



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Friday, February 26, 2010****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 10:07 a.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good morning, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. It's nice to see all the green in the House today.

---Applause

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 86-16(4):
BEST WISHES TO BRENDAN GREEN**

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today we are wearing green to celebrate a milestone in northern history that will take place in Whistler, British Columbia, when Brendan Green of Hay River becomes the first Northwest Territories resident to compete in the Olympic Games since 1984 when Sharon and Shirley Firth competed in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

---Applause

In about two and a half hours, Brendan and his teammates will compete in the men's 4 by 7.5 kilometre biathlon relay at the Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games starting at 12:30 p.m. The race is scheduled to be broadcasted on TSN, and will attract millions of viewers worldwide.

On behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories, I would like to congratulate Brendan on this monumental accomplishment and I would like to recognize the hard work and dedication he has shown to achieve this incredible goal.

Mr. Speaker, high performance athletes often train six to ten hours a day. They must adhere to a rigid schedule of competing and training year round if they hope to be the best in their sport. This type of commitment is expensive, given the travel, equipment and training that's required for this level of sport.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs and our partner, the Sport North Federation,

have been strong supporters of Brendan and other NWT elite athletes through the High Performance Athlete Grant Program.

The program, which provides up to \$15,000 annually to high performance athletes to help offset training and travel costs, has supported Brendan for the past five years to help him compete at the Winter Olympics this very day.

Mr. Speaker, to quote Brendan Green in a statement he made recently: "The North is full of potential for athletes. Growing up in rural town is not an obstacle for athletes, but an asset. You develop an extended family of community members, coaches and volunteers which support your training and achievements. That kind of support and encouragement is not available to athletes from big cities."

Mr. Speaker, we are all extremely proud of Brendan and his accomplishments and the many others who strive for excellence to reach their dreams. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Brendan the best of luck today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 87-16(4):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES TOURISM
2010-11 MARKETING PLAN**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, tourism is a vital industry here in the Northwest Territories. It is our largest renewable industry, a \$130 million sector that hosted 73,000 visitors in 2008-2009. It is also an industry that casts a wide net economically, as all our regions benefit from tourism activity.

Because of the importance and the potential of our tourism industry, it is critical that we market the Northwest Territories outstanding range of tourism products and that we consistently develop effective plans to do so.

Mr. Speaker, with that goal in mind, I'm extremely pleased with the results of Northwest Territories Tourism 2010-11 Marketing Plan, which will be tabled in the House today.

Northwest Territories Tourism was supported in its work by the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee, which is made up of 10 members from

the tourism industry and two government representatives. The committee provides strategic direction each year to Northwest Territories Tourism on development of the marketing plan and the committee and Northwest Territories' Tourism have an excellent relationship based on constructive dialogue and mutual respect.

I believe the 2010-11 Marketing Plan is an excellent one and it has benefited not only from the guidance of the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee, but also from direct advice from our industry sectors.

Mr. Speaker, there is much our Territory has to offer the world when it comes to tourism experiences. For example, our Territory is known for its world-class sport fishing, aurora viewing, road touring, outdoor adventure and hunting. And as the marketing plan points out, the Northwest Territories is increasingly seen as a unique location for hosting small and medium-size meetings and conventions.

But the tourism industry is an extremely competitive one and we need to continually position ourselves as a travel destination of choice. The Northwest Territories Tourism 2010-11 Marketing Plan will help us accomplish this. The plan is about building on our achievements to realize our growth potential. It outlines the priorities for increasing tourism revenues within the Northwest Territories. It also identifies emerging markets, such as Mexico, Australia and South Korea, that could help our tourism industry grow. These initiatives and this information are important if we are to increase the size and scope of the tourism sector in every region of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, a prosperous tourism industry builds on what the Northwest Territories has to offer: a beautiful landscape, rich cultures and a willingness to share both of these with the world. It will contribute towards a Territory with a diversified and healthy economy that provides all regions and communities with choices as envisioned by the 16th Legislative Assembly through Northerners Working Together. That is why we must continue to focus on developing tourism here in the Northwest Territories. This marketing plan will go a long way toward helping the Government of the Northwest Territories to achieve this goal.

In closing, I would like to thank Northwest Territories Tourism and the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee for the leadership and vision they have shown in developing this marketing plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 88-14(4): LEADERSHIP FOR LITERACY

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, the ability to read and use information is a basic skill necessary for students to reach their full potential in school and later in life. Research indicates that the main reason students do poorly in school is a lack of literacy skills. This can prevent them from understanding reading material in other subject areas. This is why increasing literacy levels in the Northwest Territories is one of the top priorities of the department.

There are literacy initiatives in schools across the Northwest Territories and this year Education, Culture and Employment staff are reviewing them to see what best practices might be used to increase literacy in all Northwest Territories schools. I want to draw the attention of the House to one such initiative in the South Slave region, recently highlighted in the Slave River Journal, that is making a difference for students and teachers. In 2007, the South Slave Divisional Education Council took action to increase reading levels in their schools and they developed the Leadership for Literacy program.

A key element of Leadership for Literacy is to focus on professional development opportunities for teachers and school staff. Full-time literacy coaches are in each South Slave school, helping train teachers in well-researched and proven strategies to increase literacy levels among their students. In addition to having literacy coaches in the schools, the strategy involves regularly assessing each student's strengths and challenges so that instruction can be tailored to the needs of individual students.

