatic default to shared custody arrangements between the two parents. The only role the courts would have in determining custody would be in those cases where violence or abuse has been proven against one of the parental parties and it would be in the best interest of the child to restrict access to that parent. This would also reduce the number of false accusations of abuse that are often made in the heat of battle in our current adversarial process.

Our children deserve to have both parents, Mr. Speaker, and legislation to default the equal share of parenting is advancing in countries like Italy, Belgium, Australia and the United Kingdom, and, Mr. Speaker, we must do all we can as legislators to ensure that happens. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Members' statements. The honourable Member from Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

#### **Member's Statement On Consideration To Locate Aurora College Campus In Behchoko**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today is very important. There's a lot of graduates in our territory today and as leaders and elders, we have a high school. They want a better school in our community. (Translation ends)

...of the Ticho high school as outlined in my Member's statement the other day in this House. I think it is time that this government refocuses capital planning initiatives into the NWT and Canada that is ready to take on any major development initiatives that comes its way.

Mr. Speaker, it is apparent that a new facility for Aurora College is in the planning stages, preliminary stages, Mr. Speaker. The department is currently searching for land to situate their new building on in Yellowknife; a difficult task, to say the least, during this time of limited land space, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, it also seems apparent that in order for Aurora College to become the premier post-secondary institution and to be the first choice of post-secondary education facility for northerners, that the college and the department must rethink its program delivery and location.

Mr. Speaker, my leadership is seriously interested in having the new Aurora College campus to be rebuilt in Behchoko. The Tlicho have a mass of land available and are conveniently located one hour away from the city of Yellowknife. Behchoko would be the ideal location for this new facility, Mr. Speaker. There are numerous advantages to having Aurora College campus located in the community of Behchoko. Being the largest Dene community in the Northwest Territories and graduating the most aboriginal high school graduates than any other jurisdiction, many of the college potential students originate from the Tlicho region, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, a Behchoko Aurora College campus will be able to provide a truly unique northern post-secondary experience for all northerners, especially aboriginal northerners. Having the campus located in Behchoko would ensure that all students could be immersed into a rich, meaningful cultural atmosphere that reflects the traditions and cultures of NWT Dene population.

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

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

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, Aurora College and the department must be open to the idea of looking beyond Yellowknife for their ideal new facility site. The college and the government must realize that in order to build northern capacity, the college must have a facility that can model and reinforce the Dene culture and region to the aboriginal population far more successfully than it is currently doing. Mr. Speaker, I would like the department to seriously consider and start planning for a new Aurora College campus to be built in Behchoko. Perhaps if this were to happen, Aurora College could become as successful and recognized as Chief Jimmy Bruneau High School has become.

Mr. Speaker, the community of Behchoko and the Tlicho region are ready to take on the task of housing Aurora College. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Retirement Of Yellowknife Kindergarten Teacher Toni Auge**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you can see in the gallery today, we have a very special person joining us along with her kindergarten class, friends and family. That is Mrs. Toni Auge from Range Lake North School.

Mr. Speaker, for 41 marvellous years Mrs. Auge has taught literally hundreds, or even in the thousands, of young minds a lifelong love of learning and caring for others around them. She began teaching in 1965 in New Zealand and has taught in Yellowknife since 1970. She taught in the teepee class at Mildred Hall and at the Yellowknife Playschool, at Sissons, and since it opened in 1993 at Range Lake North School. In fact, one of her first Yellowknife students at the teepee is now the principal of the teepee school and three of her former students join us today.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the truly blessed are those fortunate enough to find their calling in life early and spend their working life doing what they were gifted to do, especially if in doing so one can make a real difference in the lives of our precious young. Without a doubt, Mrs. Auge has done that. She's loved by all, especially those chosen people who were lucky to have her as their teacher, but also the parents and fellow teachers.

Mr. Speaker, on a personal note, where I grew up in another world, kindergarten schooling was reserved for the wealthy and privileged in private schools. But in a vicarious way, I feel like I got my kindergarten experience with Mrs. Auge and I want to thank her for that. Over the last six years as an MLA, she has welcomed me to her beautiful class at Range Lake North School every year to see and learn and experience the little haven she creates for her children. I have watched in awe the way she transforms these little preschoolers into competent, creative, mature first graders who are ready to take on the world. Some of them are joining us today and her latest class joins us today.

Mr. Speaker, in recent years she made it her business to mentor new kindergarten teachers to prepare them for the impossible task of filling her enormous shoes and that shows what kind of a person, a responsible and respectable citizen she is. Mr. Speaker, may I take this opportunity to invite this House in expressing our deep appreciation to Mrs. Auge for her singular and distinguished career of 41 years and in wishing her and her husband, Joe Auge, and her family the very best in her well-deserved retirement, with which I have no doubt she will create a whole new life following her jubilant motto: life is what you make of it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Importance Of Aboriginal Languages**

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

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I don't speak my language very often as I'm still learning, but to me the Denesoline language is very important. With Aboriginal Day approaching, and although I recognize the importance of this national holiday for aboriginals and Canadians, I want to talk about the importance of aboriginal language as the foundation of our culture and livelihood.



I cannot stress the importance of languages to our northern territory. It has been stated by many Members of this current Legislature and past Legislatures, by prominent public figures, by teachers and educators, we hear it from elders and youth, and the many, many organizations, that the core principles, values and the cultures that we all uphold, revere and practice in this land are based on our aboriginal languages.

Mr. Speaker, we all know about the threat of losing these principles, our culture and the traditional way of life if we lose our languages. I feel that we are in the same predicament as the polar bear, with each polar bear representing some principle, culture, or tradition of our people and the ice cap representing our language, both of which are slowly fading away and will eventually lead to the extinction of cultures and traditions and, sadly, our polar bear if changes are not forthcoming.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, our options and opportunities to make positive changes are not as limitless as our friend the polar bear, who, unfortunately, needs the whole world to change in order to remain with us so our children's children can see and perhaps learn from them. Thankfully, Mr. Speaker, we don't need the whole world. All we require is this government to embrace the opportunity and to continue to make significant contributions towards the retention of northern culture and traditional lifestyle by providing growing support and resources in our schools, offices and institutions for aboriginal language development every year, which will definitely benefit our children and we can surely realize long-term benefits here in the NWT, both in aboriginal language development and improvement in all sectors of our society. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

#### **Member's Statement On Policing Services To Combat Illegal Drug Activity In Small Communities**

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

Mr. Speaker, this week I was saddened to hear that the hardest drug made it to a small community in my riding. The Deh Cho Drum reported that there was a bust, a crack cocaine bust, in Wrigley. Apparently people were travelling all the way from Edmonton to sell the drugs into Wrigley, and that's a long way to sell these drugs. I believe it's a precursor of things to come; just the tip of things to come. We need precious policing resources in our communities long before development, Mr. Speaker.

As well, the editorial part of the Deh Cho Drum, Mr. Speaker, the editor said that drug proofing needs everyone. I, too, would like to mention at this time, like, I commend residents of Wrigley and concerned people around Fort Simpson for the courage, strength and wisdom to report and work with the police in helping to make these arrests. That's what I spoke about in Slavey; I'd like to thank them for taking care of our own.

The police, it goes on to state there, Mr. Speaker, that this community, victory could not be done without the help of the community. Once again, I commend them.

As well, once again, I'd like to state that this leap into development, which has been so much into the news, is coupled with reality as well, that hard drugs and drug dealers and the scourges of society will be coming up and we must deal with them.

Mr. Speaker, our government must continue to allocate the resources to our policing sector to send the message that drugs are not to be tolerated in the Deh Cho or any other place in our great northern territory. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Role Of The Father**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning about quarter to six I was up there having a coffee and I was thinking about the statement today I wanted to say. I wanted to share with my honourable colleagues here my thoughts on a very special day coming up. As Mrs. Groenewegen indicated, that special day is coming up soon and that's Father's Day.

When I began my role as an MLA, little did I know the amount of time that it takes me and other colleagues around here away from our families, especially our little ones. Soon those little ones become big ones. Anyhow.

So, Mr. Speaker, I get a lot of questions from my little guy. Why do you have to go to so many meetings? Can I come? He calls this, he says, can I come to this big House here? Or he says, sometimes, Daddy's House.

---Laughter

**AN HON. MEMBER:** He's the king.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** He's the king. So sometimes when my little guy puts on a tie, he says I'm going to business. He calls this meeting business. Sometimes, can he stay home today, Dad? Or don't go to the business meetings, you know? How come my Dad doesn't say hello to me when he's on TV? So, hello, son.

---Applause

When he sees me on TV he wants to know why I'm not talking to him. So, Mr. Speaker, our role as leaders, as fathers, as mothers and servants to our people, it has no, sometimes a different meaning, especially as MLAs to our little guys. They just want us home and they just want to be held, or they want to spend time with them, or to read these high stacks of books. As fathers sometimes I just take the little, small ones, but he's pretty smart there. So they just want our time and to comfort them when we get back home after many days on the road. You know they're mad at you, but they're also happy to see you and they act it out. So you have to comfort them. You know? It sometimes gets really hard, Mr. Speaker.

But as fathers, I want to emphasize that we carry a great role and responsibilities and sacrifices and we're blessed with the little ones to make us realize what's really important in life and they truly humble us when they ask us after a hard day, how was your day, Dad? So I want to say, Mr. Speaker, I was told by our elders that these

children are loaned to us and we're blessed and they are to teach us something.

So I want to say to all fathers, grandfathers, Happy Father's Day, keep up the good work. Teach your children well. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Report Of The Auditor General On Audit Of The Workers' Compensation Board**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Fourteen months ago, this Assembly passed a motion requesting the Auditor General of Canada to do some very specific and very important work on our behalf. We asked that her office look into the area of claims management for injured workers in the Workers' Compensation Board. We asked her to look and see whether claims were processed fairly, efficiently and impartially, that the appeals tribunal performs its work in a like manner, that the governance counsel's oversight functions are adequate and that the roles and relationship of the board and the stakeholders are clearly understood.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday, of course, you tabled this report. It is indeed a detailed audit. The Auditor General's team talked with 18 claimants, many council members, staff, medical professionals. They consulted experts in governance, the law and WCB practice. It is 54 pages, very readable pages, Mr. Speaker, containing 27 recommendations, the vast majority of which have been reviewed by the council of governors, the board, the appeals tribunal and, I'm pleased to note, have their concurrence.

Mr. Speaker, I'm relieved, on one hand, that the Auditor General found that there are no specific areas requiring drastic action or to indicate that there is damaging wrongdoing in the WCB that requires crisis intervention. Rather, the 27 recommendations show us that we have significant need for improvement in the governance practices, communications protocols and stakeholder relationships in this very vital part of our workforce governance agenda.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Auditor General, Mrs. Sheila Fraser, and her team, for undertaking this work on our behalf. I want to thank the Members of this Assembly and our counterparts in the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut for supporting my efforts in the motion that I brought forward last year on behalf of injured workers.

Mr. Speaker, our Accountability and Oversight committee will host Mrs. Fraser here in Yellowknife on June 28<sup>th</sup> when a public review of her report and the steps that we can undertake in the future to ensure that the WCB merits the confidence of everyone across the NWT and Nunavut. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Minister's Involvement In The Stanton Territorial Hospital Board**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the first day of this session I had an interesting exchange with the Minister of Health and Social Services on the need for an independent board to watch over the operations of the Stanton Territorial Hospital. Mr. Speaker, all public hospitals in Canada have independent public boards. On the face of it, using the Joint Leadership Council, which is made up of the chairpersons of the health authorities, ensuring regional perspectives are brought to the table is a great idea. I think it's an efficient use of resources, boards and administration, Mr. Speaker.

However, what concerns me about the current workings of the Joint Leadership Council is the total control exercised by the Minister of Health and Social Services. This is fine when the Minister is using them for discussion or as a sounding board for the development of new policies, systems or programs, but not when he comes to oversee the working of the NWT's largest hospital, Mr. Speaker. I know of no other provincial hospital in this country that the Minister of Health and Social Services in that province sits as chair of that board. It raises the question, Mr. Speaker, does our Minister have nothing better to do?

I can agree with the Minister's ultimate position where he is overall in ultimate authority and the discussions of his department and the authorities that he has to do final approval over. But what about the final arbitration when it comes to the board? What about challenges of discussions that arise? Who ultimately oversees that problem? So, Mr. Speaker, there is the problem.

The government is a system of checks and balances and, in the case of this department and its authorities, there is a distinction between the roles of the department and the authority plays. The authorities have some leeway in their regions to develop and deliver their own programming, as long as they meet the minimum service standards that are set out by the department, again overseen by the Minister. It is then the department's role to ensure that the service delivery targets are met in a fiscally responsible way that meets the health care needs of all our northerners.

With the Joint Leadership Council being the defacto board for Stanton and, as far as anyone can tell, a creature whose agenda inputs and outputs are controlled by the Minister's office, I really have to wonder, Mr. Speaker, about their independence and maybe even their relevance. So, Mr. Speaker, as I said, the Minister has said before he bears ultimate responsibility and being the final decision-maker...

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

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. As I said, the Minister has the ultimate responsibility of his department and the authorities. I believe if he chairs the Stanton board the Minister could be perceived as being in a position of conflict where he cannot show objective thinking where it may be

compromised in their discussions. That will lead us nowhere and yet it will make the board look silly.

What does he really want, Mr. Speaker? He should be Minister, which he's appointed to now. The role of the board is to provide strategic direction to ensure regional perspectives are brought to the table. The Joint Leadership Council, I'm not against the concept of appointing it to the board of Stanton, but, Mr. Speaker, we need checks and balances, a fair chair, an independent chair, and I don't believe the Minister's thought this out and I will have questions for him later today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Access To Granular Materials For Tuktoyaktuk Roads**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on numerous occasions I've raised the need for granular material for communities without year-round access to granular materials. Today I will be more specific to try and address the need for granular materials to upgrade the roads and driveways in Tuktoyaktuk.

Mr. Speaker, many years ago, about 1955, the American government -- or should I say DEW Line site -- quarried granular material from along the shores of Tuktoyaktuk to accommodate the buildings and roads and gravel pad to construct the DEW Line facility. Last year, during the NWTAC meeting in Tuktoyaktuk, the Premier and Minister of MACA toured the community and the unmanned DEW Line site.

Mr. Speaker, the Hamlet of Tuk has written to the Minister of National Defence requesting access to granular material. Unfortunately, to date there has been no response from the federal department. The Premier is well aware of these letters and has taken an interest on behalf of the hamlet to access the granular material. Mr. Speaker, the hamlet needs access to granular materials in the DEW Line site so that they can address the roads and driveways that need to be maintained and repaired. The Premier indicated he would meet with the federal Minister of National Defence in Ottawa in late May. Mr. Speaker, I will be following up with the Premier about his trip to Ottawa and continue to work with the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk to try and gain access to the gravel. If access can be gained this summer, it will allow the hamlet to maintain and repair the washboard roads in Tuktoyaktuk. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Members' statements. The honourable Member from Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement On Upcoming Events In The Inuvik Region**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with this being the last day of session and the whole summer to look forward to, I would like to speak to events

going on in all the communities. I would like to speak to a few of the events that are going to be held in Inuvik.

On June 14<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Speaker, the sixth annual Inuvik Petroleum Show will be held. It's an opportunity for industry and the business community, government, aboriginal government to come together to discuss common issues. Last year, Mr. Speaker, there were 700 registered participants, 120 tradeshow booths, and over \$2 million brought into the local economy. This reinforces Inuvik's position as the oil and gas capital of the NWT.

On July 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Speaker, an important event is going to be held in Inuvik and that's the Beaufort-Delta Residential School Society will be holding a reunion in Inuvik and the idea for the reunion, Mr. Speaker, was the former residential students' desire to create a forum where they could share their impacts of residential schools. This is a very important event. An invitation was extended to the Premier to come and speak, and I'm sure the society would be honoured if his schedule permits him to.

July 28<sup>th</sup> to August the 2<sup>nd</sup> the Gwich'in will be holding a large gathering in Inuvik, Mr. Speaker. This is a gathering of the Gwich'in from the NWT, Alaska and the Yukon. Many events will be held during the week and they'll be having many discussions on common issues and I'm sure caribou will be one of them. This is an excellent opportunity, Mr. Speaker, for the Gwich'in to gather and meet old friends and hopefully make some new ones.

June 23<sup>rd</sup> in Inuvik the Samuel Hearne will be having their graduation and I congratulate all the grads and best of luck to their future.

Seeing this is our last day of session until October, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to wish my colleagues a safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Members' statements. The honourable Member from the Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement On Recognition Of Duke Of Edinburgh Awards Recipients From Fort Providence**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the accomplishments of three people from Fort Providence. Mr. Greg Reardon, Trevor Bonnetrouge and Jessica Minoza were honoured by royalty this week. All three were recognized for their participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program. These prestigious awards were presented by the Earl and Countess of Wessex at a ceremony held in Edmonton on Tuesday. At the ceremony Mr. Reardon was awarded the gold medal, while Mr. Bonnetrouge received a special commendation for a presentation he made to their Royal Highnesses about his home community of Fort Providence.

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Program is an international program founded by his Royal Highness Prince Phillip in 1956, which has been active in the North since 1970. In that time, 371 northern youth have taken part. Young people between the ages of 14 and 25 participate on an ongoing basis in four mandatory activities: community service, physical recreation, skill development and undertaking an expedition or an exploration. The program empowers young people to

become participating citizens and to give back to their community not just while they are part of the program, but for their lifetime.

Two of the three participants from Fort Providence honoured this year will be continuing on with the program. There are currently eight students from the community enrolled and many more plan to sign up for next year.

Mr. Speaker, these young people all deserve to be congratulated for making an effort and working hard to improve their lives and the lives of others in the community. Their example is a real inspiration for all northern youth to follow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Members' statements. The honourable Member from Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**Member's Statement On Extending Wishes For Safe Holidays To Graduates And Families Of Inuvik And The Beaufort-Delta Area**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I haven't had too many opportunities to stand up and do a Member's statement, or to stand up, as someone is saying. Mr. Speaker, as the snow is gone and the winter gear has been stored, and the summer gear has been pulled out, families have gone through or will go through a graduation or two, and families are busy preparing for a summer trip or a family vacation.

Mr. Speaker, I can recall many springs when I eagerly awaited the last day of school. Talking about schools, we've heard in this House from the Education Minister, as well as many Members of this House, wishing graduates and their families the best. I just want to, as well, send my congratulations to the graduates of the Samuel Hearne Secondary High School. Their ceremony is being held, as I've been informed, June 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and I want to wish them the best in their activities. But, Mr. Speaker, more importantly, I want to wish all families in the Beaufort-Delta and Inuvik that they have a safe and happy summer holiday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Members' statements. The honourable Member from Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Member's Statement On Extending Best Wishes For A Safe And Enjoyable Summer To Constituents Of The Mackenzie Delta Area**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, would like to take this opportunity to recognize that summer is on its way. It's a time for us to enjoy the season, but, more importantly, enjoy our friends, our family and our children who will be out of school. More importantly, for the people that are going to be out in their bush camps and their fish camps along the river and also being able to enjoy the festive season that we do have in the summer, such as our music festivals, such as the Pokiak Festival, Midway Lake, Canoe Days and also we have the Inuvik Arts Show that goes on every July.

With that, Mr. Speaker, recognition of the National Aboriginal Day, which is on the 21<sup>st</sup>, again, recognize our

cultural importance that aboriginal play in the history of the Northwest Territories, but, more importantly, the significant legacy that is left by the culture that we have in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I'd like to also encourage the people to come to the Mackenzie Delta for a holiday, enjoy the beautiful scenery, enjoy the many people, such as the ones attending the Gwich'in gathering, which will include people from Alaska, the Yukon and Northwest Territories in Inuvik, and also attend the Gwich'in assembly, which will take place in Aklavik this year.

Mr. Speaker, I would like, at this time, to wish everybody a safe and enjoyable summer. More importantly, I look forward to seeing all of my constituency in the Mackenzie Delta this summer by attending these different events. So with that, have a safe summer. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Members' statements. Reports of standing and special committees. Returns to oral questions. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

**ITEM 5: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Further Return To Question 48-15(5): Review Process Of The Public Utilities Board**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by the other Mr. McLeod on June 2, 2006, regarding the review process of the Public Utilities Board.

The Public Utilities Board, PUB, was established by the Public Utilities Act to serve as an expert and independent adjudicator in the rate setting process. The PUB also insulates the Government of the Northwest Territories from the potential for conflict in view of its controlling financial interest in NWT Power Corporation. As consumers have a right to be treated fairly and equitably, an independent body for appeal is essential.

The Minister responsible for the PUB cannot rescind a board decision and then hold a hearing. Consumers can seek judicial review under section 78 of the act.

Section 78 of the act states that a person affected by an order, decision or rule of the board may apply to the Supreme Court within 45 days after receiving notice of the order, decision or rule for leave to appeal on a question of law or excess of jurisdiction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member from Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize a few people in the gallery today. A friend of mine, Mr. Daryl Dolynny.

---Applause

With him today he's bringing several relatives, I believe his aunt and uncle, Mike and Vicky Dolynny...

---Applause

...and with them more relatives, Rose and Herbert Holgate. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Welcome everyone.

---Applause

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

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize the new president of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Jeff Polakoff.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Polakoff has experience in the Northwest Territories. He worked for the Housing Corporation in the '70s and '80s in Inuvik and here in Yellowknife. Mr. Polakoff comes from Manitoba where he served as the executive director of the Manitoba Housing Renewable Corporation and also he's a director of housing for long-term care with the Inuvik Regional Health Authority. So with that, I'd like to welcome Jeff and I look forward to working with him. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member from the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize two of the Pages from Fort Good Hope, the Kakfwi ladies, Courtney Kakfwi who is in Grade 8 and the other Kakfwi, Jennifer Kakfwi. So we're covered by the Kakfwis. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member from Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the president of the Native Women's Society of the NWT, the president of the Seniors' Society in Res, my mother, Terry Villeneuve.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member from Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize Terry Villeneuve, a former constituent and anytime you want to move back to Simpson, please do. Thank you.

---Laughter

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we've missed anyone in the

gallery today, welcome to the gallery. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

#### ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 83-15(5): Hardships Created By Declining Caribou Herds

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I just have some caribou management issues that I wanted to ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources about some of the actions that he's planning for the summer. The department is working with the Department of ITI to address some hardships resulting in the low numbers of caribou. I just want to ask the Minister how or what plans or how do they plan on addressing all the hardships in the smaller communities that aren't seeing the caribou numbers like they used to? With the high price of food in a lot of these remote communities, have they come up with any ideas or recommendations on how the government is going to be addressing the hardships? Maybe he can just brief the House on those. Thank you.

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

##### Return To Question 83-15(5): Hardships Created By Declining Caribou Herds

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've identified that early on as one of the potential impacts if the declining herd numbers remain down and there's restrictions to the hunt placed on hunters, but we don't have a definitive answer yet. We've identified that as an area that we want to pay some attention to as we move through the coming months and into the next winter. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

##### Supplementary To Question 83-15(5): Hardships Created By Declining Caribou Herds

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask the Minister, I guess, if they haven't really identified how to address the hardships, how to subsidize freight for food or give out food coupons in the remote communities that rely heavily on caribou and just not for the hunters and trappers and the harvesters in the communities, but are they going to take into consideration all the outfitters that are being affected by the low numbers that they're allowed to harvest? Are they going to be included in the hardships that they're going to address? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Miltenberger.

##### Further Return To Question 83-15(5): Hardships Created By Declining Caribou Herds

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have an arrangement with the outfitters and we've set some targets in terms of quotas and we're going to continue to work with them as the new numbers come in. In regards to the communities and the impact of the potential restrictions to the access to caribou, many of the examples or suggestions made by the Member are the very type of things that we're looking

at as possible ways to deal with the issue, but we haven't come to any final conclusions. But we do know that this is an area that's going to need some clear, undivided attention. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Supplementary To Question 83-15(5): Hardships Created By Declining Caribou Herds**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Definitely we need some real attention paid to the caribou management issue. I'm getting word from a lot of outfitters that they're going to be closing their doors because of this new quota that the government has imposed on their operations and the caribou harvest that they're allowed. I just wanted to ask the Minister about what I suggested last time, and what a lot of elders have also brought to my attention, about the quota on males only, which could lead to a further decline in the caribou herds or just weaker herds in general. I wonder if the Minister has considered changing that quota to not include the prime bulls in any of the herds or restricting them definitely to the outfitters, but also to the hunters and trappers and say well, you know, we don't want to take all the prime leaders of the herd. Can the Minister make an amendment to his actions to accommodate that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 83-15(5): Hardships Created By Declining Caribou Herds**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand there's leadership roles played by both bulls and cows and one of the concerns is with the shooting of cows, is that in many cases when cows are taken, you lose the potential of anywhere up to a dozen or so calves and I've heard many stories of pregnant cows being shot. So there's a concern about the breeding stock, as the Member has indicated. The reality is, we have a bulls-only policy for the resident tag hunters, as well as the outfitters. It's not a restriction at this point on the aboriginal harvest, but it is an issue that's going to require discussion, because there are differing points of view and we've got to get the best advice as we move forward on this. But very clearly the concern is if you shoot cows only, that you're going to lose tremendous breeding potential and we have to have the balance. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Your final supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Supplementary To Question 83-15(5): Hardships Created By Declining Caribou Herds**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just with regard to all the outfitters that have been affected by the drop in their quotas, I'm wondering if one suggestion that was brought to my attention is raising the number of tags that the outfitters in the northern North Slave region might be able to bounce back with is raising the number of tags for grizzly bear tags that they're allowed to harvest in the northern part of the NWT. A lot of outfitters feel that if they raise those quotas -- the number of grizzly bears is definitely grown quite significantly with the amount of polar

bear, human incidents that are arising in the mines and in the exploration camps and stuff -- will the government consider bringing the grizzly bear tags to the attention of the outfitters and say hey, you know, this is something that you probably could fall back on in the five years that this Caribou Management Strategy is going to be rolling out. Is that a consideration? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 83-15(5): Hardships Created By Declining Caribou Herds**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've met with the Barren Land outfitters, I've met with the Mackenzie Mountain outfitters and the issue of grizzly bear tags did come up. At this point, though, we haven't made a firm decision. There is the option of looking at what are now considered defence kills and where grizzly bears are shot when they come into camp or are too close to humans and to see if there's a potential offset in terms of tags. However, we have not reached a final decision on that particular issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 84-15(5): Alternative Power Source For Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home In Behchoko**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Today I'd like to ask about the elders regarding housing. Sometimes when there's a power outage, it's hard for them to restart their furnace. (Translation ends)

...backup generator for Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home in Behchoko last February following a long period of power outages, which created an emergency in the community. The Minister has now had over three months to look into this matter or issue with the community and the staff. I would like to ask the Minister responsible of the Housing Corporation, is he now prepared to have a backup generator installed in the seniors' home in Behchoko? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 84-15(5): Alternative Power Source For Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home In Behchoko**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have not made that decision yet. We have been working with the community, the emergency measures people and also working with the Northwest Territories Power Corporation who have upgraded the power plant in Behchoko so it is able to operate when the power goes down by way of a backup system for the hydro system that comes offline. Because of these changes, we are hoping that once we have a final report, we will be able to meet the satisfaction of the community of Behchoko by way of having a backup system in place.

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

**Supplementary To Question 84-15(5): Alternative Power Source For Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home In Behchoko**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me what the difference is between a seniors' home in Behchoko and a seniors' home in Hay River and Fort Smith which do have backup generators? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 84-15(5): Alternative Power Source For Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home In Behchoko**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, since the Member raised this question in this House, we are looking at all our seniors' facilities to ensure we have a system in place where they are going to be required and the extent of the emergencies that we can respond. Like I mentioned earlier, we are working with the emergency measures people, through MACA and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, to ensure that when the power does go down in those communities, what is the backup plan to deal with these emergencies. So we are looking at it. I have not received the final report on it, so, for the Member's information, we are considering this possibility.

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

**Supplementary To Question 84-15(5): Alternative Power Source For Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home In Behchoko**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we talk about the value of our elders and the respect for our elders. I would like to ask the Minister, for the benefit of the elders and their families, why does it make more sense to put the health and lives of frail elders at risk by forcing them to travel to Yellowknife, away from their families and their communities in minus 45 degree temperatures, than to install a simple backup generator in the seniors' home facility? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 84-15(5): Alternative Power Source For Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home In Behchoko**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I have to sympathize with the Member and I am sorry for the incident that did occur. It was a natural occurrence where the power system went down when one of our towers collapsed under the weight of the ice that was on it. It was an unforeseen accident that occurred. The other situation we ran into was the backup system we had did not work because it was not maintained. So the Power Corporation has replaced the existing power plant in Behchoko with a modern power plant, so the system does work. We are trying to avoid this situation from happening again. Again, I want to apologize to the people of Behchoko for the incident, but we are doing everything we can to ensure that doesn't happen again.

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

**Supplementary To Question 84-15(5): Alternative Power Source For Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home In Behchoko**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you know, the summer is here already and the winter is not too far away. Can the Minister affirm, in this House, that he will expeditiously work with his department and identify the need for a backup generator in the community of Behchoko for this winter? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 84-15(5): Alternative Power Source For Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home In Behchoko**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, if it's okay with the Member, I would make an attempt to go into Behchoko with the Member and have an official opening of the power plant in Behchoko to show that we have a new power plant. It is up and running and it is going to work this time, so we don't have the situation that we had last time where we had the hydro system go down and also a backup system go down. I commit to the Member that as soon as we have this system up and running, we will make an official visit to unveil it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 84-15(5): Alternative Power Source For Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home In Behchoko**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do accept the Member travelling to my community. At the same time, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about two different issues. Of course, there is the power outage and the backup generator for the seniors' home in Behchoko. The backup generator is badly needed in the community. Even though the power has revived now, anything could happen with the power. I would like to ask the Minister again, if he happens to visit the community, sit down with the community and identify the need for a backup generator, can he commit to this House that there will be an investment in the seniors' home in Behchoko? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 84-15(5): Alternative Power Source For Jimmy Erasmus Seniors' Home In Behchoko**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, having the facilities identified in our communities as a central emergency facilities that do have backup systems, again, it's worked into our emergency measures plan with MACA, ourselves and other agencies. Again, because the situation happened in Behchoko, we have to see exactly the recommendations that come forward from the emergency measures report, review those recommendations and act on them. Thank you.

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

**Question 85-15(5): Aboriginal Wellness Services Available At The Stanton Territorial Hospital**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if he can inform the people in the communities about the types of action plans his department has planned for serving the percentage of patients in the Stanton Territorial Hospital. What is he doing to provide good quality service that is serving the high percentage of aboriginal patients? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 85-15(5): Aboriginal Wellness Services Available At The Stanton Territorial Hospital**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Stanton Territorial Hospital is an \$80 million, 500 staff facility. It is our major tertiary care facility. The Member is correct; there is a high percentage of aboriginal population who use the service and we have been working with Stanton, with some of the MLAs over the last number of months and have been getting advice from elders across the Northwest Territories about how we can start to better incorporate traditional healing practices and wellness approaches into Stanton hospital. There has been a lot of work done. We've taken the time to go to other jurisdictions that have done interesting things like Whitehorse, like Sioux Lookout, we have been down to look at the Royal Alex in Edmonton. We are going to be bringing together an advisory group of elders who are going to sit down with Stanton and we are going to start mapping out some of the things we can do more effectively, keeping in mind that we already have a lot of good things underway in terms of interpreter services, the wild foods that we bring in and there are 15 aboriginal nurses now operating in Stanton, which is a real asset. So we want to continue to improve that service. The Member has been involved with the Social Programs committee and we are going to continue on that path. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 85-15(5): Aboriginal Wellness Services Available At The Stanton Territorial Hospital**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister also inform me and the House, the people of the Northwest Territories, are there any specific type of plans you would seek Stanton go out into a place where there will be units or places where the aboriginal people can have a unit similar to the Whitehorse General Hospital where there is a unit set aside for the needs of the aboriginal people? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 85-15(5): Aboriginal Wellness Services Available At The Stanton Territorial Hospital**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have about \$185,000 identified in this year's budget and there is about a quarter of a million dollars

identified for next year. Part of the plan is to get the advisory group of elders from the regions who will be working with Stanton to start laying out some of the things we want to do that are currently in existence or how we are going to possibly better enhance things that we are already doing. I know in other jurisdictions like Whitehorse, they have special arrangements for families, especially in palliative cases. That type of improvement is definitely an option if it's brought forward by the elders. We will work collectively with this House, and the advisory group and Stanton to see what's possible and build into our planning these issues and these projects so that we can take it through the planning process and access resources over time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 85-15(5): Aboriginal Wellness Services Available At The Stanton Territorial Hospital**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have our regional health boards established across the North here. Speaking more specifically to the Sahtu health board, how is the Sahtu regional health board going to be involved in the territorial Stanton initiative in terms of involvement and input? I know you talk about the elders and that's a key component to the success of this initiative. In terms of our regional health boards and specifically the Sahtu regional health board, will they have input into this initiative? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 85-15(5): Aboriginal Wellness Services Available At The Stanton Territorial Hospital**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Joint Leadership Council, which comprises of all the board chairs from the authorities, the deputy minister and myself, are going to be paying very close attention to this initiative. As well, all the CEOs are involved through the Joint Senior Management Committee to oversee a lot of the detailed program implementation piece. The CEO of Stanton will be working closely with the Elders' Advisory Council and there will be a representative from the Sahtu on that and they will be providing that kind of advice, so we can see how we move forward from here. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 85-15(5): Aboriginal Wellness Services Available At The Stanton Territorial Hospital**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is really a good news story for the department in the way you are looking at this approach in terms of our health in the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Minister, when will we see an elderly residence at the Stanton Territorial Hospital?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.



**Further Return To Question 85-15(5): Aboriginal Wellness Services Available At The Stanton Territorial Hospital**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated to the Member earlier today, we intend to have the formal letters out, signed by the CEO of Stanton, inviting the elders from the regions to gather, so that we can start this process and start the good work to implement all the different facets and aspects of the aboriginal wellness and healing that we want to see incorporated first in Stanton and then across the system as we get better at this. Thank you.

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

**Question 86-15(5): Status Of Ivan Valic's WCB Tribunal Rehearing**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a couple of questions of Mr. Dent as the Minister -- a couple of questions perhaps, as many as the Speaker will allow -- of the Workers' Compensation Board of the NWT and Nunavut. Last December, the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories ruled on the case of Mr. Ivan Valic, an injured worker and his efforts to have a new hearing before a reconstituted appeals tribunal. In that time, in that approximately five months, there have been some procedural issues regarding finding impartial panel members to appoint to such a tribunal. The tribunal advertised for qualified people. The deadline for those applications was May 31<sup>st</sup>. I wanted to ask the Minister whether qualified people have come forward and, if so, will the appeals tribunal be able to proceed post-haste with Mr. Valic's rehearing, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Dent.

**Return To Question 86-15(5): Status Of Ivan Valic's WCB Tribunal Rehearing**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I would say we have received a number of qualified applicants that we can consider for filling the vacant public interest position. It is my intention to attempt to consider them as quickly as possible in concert with the Minister of Nunavut. We have been in touch with his office several times in the past week since the receipt of all of the applicants. We are hoping that very shortly we will be able to make an appointment to the vacant public interest position. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 86-15(5): Status Of Ivan Valic's WCB Tribunal Rehearing**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister has he communicated the urgency of this situation, the pressing nature of the requirement to have this panel assembled and this hearing implemented, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 86-15(5): Status Of Ivan Valic's WCB Tribunal Rehearing**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Nunavut Minister is aware that I would like to move on this issue fairly quickly or very quickly. We still have to take due diligence with reviewing the applications that have been received. I will be asking the chair of the appeals tribunal to comment on the application and get that information back to me and I will work with the Minister from Nunavut to move as quickly as we can. It is something that we will advance as quickly as we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 86-15(5): Status Of Ivan Valic's WCB Tribunal Rehearing**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given that this is a specialized task and the appointment of the new tribunal member will require some orientation, some training, some familiarization with the job. All things considered, I am wondering if I can get some sense of when we would be able to see this hearing date actually set for this tribunal hearing, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 86-15(5): Status Of Ivan Valic's WCB Tribunal Rehearing**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am afraid I can't give a specific date or even a range of dates at this point, because once we have the new person selected, they have to be formally appointed to that position. Then, as the Member has rightly pointed out, there needs to be a process of them learning how to do their job properly. It's unlikely that would happen within a matter of days. It will probably take a couple of weeks for somebody to get their training. Then when everything is ready, we will have to contact the lawyer for the appellant to see when they are going to be available, when the appellant is going to be available. There will be a number of people that will have to then be brought together and we will have to mesh all of those schedules. I assure the Member that the appeals tribunal is very interested in dealing with this issue and getting it dealt with as quickly as possible, and we will make every effort to move this to the rehearing of the appeal in short order.

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

**Question 87-15(5): Shared Parenting Legislation**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Honourable Brendan Bell, Minister of Justice. It gets back to my Member's statement from earlier today. I know Father's Day is about 10 days away and Mrs. Groenewegen made a very nice statement today in respect to fathers, and the observance of Father's Day, and what a father means in a person's life. I commend her for doing that today.

I wanted to ask the Minister if he's aware that under the current conditions that are in place, father's can actually be forced out of their children's life, oftentimes because of false allegations? It seems that we have a court system

that allows this to happen. I would like to ask the Minister if he is aware of the situation that is at play. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

**Return To Question 87-15(5): Shared Parenting Legislation**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, let me wish fathers across the Northwest Territories and in this House Happy Father's Day. I appreciate a couple of very heart-warming statements from Members today on that. That was very nice.

Mr. Speaker, yes, obviously last resort in these very difficult situations deciding on a parenting arrangement after a marriage has broken up, the last resort should be the court system. We are very concerned about it. As the Member pointed out in his statement, when these dealings end up being overly litigious and very confrontational and long and drawn out, it is certainly in nobody's best interest, least of all, obviously, the children involved, Mr. Speaker. So we are concerned with that.

We are doing a number of things in our programming and we get a contribution agreement from the federal government to assist and help us with some family law initiatives, but there are a number of programs we have underway. One of the interesting ones is a pilot project with a local lawyer who's been working out of Hay River and Yellowknife, and also done a number of these by conference call and video conference, but around mediation and helping people avoid the court system in these situations. I think that is the goal and we need to do more of that. So yes, we are very much aware, Mr. Speaker, that the court system is not the best answer and the best result for dealing with these very difficult situations. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 87-15(5): Shared Parenting Legislation**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Minister for his response. Perhaps if the Minister, and he probably may have already had a look at the report entitled For the Sake of the Children, which was commissioned by the federal government a number of years ago, that looked into this very issue and for whatever reason this type of legislation that defaults to equal shared parenting hasn't proceeded in Canada. I'm wondering if the Minister hasn't discussed this issue of equal shared parenting with the new Justice Minister Vic Toews, I'm wondering if and when he may be able to have that type of discussion with the Justice Minister. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 87-15(5): Shared Parenting Legislation**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't discussed this specific issue with the Minister. I have met with him the one time in Ottawa to talk about a couple of issues and to agree that we needed to sit down

and talk about a number of different things and a number of different files more comprehensively. But my officials at a senior official level are involved across the provinces and territories at a working group level. We have something called a coordinating committee of senior officials on family law, which meets frequently to discuss issues, projects, legislative changes. So I know that this is one of the issues that they have been discussing, and legislative change, legislative evolution I know happens very slowly and oftentimes much too slowly for those who are dealing with these very painful issues. I will tell the Member that it's certainly on the national radar and continues to be discussed at a number of forums. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 87-15(5): Shared Parenting Legislation**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the Justice Minister of the Northwest Territories has a perfect opportunity to become a champion and a voice for equal shared parenting. I know there's legislation that's in the work in countries like I mentioned, Italy, Belgium, Australia and the United Kingdom. I'd like the Justice Minister today, if he could, to make a commitment to bring the issue back to the table when he gets together with his counterparts, the other Justice Ministers from around this country, to make sure that equal shared parenting is on the agenda, front and centre, so that fathers aren't left not being able to see their kids and spend time with their kids. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 87-15(5): Shared Parenting Legislation**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I will certainly acknowledge that children are best served by having both parents in the home, having access and contact with both parents. Ideally that's what we strive for and our legislation should allow for that, Mr. Speaker. Certainly at my earliest opportunity, when I sit down with my colleagues from across the country, I will talk about the need for our legislation to uphold those principles. Obviously we all believe that the best needs of...the best interests of the children have to come first and children should, obviously, have as much contact with both parents as long as this is in the children's best interest, Mr. Speaker. So those are principles that need to be upheld, first and foremost, and I will certainly raise that issue with my colleagues across the country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Question 88-15(5): Minister's Involvement In The Stanton Territorial Hospital Board**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions will be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services and I'll be asking him questions regarding the spirit and intent of the act that empowers this Minister. So, Mr. Speaker, knowing, as I said, the spirit and intent of

the act recognizes health authorities, maybe we could trouble the Minister today to explain to us where in this act it shows that he should be the chair of Stanton Territorial Hospital when it talks about appointments of board members to hospital boards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 88-15(5): Minister's Involvement In The Stanton Territorial Hospital Board**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the current legislation there is provision in legislation for boards, for authorities, including Stanton. There is also provision for what happens when there is no board, as there is in this case. What happens then is there's a public trustee to be appointed, which there has been, and that has been the deputy minister. The CEO then reports to the deputy minister. That's the legal arrangement that currently exists with Stanton within the framework parameters of the current legislation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 88-15(5): Minister's Involvement In The Stanton Territorial Hospital Board**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, the Minister is correct, because it uses the word "may." You know, the Minister may establish a board. But we're talking about the spirit and the intent of the act. Because what's evolved out of this process of once the board has dissolved, he's right; the trustee has been made trustee for life. It's time that we get on and appoint a public board. The spirit and the intent of the act does not describe sort of a relationship where the Minister should sit as the board chair. So, Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister could then refer to me where this is not considered a conflict, whereas he's the Minister, the overall seer of the board through the act, and so sitting as a chairperson how could we not see this through the act that he is in conflict? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The questions are starting to lead towards the Minister giving his opinion and I don't know if that's a proper question to be asking a Minister of his own opinion and things. I don't know if the Minister wants to answer that question. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 88-15(5): Minister's Involvement In The Stanton Territorial Hospital Board**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I just reiterate my previous information, which is the current legislation allows for when there's no board that the public administrator be appointed, which there has been, and that is the deputy minister. That is the legal arrangement that currently exists. Outside of that legislation we have the creation of the Joint Leadership Council, which I sit on with all the board chairs as does the deputy minister. But the legal arrangement is the CEO reports to the public trustee, which is in place and has been done by the current legislation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it's in my view that there seems to be some difficulty. I see this as a conflict, in my humble opinion. Although I'm not a lawyer, and I just, you know, I don't have those skills to define that, but I see it as a perceived concern where the Minister sits there. I'd like to see where the Minister shows me in the act of a timely way and mechanism for the reappointment of a board that's an independent public board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The Chair is going to caution the Member that in referring to conflicts of interest there is a process in place for dealing with conflict, whether perceived or not. I think again, asking the Member for his opinion on how it fits into the act is...I'm going to ask the Member if he wants to rephrase a supplementary question. I'm not going to go to the Minister with that one. Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 88-15(5): Minister's Involvement In The Stanton Territorial Hospital Board**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll pay specific note to that. My apologies in that regard. Mr. Speaker, if I rephrase my question it is, how does the Minister show the true independence of a health board by him not sitting on the board as chairperson and still being a sitting Minister? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Again, asking the Minister for his opinion. We'll allow the Minister, if he wants to answer or doesn't have to answer that question. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 88-15(5): Minister's Involvement In The Stanton Territorial Hospital Board**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, what my intention is, as Minister is, to maintain the current arrangement where there's a public trustee that's going to oversee, that the CEO's going to report to. The JLC's going to continue and on our legislative agenda is a review and updating and revising of the legislation that governs all the authorities and boards because it is out of date and needs work. But for the foreseeable future I intend to carry on with the arrangement we do have. I believe Stanton is functioning very effectively and the board chairs that I deal with on a regular basis seem quite pleased with the arrangement, as are most people that I've talked to. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 88-15(5): Minister's Involvement In The Stanton Territorial Hospital Board**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I can truly understand why the Health Minister would say that his perspective is the board, or I should say Stanton is functioning quite well, because he's sort of running it. So through the deputy minister. So why would he think anything else? I guess, really, my final question, Mr. Speaker, in a timely way will be, would the Minister do the right thing and eliminate any concerns that I've arisen here, whether implied or not? Would he appoint, in the spirit and intent of the act, an independent board; I don't have a problem with the JLC, but an independent board with an independent chair? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 88-15(5): Minister's Involvement In The Stanton Territorial Hospital Board**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I'd like to thank the Member first about his kind words about how well Stanton is running under my Ministership. I can't take full credit for that. Clearly, I have a strong Cabinet that supports me, the Members of the Legislature...

---Laughter

...and lots of good staff that does all the work. We have a system that I believe is functioning effectively and has been the result of a lot of hard work and consensus building, and I intend to continue with that arrangement. Thank you.

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

**Question 89-15(5): Status Of Technical And Functional Review Of Diamond Jenness School In Hay River**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent. Mr. Dent wrote a letter to Mr. Roland subsequent to our budget session. I had inquired about the status of the Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River and had asked if the functional report technical review that was done in 2003 could be updated. So Mr. Dent wrote to Mr. Roland asking that this happen. I was just wondering what is the status of that technical and functional review of the Diamond Jenness Secondary School today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 89-15(5): Status Of Technical And Functional Review Of Diamond Jenness School In Hay River**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't received a reply yet from Public Works and Services advising us as to the condition of the school. I'm certain that they will be looking at it or have looked at it, but we haven't received the report yet. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 89-15(5): Status Of Technical And Functional Review Of Diamond Jenness School In Hay River**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my information is that Public Works and Services in fact has not undertaken a review of the condition of the Diamond Jenness Secondary School, and given our very extensive debate in this House yesterday over leaving these things to the last minute and then being forced into stop-gap measures at a very high price, I would think that it would be prudent of the Minister to follow up with the Minister of PWS again and ensure that

this review gets taken, gets undertaken forthwith. Will the Minister commit to that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 89-15(5): Status Of Technical And Functional Review Of Diamond Jenness School In Hay River**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The answer is yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Oral questions. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**ITEM 8: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Written Question 11-15(5): Trespassing Legislation In Land Claim Areas**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations:

1. The issue of trespassing in land claim areas is not new. It has been brought to the government's attention many times over the last several years. Why hasn't the GNWT brought forward legislation to prevent trespassing in settled land claim areas?
2. What is the Premier prepared to do to ensure that the rights of the Sahtu people are protected, that our land claim is respected, and the trespassers are kept out of the settlement area?

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 9: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Return To Written Question 1-15(5): Services In The Sahtu For Persons With Disabilities**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, I am in receipt of Return to Written Question 1-15(5) asked of the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services, by Mr. Yakeleya on May 31, 2006, regarding services in the Sahtu for persons with disabilities.

In response to the Member's first question of what is the number of people with disabilities in the Sahtu region, I have the following answer:

Since there are no mandatory reporting requirements for disabilities, the exact number of people with disabilities in the Sahtu region is unknown. However, the Needs Assessment of Persons with Disabilities, undertaken in the NWT in 2000, suggested that 13 percent of the overall population could have a disability. Applying this figure to the population of the Sahtu region, which was estimated to be 2,581 in 2005, suggests that up to 335 people in the Sahtu region could have a disability. It is important to note that the identification of people with disabilities depends on self-identification, in some instances, and the

specific nature of identified disabilities can range from very mild to severe.

The Member next wanted to know what services are in place to serve those with disabilities. Rehabilitation services, including speech and language therapy, audiology, rehabilitation therapy and occupational therapy, form one of the six core services for which all health and social services authorities are funded. The Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority has the following clinical positions which could provide a range of rehabilitation services to people with disabilities: four nurse-in-charge positions, seven community health nurse positions, seven community social service worker positions, seven community wellness worker positions, four home support workers, and seven community health representatives.

In addition, Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority provides an outreach service which includes rehabilitation visits to each Sahtu community. Scheduled visits in 2006-07 include one visit to Colville Lake, two visits to both Deline and Tulita, and three visits to Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells. When required, specialist services may also be available from Stanton Territorial Hospital. Beginning in 2006-07, four new rehabilitation teams will be created to provide for the needs of people with disabilities throughout the NWT.

The Member's third question was how are people with disabilities in the Sahtu qualified to meet once a year, and who can provide them with funding to set up a Sahtu disabilities committee.

Beginning in 2006-07 and continuing for two more years, the Department of Health and Social Services has committed \$100,000 a year to the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities in support of the development of community outreach programs. The council's board of directors has indicated that communities that support and maintain local disability committees will be eligible for Community Outreach Program funding.

I understand the Member has already met with the executive director of the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities and that arrangements are now underway to have some regional funds made available to the Sahtu.

In addition, the council has some discretionary funding for any person with a disability who requires services or resources, regardless of whether their community has a disability committee or not. Individuals can make applications for discretionary funding directly to the council's executive director, Ms. Cecily Hewitt. She can be contacted at 867-873-8230 or toll-free at 1-800-491-8885.

The Member asked what other departments support people with disabilities in the Sahtu. Depending on an individual's circumstances, such as their age and disability, the social program departments, which include Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the NWT Housing Corporation, may be able to offer programs and services.

Finally, the Member wanted to know who is leading the final decision on the funding on the Community Outreach Program. Decisions on Community Outreach Program funding are the responsibility of the NWT council of Persons with Disabilities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Returns to written questions. Before we go on to the next item on the agenda, the Chair is going to call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Back to orders of the day. Replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 7 of the orders of the day.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

#### REVERT TO ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 90-15(5): Contract Award To Roman Catholic Church

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I want to ask the Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell, I was very interested in reading the report on government contracts over \$5,000. I want to ask the Minister of Justice on one of the items here. It's an RFP for the Roman Catholic Corporation. They won a contract for \$72,000. I want to ask the Minister of Justice if he can explain to the House and the people, are the Roman Catholics in business because they have some pretty powerful people who are helping them out?

---Laughter

How is the Roman Catholic Church in this request for proposals that's been given to them? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

##### Return To Question 90-15(5): Contract Award To Roman Catholic Church

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I have to admit that I am not sure what the contract award was for. I am not sure if it was a tender for space in one of our communities, but I will endeavour to find out and get the information to the Member before the day is out. Thank you.

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

##### Question 91-15(5): YWCA Lease For Rockhill Apartments In Yellowknife

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a couple of questions to Mr. Roland, the Minister for Public Works and Services. This relates to the arrangement that our government has with the YWCA. This provides them with a very valuable multi-storey apartment building located in my riding and it's part of their housing infrastructure and the services that they provide to the community.

Mr. Speaker, this apartment building, the Rockhill Apartments, is made available through a lease. It's my

information that this lease is expiring within the next year or perhaps two and that the building is going to be in need of some up-fits. I am wondering if the Minister can advise on what the capital plans may be to bring this building up to modern standards and continue the lease with the YWCA, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of FMBS, Mr. Roland.

**Return To Question 91-15(5): YWCA Lease For Rockhill Apartments In Yellowknife**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Rockhill Apartments is an issue we have worked on with the Department of Health and Social Services and we have done some work with the Housing Corporation. The initial lease was entered into on a 10-year agreement, then another 10-extension. There has been work done on it on an annual basis. Public Works and Services spends about \$50,000 in trying to protect the asset. Further to that, as part of the 2006-07 as part of our main estimates, our infrastructure acquisition plan within the Department of Health and Social Services; identified in 2007-08 is some repair work for that apartment building continuing on to 2008-09. Again, the capital plan for future years always has to come back and get approval from this House for the year that we are in. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 91-15(5): YWCA Lease For Rockhill Apartments In Yellowknife**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the investment that goes into the building on an ongoing basis I am sure is appreciated. Also of concern to the YWCA is the renewal of the lease. This is something that I understand we have been working on, but, of course, timing is always of some significance, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if the Minister could advise how negotiations are going and when a conclusion might be expected, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 91-15(5): YWCA Lease For Rockhill Apartments In Yellowknife**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the role of Public Works in this would be one from an asset base working with a client department, this being Health and Social Services. This is in the area of coming up with a plan of what is required. In discussions with staff between Public Works and Services and Health and Social Services, Health and Social Services has deemed this facility to have an important role within their social support system. Part of the exercise we are going through is in the area of the Homelessness Strategy. Once that unfolds a little more, we will have a better indication of what role this facility will play in that strategy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 92-15(5): Facility Needs Of Yellowknife Education Boards**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Charles Dent. I would just like to have the Minister clear the air on some outstanding issues for myself and some other residents here in the city of Yellowknife. It gets back to the Yellowknife Facilities Capital Planning Committee. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, there was a press release that was inadvertently issued and caused some concern in various camps about the status of the committee's work. I would like the Minister, if he could, to clarify what his position is in terms of the facility's plans for the future of education needs here in the city of Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 92-15(5): Facility Needs Of Yellowknife Education Boards**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the end of the first week in May, I did receive the Yellowknife facilities report from the committee. The next day I received a phone call from one of the boards asking if an offer I had made previously to facilitate a bilateral meeting between the two Yellowknife school boards was still open. I confirmed that I would be prepared to have such a meeting facilitated. That was set up. It took place. At that meeting, the Yellowknife District No. 1 agreed that they would take some time to review their position and put in writing in a letter to me what they might be prepared to offer. So at that point, that was where things were left.

The press release the Member refers to, leading up to the facilitated meeting there were a number of different drafts of press releases prepared to be ready should one result or another happen. That release was never approved by me for distribution or posting on the web and should not have been there. I understand that it has caused some concern, but, Mr. Speaker, at this point I am still ready to continue to try to work with the two boards to see where we can get in this process. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 92-15(5): Facility Needs Of Yellowknife Education Boards**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's obviously clear that both boards, the YCS board and YK No. 1, have to be treated fairly and the needs have to be addressed. I would like to ask the Minister what he intends to do from today to the start of the school year to try to address the needs of both YK No. 1 board and the YCS board. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 92-15(5): Facility Needs Of Yellowknife Education Boards**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am prepared to put efforts into working with the two boards, but I think to be fair it has to be recognized that there is

not likely to be a resolution in terms of space by fall of 2006. All of the parties have agreed at this point that we are working towards the fall of 2007. I am prepared to continue efforts. I have recently received a letter from the Yellowknife Catholic Schools that calls into question their willingness or interest in continuing this process. I am going to have to check on that. If there is an interest, I would be quite prepared to put every effort into working personally to try to resolve this issue. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 92-15(5): Facility Needs Of Yellowknife Education Boards**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess the question I would have to ask the Minister is he says things are going to happen, things will be resolved. I would like to get a commitment from him that both YCS's needs and YK No. 1's needs will be resolved and I know the Minister just said it's not going to happen by this fall, but when are the issues here surrounding space in Yellowknife schools going to be settled once and for all? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 92-15(5): Facility Needs Of Yellowknife Education Boards**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I say that the issues might be resolved, I am afraid, Mr. Speaker, that I can't say that everybody is going to be satisfied with the resolution. I do believe that we have been working towards a resolution. I don't know if we are still in that position today. We may be in a situation where we haven't got an agreement to work any longer. I am going to have to confirm whether or not that's happening and then we'll follow up on it. It's my goal to try to have a decision made by the parties at one point or another. I think it's important to point out we have two elected boards in town here. The one board has a surplus of space; one board is short of space. It's in their interest and they have to find some way to work together to resolve that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 92-15(5): Facility Needs Of Yellowknife Education Boards**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister believe it's fair to allow the two elected boards, the YCS board and the YK No. 1 board, to be basically pitted against each other to figure this out? What is the Minister's role exactly in trying to rectify the situation that we find ourselves in here in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The first part of that question is asking the Minister for his opinion, but I will allow the Minister to answer on the second part. Mr. Dent.

**Further Return To Question 92-15(5): Facility Needs Of Yellowknife Education Boards**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, both the elected boards have ultimate

responsibility for dealing with their constituents. If they are not satisfied with how things are happening, then they have to sit down and try to resolve that in their areas of influence.

Mr. Speaker, I am in a situation where we have, as I said, we have a board that has a surplus of space and one board that is short of space. We need to make sure that we have partners who are willing to work together and I am hopeful that we will. Thank you.

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

**Question 93-15(5): Risks Associated With Location Of Landfills Near Tlicho Communities**

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

Mr. Speaker, I have some questions for the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Honourable Michael McLeod, with regard to the urgent situation in my Tlicho communities. The dumps are located too close to the communities and all kinds of stuff, predators, are being attracted to the dump and they are coming to the communities. My constituents are afraid to let their children or even grandchildren walk outside or even walk to school. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for MACA if he would relocate these dumps farther away from my communities than they are currently located. Mahsi.

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

**Return To Question 93-15(5): Risks Associated With Location Of Landfills Near Tlicho Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our staff have been working with the communities in the Tlicho area regarding their capital plan and the relocation of the solid waste facilities. In some cases, we have been trying to find a location for a couple of years now. We have been talking to the leadership from Behchoko regarding a suitable location. We have made some suggestions and some options, and the community has also come forward with some options and we have been exploring how suitable they are. We have ruled some of them out. Some are too close to Highway No. 3 and were visible from the highway. We continue to have that discussion. We have some money in the budget that was carried over from last year, as we weren't able to agree to a site. Hopefully we will do that this year.

For the community of Wekweeti, there is a concern over the solid waste site attracting animals and the old site we had to put an electric fence up to control the problem with the bears. We do have money for relocating that facility in this year's capital plan to do a portion of it and carry it out through the next fiscal year.

In the community of Gameti, it's been several years now that this project has been on the books. It was initially slated for 2004-2005 and there had to be a wildlife risk analysis study done. So it was carried over to last year, and last year we had problems with finding suitable equipment in the community to do this project. We had anticipated to start on that project this year; however, the SAO recently resigned from the community. So we are

anticipating that we will carry this out until there are people in place to work this project and, in this case, the community has requested that we work with their development corporation to try to bring this project forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 93-15(5): Risks Associated With Location Of Landfills Near Tlicho Communities**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's great to hear that the community of Wekweeti has been looked after in the capital plans and that a portion of the dump will be moved and is still in the work plan.

Gameti, yes, it's true, the SAO recently resigned, but I must remind the Minister that a new SAO has been hired and I would like to get a commitment from the Minister that the department can go into the community and analyze the situation. Mr. Speaker, finding suitable equipment in the community has always been a problem. I am glad the Minister of MACA is identifying the problem, but that's another story.

Mr. Speaker, when can the Minister come out to the community and talk with the Tlicho leadership about the specific dump relocation? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 93-15(5): Risks Associated With Location Of Landfills Near Tlicho Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We can have our staff visit the community and carry on this discussion. I believe there's been an ongoing discussion on these projects. So I think that it wouldn't take a lot of effort. If there is a new SAO in Gameti, then we'll carry on their discussions there. There has been requests for the community to take over full project authority on this project. That's something we want to discuss further. As for myself personally going into the community, I believe I made that commitment already to go into some of the Tlicho communities with the Member. Of course, as the Minister of MACA, the first places I visit usually is the sewer lagoon and the waste site facilities. So we will certainly commit to doing that. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 93-15(5): Risks Associated With Location Of Landfills Near Tlicho Communities**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Minister will be coming to our region and we'll be dealing with that particular issue. Mr. Speaker, the next issue I'd like to address is the community of Behchoko. The Minister highlighted that his department is working with the Behchoko community government. Mr. Speaker, I'm just wondering if the Minister can outline how far they are with the planning process, because they've identified two locations. I'm just wondering where they're at with the planning process. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 93-15(5): Risks Associated With Location Of Landfills Near Tlicho Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we've been working at the waste site facility with the community of Behchoko for I think over a year now. We've carried it over from last year and we've identified several sites over this past year and the community has come forward with a recommendation for a site also and we've done some analysis on these sites. We will continue to have those discussions and then as soon as we can narrow it down to a site that everybody agrees with, we'll start doing the actual design and planning around that and move forward with the project. But that's been a problem up to now, is to identify a site that everybody is satisfied with. We had some sites identified that's along the highway and of course that causes problems as it is visible from Highway No. 3 and that's not acceptable. So we'll have to sit down and have further discussion. My staff will do that and hopefully we'll have a site location firmed up fairly quick and we can move forward with doing the actual project. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 93-15(5): Risks Associated With Location Of Landfills Near Tlicho Communities**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My final question to the Minister will be upon completion of the planning process and analyzing the relocation of the dump with the community of Gameti and Behchoko, could the Minister highlight if the capital plans can be part of the business plan this fall? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 93-15(5): Risks Associated With Location Of Landfills Near Tlicho Communities**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The solid waste sites that we are discussing here today are already in the capital plan. They have already been approved and the budgets are already allocated for these three communities. So they're already in the capital plan. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Question 94-15(5): Community Emergency Response Services**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, after we leave this House today I would like to get somebody to go back and do a word check and see how many times we heard the words "under review" during the last eight days, because it was quite significant.

But, Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Minister responsible for perpetual planning. That's his own phrase that I've stolen from him there. Mr. Speaker, the emergency response services in our communities, I raised this last time in the House, I asked for a measly \$10,000 to give to our local



emergency response volunteer group in Hay River so that they could come up with a proposal for what they need so that they could engage the support of industry, and the government, and the municipality and different departments, and this request was denied and yet we have hundreds of thousands of dollars to study other things. Apparently a comprehensive report has come out. I believe the Minister has briefed the mayor of Hay River on this particular subject, but I still don't know exactly what the Minister is going to do to address these issues about emergency response volunteers. I don't know what he's going to do about liability. I don't know what he's going to do about compensation. These are all outstanding questions and I'd like some answers from the Minister today before we leave for the summer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 94-15(5): Community Emergency Response Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've committed to come back to this House in the fall with a plan that's going to lay out how we want to rationalize, as a government, this particular service and coordinate the efforts across the departments that are impacted; as well, be able to work with the communities on the best way to move forward both with the emergency response, the ambulance service, as well as the medical transport fees. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 94-15(5): Community Emergency Response Services**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a very comprehensive and thick report on this subject has already come out. Why is it going to take to the fall for this government to respond? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 94-15(5): Community Emergency Response Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, we have to sort out a number of fairly complex issues, service provision, there's a whole host of different models of what's already in existence in the North and across different communities. There's liability issues, there's legislative issues that have to be addressed and there's no one clear model to do this. So those are the type of issues we're trying to come to grips with here in the next few months as we finalize that work. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 94-15(5): Community Emergency Response Services**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the meantime, there are people who are resigning from positions. There's not a lot of clarity around liability, there's been lawsuits that have been filed

by the Workers' Compensation Board. There's just a lot of outstanding questions and I think the time is of the essence. What is the Minister going to have in hand by the fall that is going to actually not just see more review and more study, but something tangible in the hands of these folks who are offering these volunteer, but very, very important services to our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 94-15(5): Community Emergency Response Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We intend to be able to come forward with some clear options of a layout and answer some of the questions as we see them as a government in terms of the liability, the role of Health and Social Services, which is the ultimate end user, what role MACA plays if any, the type of legislation we're going to need, how do we address the liability issues. As we, for the first time, will be formally acknowledging that this is a service that we have a vested interest in, we have to be able to speak to the resource requirements, how do we support communities that are doing this through their town councils and community councils. We have some that are done on contract. So there's a number of complex issues to sort out. We have to, as a government, have those answers or some options to those answers by the fall. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 94-15(5): Community Emergency Response Services**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that sounds like we're going to be ready to examine options by the fall; we're not going to be ready to implement any solutions. So could the Minister at least confirm that he thinks these issues will be resolved and addressed and a clear framework laid out during the life of this Assembly at least? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 94-15(5): Community Emergency Response Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this issue has been on my agenda now for the last year or so and I'm very committed to try to have these issues resolved in the life of this Assembly and a process initiated that's going to allow us to lay out a plan of how we're going to move to a more rational funded kind of arrangement where we recognize the costs and we work with the communities to come up with a service delivery model that is effective for different communities across the North. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Before I go on I'd like to recognize in the gallery Mr. Ray Anderson from Matco.

---Applause

I understand that they're having a 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, being in the North for 40 years, tonight actually. Also with him is his daughter Kelly and son Damon.

---Applause

Welcome to the Assembly. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**Question 95-15(5): Seniors' Housing Consultation Process**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there's been much discussion about seniors' housing the last two weeks during our session. Much of that discussion has been centred around a lack of a means test for seniors getting into public housing and, in fact, in some cases a lack of clients that may take up residence in some of these projects the Minister has talked about here the past couple of weeks. I'd like to ask the Minister what assurances can he provide to us that he's not going to rush into any projects over the summer with building any further seniors' housing without first informing the Members about exactly what the plans are to do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 95-15(5): Seniors' Housing Consultation Process**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, right now the process we are using is we're consulting the NWT Seniors' Society, local senior committees and councils in the communities. We were working with those organizations. So for the Member to tell us not to proceed, we are already consulting seniors who these houses are earmarked for. So I would just like to make the Member aware we are consulting. The Members of this House, they basically know what the strategy is for affordable housing that's going to be left this summer, we already know where those units are going to go, but the projects we're working in regards to the Yellowknife Seniors' Society are basically the Hay River Seniors' Society is a process that we are inclusive of making sure seniors are involved in those decisions, and we'll keep the Members informed and the constituents where these facilities are taking place. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 95-15(5): Seniors' Housing Consultation Process**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after having listened to the responses from the Minister -- and I know he's working with another department, ECE on this -- I'm not at all confident that they will arrive at the solutions I think they need to arrive at sooner rather than later. I'd like to ask the Minister specifically what is going to take place in the Housing Corporation. What projects have they got underway and where exactly is the means test that you're developing with ECE and will we see that developed over the summer between now and September, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 95-15(5): Seniors' Housing Consultation Process**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the responsibility that we have, which basically has been shifted in regards to the subsidy that we now provide to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to cover off the O and M costs of those seniors' facilities. So right now we're basically charging Education, Culture and Employment for the cost of those seniors' facilities for units, but before we used to be covered off by way of a subsidy. So the cost of that subsidy, basically the arrangement has changed, as everybody knows, that basically the Department of Education, Culture and Employment is now responsible to review the amount of subsidies that individuals get by way of their income support and security system that they have. So there is that review taking place and, again, that we are keeping the social committee informed in this House in regards to how that transition was taking place and how we're basically rolling that out. So that's the process we're presently using. Again, because of our mandate changes, it is a system that is changing. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 95-15(5): Seniors' Housing Consultation Process**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if indeed, and I would suggest that the work on the review that needs to happen for a means test for folks to access seniors' housing and public housing needs to happen yesterday and I don't think we can afford to wait the four months over the summer period for that to happen. I'd like to ask the Minister, can we get a means test for the seniors looking for housing over the summer, and I know the Minister said he's going to consult with the committee, but is he going to enter into any projects over the summer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 95-15(5): Seniors' Housing Consultation Process**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, we are, in the questions asked yesterday by the Member from Hay River, we are looking at putting out a request for proposals on the Hay River project. In regards to the other seniors' independent housing units, those are laid out in regards to the proposal we put forth for the 185 units we're going to be putting in communities. There are seniors' independent housing units going to be delivered this summer. But in regards to facilities to provide seniors accommodation by way of large facilities, those decisions haven't been made yet. We are talking with YACCS and other groups here in Yellowknife to look at units for Yellowknife to do the expansion at the Avens Centre and groups like that. So we are working again with those. But at this time, if the Member would like, I can get him a list of exactly where these units are going to go and exactly what type of unit are going to be used for. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final, supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 95-15(5): Seniors' Housing Consultation Process**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's debatable and I don't think anybody has really seen a waiting list for these units. But I would like to ask the Minister if indeed they are built, will there be a means test available for people trying to occupy these units? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 95-15(5): Seniors' Housing Consultation Process**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, under the existing process we're going through now, the Housing Corporation is now responsible for basically collecting rent for the units based on a cost recovery basis. The subsidy portion now comes to Education, Culture and Employment in regards to how people will be subsidized for the portion of those rents that they will have to either pay themselves or receive a subsidy to top off what that rent is going to be. Now it's our responsibility, as a corporation, to get full cost recovery for the cost to operate those units from the clients that basically occupy those units, and that includes our seniors. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Oral questions. The honourable Member from the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 96-15(5): Wood Pellet Boiler System Pilot Project For North Slave Correctional Centre**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the past week or so I read in the papers and I also received the information from the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Brendan Bell, on this wood pellet initiative that the department is doing in terms of reducing or looking at energy, effective methods to use in the government institutions. I wanted to ask the Minister in terms of what are the long-term goals, I guess, of this wood pellet initiative that's being used at the facility by the Department of Justice? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

**Return To Question 96-15(5): Wood Pellet Boiler System Pilot Project For North Slave Correctional Centre**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the facility was originally conceived and constructed, the plans called for three oil-fired boilers. We only installed two at that time and there's been a need for a backup since. In order to address this, we've been working with Public Works and we came up with a cost estimate of \$225,000, which was in the capital plan. We found another way around that, Mr. Speaker, and that was to enter into a contract with Arctic Green Energy and to provide heat to the facility using a wood pellet boiler system. So we're testing this out. It is a bit of a pilot. It's not going to cost us money in terms of upfront capital. We will be charged by the amount of energy used and if this pilot is successful, I think it's probably something that we'll want to look at using in other facilities. Obviously, it cuts down on our emissions, it's great for the environment and

we think we can save money using it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 96-15(5): Wood Pellet Boiler System Pilot Project For North Slave Correctional Centre**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the final results and how much energy we, as a government, are going to save in this facility and what other facilities in the Northwest Territories, and maybe under the government as a whole that's going to implement such a system if it's beneficial to the people. I'd like to ask the Minister in terms of supplying this new device here or this device that they're using to the correctional facility, these wood pellets, can they make these in the Northwest Territories so we could have northern suppliers maybe south of the lake or around the lake here that has some forestry product industries that could use it at the facility? Staying north here. So I'd like to ask the Minister on that. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 96-15(5): Wood Pellet Boiler System Pilot Project For North Slave Correctional Centre**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, it's a good suggestion and potentially if somebody out there is interested in entering into this business, wanted to provide wood pellets and could do it in a cost effective manner, obviously we'd be very interested in looking at that. I assume you're talking about the pellets as opposed to the construction of the boilers, yes. So, Mr. Speaker, if such a supply is available in the NWT, we'll certainly consider it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 96-15(5): Wood Pellet Boiler System Pilot Project For North Slave Correctional Centre**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I followed the Department of Justice on this initiative because I think it's ground breaking, I think it's the way to go in terms of our larger institutions down the Mackenzie Valley, down the Deh Cho and right down the whole Northwest Territories that this department can be the guiding light, I guess, to the other departments, I guess, in terms of looking at large facilities that have institutions like this that could use wood pellets and get the people in the Northwest Territories to start supplying wood pellets. So I guess I wanted to ask, would the Minister given the signal to the people out there who are listening who may be interested in wood pellets and supplying wood pellets to this type of institution, what...(inaudible)...that says yes, let's approach the Minister and his department. Right now, I understand this is in the baby stages of trying it out. When can the people feel some level of comfort and come to the Minister and make some deals in terms of how to best supply the northern pellet furnaces? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 96-15(5): Wood Pellet Boiler System Pilot Project For North Slave Correctional Centre**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The boiler will be installed and operational, we believe, by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Then we will test it and we will know much more then. Obviously there are a number of institutions around the North, not only in our departments but in others. I know the folks at Public Works are very excited about testing this technology. I think if it's successful and saves us money, it's certainly something we will consider across our other facilities.

Mr. Speaker, if there are people in any of the regions that are putting together business plans, have initiatives that would look at alternative energy or renewable energy, that's something we want to talk about. So I would certainly encourage them to approach our regional people and we will take it from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 97-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask some questions of the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko, and it's in relation to seniors' housing programs, Mr. Speaker. We've heard quite a bit in the last couple of days about a program that enables seniors who have significant personal wealth to be treated as anyone else is who has essentially no income and can have access to housing provided for almost entirely by the taxpayer.

I have heard significant objections to this here in the House. I have had calls from constituents. I have heard it on the media. To paraphrase one constituent, they do not want to see taxpayers' money to go towards people who can otherwise afford to look after themselves. That's a pretty straightforward, direct message. The Minister, yesterday and this morning, the acting president of the Housing Corporation, was on the media saying that this program very much deserves to be reviewed for this kind of potential loophole. I want to ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, will he, until such as this policy is reviewed for this type of situation, suspend the policy, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Return To Question 97-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the policy was put in place in the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly. The 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly to where we are today in the 15<sup>th</sup>, a lot of circumstances have changed. In the 12<sup>th</sup> Assembly, we were part of Nunavut. The whole intention of this policy was to ensure that seniors in social housing were not to pay rent. The majority of our clients at that time were in the smaller communities, which made up the majority of the Members in this House. I think we also have to realize that the policy was there with good intentions, but the cause of some circumstances of the changing economy in the Northwest Territories, the problem seemed to originate out of communities where there is a market for housing. I think because of that situation, we are going to have to

look at how the means tests are being done. Right now, the means test is based on income. There is nothing there that looks at an asset the individual may own. Because of the process we have in place, the Department of Education and ourselves have made a unilateral decision that we will transfer the subsidy that we provide to all of our clients, a subsidy of \$30 million, to operate our social housing stock in the Northwest Territories. The Department of Education will be able to ensure that we are being fair to the people who live in those units, but, more importantly, those dollars that they receive are to pay for the operation of our units. That decision has been made.

We all know the Income Security Program we have in place; there has to be review of that in the next six months. So we are in the process of doing that and bringing forward to the Members to review that program to ensure that it's fair, it's transparent and problems like that would be caught during that review. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 97-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for repeating the oft-heard review and the chronology of this program in this House. I don't need to go over the old ground on this, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we recognize that even though a program may have been set up with good intentions 10 years ago, circumstances change and we have to be ready to address it when those things become apparent. This is all I am asking of the Minister. With the concerns of the validity of a couple of aspects of this program, it seems that we really do have something here that we need to address. In the meantime, until we've had a chance to take a good look at it, will the Minister suspend it so that we are not going to be compounding the problem by potentially enabling other people to get into something that we really don't want on our books? That's all I am asking. Let's put this thing on hold until we figure out what to do with it, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 97-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of the situation, we do have to look at this policy. If that's what the Member would like is for us to suspend this policy over the period of time...I think you have to realize that this is only unique to market. We are not seeing this problem in non-market communities. To be fair to those communities that are non-market communities, I will agree to suspend the policy in market communities to ensure that this practice does not go on.

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

**Supplementary To Question 97-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, I would be very pleased to accept that offer. The thing we need to look at is, as circumstances change, our readiness to amend and affect

our policies in the meantime. The message we have heard from constituents is that there has to be a fundamental principle here that where a person can't afford to pay something toward their own welfare, that we should be in a position to work with them at that extent. That, I think, is a very worthwhile offer and I would like to ask the Minister to make a commitment to bring to the Social Programs committee the framework for how we can amend this program on a go-forward basis.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 97-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my commitment here today, I will have to go back to Cabinet and get direction. Once direction is given, I will take it back to the Social Programs committee. Thank you.

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

**Question 98-15(5): Review Of Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have heard the Minister of the Housing Corporation exhaustively try to explain what this program is, where it came from and everything else. I have to say it's an admirable try, but I am going to ask my questions now to the Minister responsible for the social housing policy and that's the Minister of ECE. It was just over a year ago that they took the \$30 million from the Housing Corporation. They casually liberated \$1.3 million from the Housing Corporation's budget to hire new people to carry out this social housing policy. I would like to ask the Minister why his staff aren't working on rectifying this situation and continuing to pay rent for people who can afford to pay it themselves? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 98-15(5): Review Of Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because this House was assured that when the changeover took place that there would be no change in the rules that were administered by the Housing Corporation and that any change would come about as a result of the overall review of the income security programs, all of the income security programs, that process is underway with us working to go back to the standing committee, hopefully fairly shortly with some proposed changes. We have gone back to the standing committee to outline what we have heard during the consultation process and what some of the recommendations were, but we have also undertaken not to implement any changes without having that discussion with that committee and Members of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 98-15(5): Review Of Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I still haven't quite figured out what the folks that were delivering the social housing policy at the Housing Corporation are doing today. I know there is new staff at ECE that are looking after the social housing policy now. I am wondering is there any way, given the media attention that caused the concern that we are hearing from constituents, at all that the Minister can fast track some review of this policy, so that fair is fair, Mr. Speaker? Can he fast track it? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 98-15(5): Review Of Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are hoping we can develop a policy that is rational and meets the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories. I would hate at this point, with the amount of time and effort and consultation that's gone into reviewing this policy, to announce any changes suddenly. We intend to make some rational changes to this. Let's be very clear about this; there may be some changes to the policy around how we subsidize housing for seniors. I expect that there will be, but I would rather we bring forward all of our proposals in a comprehensive, cohesive manner and make sure that we are doing things right the first time, rather than having to make some more incremental changes because we find that we made some mistake along the way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 99-15(5): Convertible Workforce Housing For Sahtu**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to have a discussion with the Minister of Housing, the Honourable David Krutko. I am tired, too. I want to ask the Minister, in terms of the manufactured homes that are going to be impacted by the proposed gas pipeline, these manufactured homes, what critical stages would the people in the communities that are going to be impacted, I have three communities, four communities possibly in my region that are going to benefit from this concept. At what stage do we need to get on board and say, yes, this is the way to go right now? All I know, there is a time when we have to make a decision and go with it. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 99-15(5): Convertible Workforce Housing For Sahtu**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are still in discussions with the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline Group with regard to the social impact benefits that we are trying to get as a government. More importantly, we also have to include the federal government by way of CMHC and see how we can get federal contributions to this project in order to make it viable. We also need the federal commitment. Those

discussions are ongoing. There is a meeting coming up next week. At some point we will have to sit down and evaluate where we are at, making sure we have parties onside before we can proceed. Right now, we are still in the preliminary stages. There is no final decision being made at this point. We are still negotiating with all parties.

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

**Supplementary To Question 99-15(5): Convertible Workforce Housing For Sahtu**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister make a commitment to come into my region sometime in the next few months to really have a discussion on this concept? We want to hear both sides. We want to know how it's going to impact our communities, the benefits to our communities and the things we have talked about in this House. The community needs to be comfortable and to lend the support. This concept could bring a lot of benefits to our community, but if we don't do it right, it also could be a disaster. So we want to have a good discussion with the Housing Corporation on this Novel concept. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 99-15(5): Convertible Workforce Housing For Sahtu**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I previously committed to the Member, we will be holding housing forums in the Sahtu and the Deh Cho within the next number of months. I feel that's probably a more appropriate time to add this to the agenda during those meetings. So maybe that is something we can add to the agenda when we host those meetings in the Sahtu and Deh Cho.

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

**Question 100-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I was really happy there for a minute. I thought we actually got an answer from the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation on something to do with the seniors' rent. First I heard we were going to suspend the rent policy that's in place now. Then I heard we were going to suspend it in market communities. Then I heard we were just going to take it back to Cabinet to see if we can suspend it in market communities. I just think this has created so much lack of clarity now that if I was a senior living in a housing unit right now, I would not be getting any sleep this weekend wondering what's going on. What does suspend mean? To me, to say you are going to suspend the rent scale for seniors sounds like they are going to be paying means tested rent here on the rent scale in the next little while. That's what suspend means to me. Now, if the Minister says he is going to grandfather the existing tenants in seniors' housing under the current regime and suspend any further renting of units until this issue of the rent scale has been decided upon, then I can understand that. I need some clarity here. What is the Minister talking about? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 100-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the Minister can't unilaterally make a policy decision that has to be ratified by Cabinet. In this case, I have to take it back to Cabinet to ensure that Cabinet agrees that I can suspend the policy or change a policy that is going to have an affect on the government by way of expenditures. We have to go through that process. As we all know, I committed to that to the Member from Yellowknife that I will suspend the policy. We are going to be having a Cabinet meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. I will bring it to Cabinet at that time and see what the direction of Cabinet is for proceeding forward. It's a policy that has to be reviewed and I can't unilaterally change it, because I have to get Cabinet direction. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 100-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I just need to understand, then, exactly what the Minister is going to ask the Cabinet to approve. What is he is going to bring forward in his proposal? Is he going to bring forward a proposal to suspend rent subsidies for seniors under the present means of determining rent for going forward or for retroactive? What is the Minister going to ask the Cabinet to approve? What policy?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 100-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the problem we face here is we don't have a means of doing an asset-based test on what assets these seniors have. In order for us to change it, that seemed to be where the problem is. How do you assess an individual by way of an application process to ensure that they are aboveboard on whether they can afford rent or can't they? That's why this problem is unique to the market communities and that's where we have to focus our decision. Again, we will be having to come forward and have a discussion paper to look at how we can make these changes. We are already looking at what's happening in other jurisdictions across the country to ensure that what we do here is not only unique to us, but we also have precedents that are out there that we can use. We will have to bring a discussion paper to Cabinet with regard to how we change this policy. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 100-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of seniors currently living in public

housing, I need to know if the Minister in the next few weeks is going to go to Cabinet and ask them for some kind of moratorium on the existing current Seniors' Rent Subsidy Program. I need to know what context that that request is going to be made. We can't do this open ended. Do seniors know by now that the government is considering a change in the policy for assessing rent? Yes, I think they do. Between the work of ECE and the Housing Corporation, I think they do. But Mr. Braden asked for something more specific and something more immediate and I think we owe it to them, on this last day where we have a chance to get this clear, to know what it is the Minister is going to ask the Cabinet to do. Are we going to put a moratorium on more subsidized seniors applicants moving into public housing until this policy is in place? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Deputy Premier, Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 100-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is going into a couple of areas. One, where the responsibility for subsidies for seniors in public housing, which now falls under the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment as we've transferred that program. There is another program within the Housing Corporation that deals with seniors in independent housing. I think the question on the work of the work that Mr. Dent is doing on the subsidies situation of the government would best be directed to Mr. Dent in this case. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Dent.

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my response to Mr. Ramsay, the promise that was made publicly and in this House was that when the subsidy program for public housing, which includes the subsidy for seniors in public housing, when that was transferred or responsibility for that program was transferred from the Housing Corporation to Education, Culture and Employment it would be taken over with no change in the policy. At this point there is no change. We are examining all of our income security programs and all of our subsidy programs that are administered by Education, Culture and Employment and I expect that we will be proposing some changes to those programs in the course of the next six months or so. But those proposed changes won't be sprung on anybody. There will be an appropriate period of notice and it will only be done after consultation with Members in this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 100-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then, again I must ask, what is the Minister of Housing, what request and proposal is he taking to the Cabinet in the next few days in relation to the suspension of the seniors' housing rent scale? What is he taking? What's being suspended? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 100-15(5): Seniors' Rent Subsidy Policy**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again because the switch has happened to be talking about the subsidy program, which right now seniors do not pay rent in public housing, if we're going to change that, the whole subsidy situation would be Mr. Dent's area. If we're talking about the overall rent scale and how that's affected, some of that responsibility still remains within the Housing Corporation. Rent scales do belong within the Housing Corporation, but for actual policy change, clarity I guess is going to have to be sought here from the Member if Mr. Krutko is going to have to deal with the seniors Independent Housing Program. You're talking about rent in public housing and the subsidies, Mr. Dent will, as he stated, report back to this House of any changes. If you're speaking to subsidies for seniors in public housing, that area would go into Mr. Dent's responsibility and he's indicated now there will be no changes to that program. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** We still don't know what the Minister is going to suspend. We're going to be in suspense wondering.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Oral questions. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 10, replies to the opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Dent.

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**Tabled Document 31-15(5): Workers' Compensation Board Northwest Territories And Nunavut Annual Report 2005**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents I'd like to table today.

First of all I wish to table the following document entitled Workers' Compensation Board of Northwest Territories and Nunavut Annual Report 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Tabled Document 32-15(5): Workers' Compensation Board Appeals Tribunal Northwest Territories And Nunavut Annual Report 2005**

Also, Mr. Speaker, although not required by statute to table this, I have been provided with an annual report this year from the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and I'd like to file that as well, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for the first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**ITEM 16: MOTIONS****Motion 2-15(5): Appointment Of Two Human Rights Commission Members, Carried**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** WHEREAS section 16.(2) of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Act provides that the Human Rights Commission is composed of such members, between three and five in number, as may be appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS two of the five Commission appointments will expire on June 30, 2006;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management is tasked with recommending individuals to the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Assembly is prepared to make a recommendation to the Commissioner;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the following individuals be appointed by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to the Human Rights Commission for the Northwest Territories effective July 1, 2006: Ms. Rita Mueller of the hamlet of Behchoko, for a term of four years; and Ms. Tammy Rogers of the town of Inuvik, for a term of two years.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. A motion is on the floor. 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.

---Carried

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

**Motion 3-15(5): Extended Adjournment Of The House To October 17, 2006, Carried**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on June 8, 2006, it shall be adjourned until Tuesday, October 17, 2006;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to October 17, 2006, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. A motion is on the floor. 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.

---Carried

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. Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Roland.

**ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS****Bill 2: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2006-2007**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2006-2007, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. A motion is on the floor. 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.

---Carried

Bill 2 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Before I go on to orders of the day, Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if His Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber to give assent to bills? Before we bring the Commissioner in, Members, I would like to draw your attention that his Honour is having his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday.

---Singing of Happy Birthday

---Applause

**COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Tony Whitford):** Please be seated. I see the rules of the House have changed a bit here.

---Laughter

I wonder what item on the agenda that would have been. Thank you very much. It's certainly an honour to become a senior on Sunday. I shall be officially a senior.

---Applause

And now back to work. Monsieur le president, madams et messieurs les deputes, madams et monsieur, et amis.

Even though it's a short time since I last met with you, many notable things have happened. I welcomed royalty to Canada on your behalf and I am looking forward to a very special guest visiting us here in the North.

This past weekend, I have had the pleasure and the honour of representing you in Calgary and in Edmonton during the visit of Their Royal Highnesses the Earl and Countess of Wessex. Their Royal Highnesses were in Calgary and Edmonton celebrating with young Canadians who received the Duke of Edinburgh Award. I was especially proud to be in their company at the ceremony as two northerners were presented with their distinguished medals. Greg Reardon of Fort Providence and Scottie Monteith of Iqaluit were awarded the prestigious Duke of Edinburgh Gold Medal. As well, bronze Duke of Edinburgh



Awards medals were presented to other members. We were also invited to a reception and gave a first-class presentation to Their Royal Highnesses about their home community.

As you know, the Duke of Edinburgh Award is a self-development program available to all young people. It equips them with life skills to make a difference for themselves, their communities and their country. The program works to develop self-esteem, self-reliance and leadership in young Canadians by encouraging and awarding their accomplishments. It is not easily won, but takes dedication, commitment and lots and lots of hard work. On behalf of all northerners, I would like to commend and to congratulate Greg, Scottie and Trevor on their excellent achievements.

---Applause

You have made your families, your friends, your communities and, indeed, all northerners, very proud.

I mentioned earlier that I was looking forward to welcoming a special guest to the North. I am very pleased to inform you that Their Excellencies the Governor General of Canada Michaele Jean and her husband Jean-Daniel Lafond will conduct their first visit to the Northwest Territories this month. Their five-day visit will include Yellowknife, Fort Simpson and the Nahanni National Park. The Governor General will be here to celebrate National Aboriginal Day and to have discussions with women's groups, youth and the aboriginal community. I am sure you will look forward to warmly welcoming Their Excellencies to our territory as I do.

Sadly, in the last few days, we have lost a cherished friend and wise leader. Former Chief Joe Migwi passed away recently in his home community of Behchoko. Chief Migwi was a respected elder who guided his people through many of the transitions. One of his proudest moments came when, as a member of the Tlicho Elders Advisory Council, he was present in the House of Commons in Ottawa for the passing of Bill C-14, the historic Tlicho Agreement that will shape the future of his people for generations to come. We offer our deepest sympathy to Chief Migwi's family and people. He will be truly missed.

#### Assent To Bills

Now, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

- Bill 1, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2005-2006
- Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No.1, 2006-2007
- Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Supplementary Retiring Allowances Act
- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act

Did I get that right? Now, as you return to your home communities, I extend to you all my very best wishes for National Aboriginal Day and the summer's assemblies

and gatherings that you will be attending in the weeks ahead. Members, I hope you all have a safe and enjoyable break as you travel home to be with your families. Thank you, merci beaucoup, mahsi cho, merci, qujannamiik.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Before we go to orders of the day, Members, I would just like to take this opportunity to mention a few things. First of all, I would like to thank the Pages that are with us and have been working with us today, and for all the Pages who have been working for us over the past eight days and for doing a great job for us. We surely do appreciate the work that they do for us. Thank you to the Pages.

---Applause

Also, I would like to acknowledge the fact that one of the staff who have been sitting at the table here with us, Darrin Ouellette, this is his last day in the House with us today. He is moving on to take a job with Aboriginal Affairs. Darrin, thank you for your work at the Assembly.

---Applause

Another staff person who has been working here for some time, probably well known by everybody, Julia Heyland is also taking a job elsewhere and will be leaving us in June.

---Applause

As we leave the Chamber today, the last day of this session, I am well aware that committees have a lot of work lined up for them over the coming months. Needless to say, Cabinet is busy all the time and has a lot of work to do over the summer. I do hope all of you take some time to enjoy the summer, especially some of the festivities coming up around National Aboriginal Day and Canada Day. Hopefully you will take some time to spend with your families and recharge your batteries for the fall session. I want to wish you all a very safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to getting together with you again in the fall. All the best to all of you.

---Applause

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

#### ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
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
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 9, Write-off of Assets Act
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 17, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:02 p.m.