I had the chance to see this program in action when I visited the South Slave in January and I was very impressed. Since the beginning of the Leadership for Literacy program, more students in the South Slave region are reading at, or above, grade level. In fact, 39 percent of the students who were assessed in both 2008 and 2009 showed significant improvement. In Lutselk'e we are seeing some of the best growth in reading levels in Canada, with nearly 10 percent of students in the community improving their reading ability by more than one grade level per year since 2007.

Much of this success is credited to the hard work and dedication of teachers and school staff who work tirelessly incorporating the new techniques they've learned in the classroom.

I want to close by thanking the South Slave Divisional Education Council and the teachers and literacy coaches in the region for the good work they are doing to improve literacy levels in their region. I will keep you informed of this and other school literacy initiatives in the coming months. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON THE SAHTU HOCKEY SONG

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recently was informed that the community of Deline has been designated as a territorial historical site. In honour of that I've come up with a Sahtu hockey song that was written by Stompin' Tom Connor. I won't be able to sing, Mr. Speaker, but I'll do my best.

Hello there, we're on the air, it's hockey night tonight. There's confusion here, confusion there, so I'm here to set things right. On Grey Goose Lake, the snow was late, and the ice was smooth and clear. Someone roared, "Sir John scored," the first hockey game was here.

Here's the chorus here: Oh! The first ice hockey game, was played in Deline. And the best game you can name, is the good ol' hockey game.

Second period! Many will say in their own strange way, hockey was born somewhere else. Stompin' Tom didn't know Sir John, so I write this song myself. Ontario, even Nova Scotia, tried to say their claim was true. But they were 20 years late, I got it straight, hockey was born in the Sahtu.

Chorus: Oh! The first ice hockey game, was played in Deline. And the best game you can name, is the good ol' hockey game.

Third period! Oh, take me where on the shores of Great Bear Lake, where the record is clear, like the water and the air, the first hockey game was played. Mr. Speaker, the debate is done, let's have some fun, let's get on with the show. Around the Sahtu, colleagues, you can join in too, and we can all say go, Canada, go!

Chorus: Oh! The first ice hockey game, was played in Deline. And the best game you can name, is the good ol' hockey game. He shoots, he scores! Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH BENEFITS POLICY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, go Canada go!

SOME HON. MEMBERS: All right!

MS. BISARO: The Standing Committee on Social Programs recently received information on possible

changes to the new Supplementary Health Benefits Program. Now that I've had a bit of time to consider the presentation from the Minister, I've got some concerns that I want to express, unlike our Olympic team.

Firstly, I appreciate the research done by the department and the data received by the committee, but even though it's good data, it's been selected and presented to steer people's responses in a particular direction. The documents for review contain certain assumptions -- although the Minister calls them observations -- that are leading. It's like the department has already determined a preferred course of action and is using these assumptions to guarantee that the responses received verify that course of action.

The questions posed in the discussion documents intended to stimulate answers from residents also follow the same pattern. They're multiple choice questions, but the choices are limited, and again seem to indicate a predetermined course of action. What is missing is the opportunity for NWT residents, especially those due to be affected by these changes, to freely discuss options for change with the department or the Minister. Nowhere in the documents are there open-ended questions which would allow creative and innovative suggestions and ideas. That option must be provided before any decision on changes take place.

There is a clear lack of involvement of stakeholders in the research and development phase of the data on which the paper is based. The working group established by the Minister was not involved until after the data had been collected and screened for publication. They were like committee presented with only some of the data; data which steers us to certain conclusions.

The implementation date must be pushed back to April 1, 2011. The timeline proposed by the Minister is way too aggressive to allow for adequate consultation. There's a need for more than the one set of town hall meetings currently scheduled. The first will serve to provide people with information on the proposed changes so they can properly understand them, but there must be another set of meetings after residents have had time to digest that information to hear their responses and receive input. That requires more than the one month identified in the Minister's current schedule.

The changes to this program could have substantial impact on NWT residents. Our job demands that we take the necessary time and do it right the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GWICH'IN CUP MINOR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to be singing there. Good job. It's pretty hard to cover on that, Norm. That's awesome.

This weekend is a big weekend for all minor hockey students in Nunakput and the Beaufort-Delta. The Gwich'in Cup is upon us. We have I think probably 14 teams playing, with students all the way from Ulukhaktok and Sachs Harbour, Tuk, Inuvik, Aklavik, Fort McPherson, and Tsiigehtchic. I'd like to thank today Chief Richard Nerysoo and Mary Ross from the Gwich'in Tribal Council for putting up this good tournament for our minor hockey players.

These tournaments are an excellent opportunity where students and youth from all across the Beaufort-Delta can participate in well-organized, fast-paced sports competitions. Unlike students and youth in other parts of Canada and even in the Northwest Territories, our youth have a rare opportunity to partake in such events. Communities such as Sachs Harbour, for example, rarely have the resources and numbers to contribute to a team.

I believe this government and various ministries responsibilities, from Health and Social Services to Municipal and Community Affairs, can get proactive with our youth. Having these highly organized competition sports helps our youth in areas such as teamwork, discipline, and healthy living.

Limited organized recreational sports and the high cost of supplies, the cost of transportation for a charter out of Ulukhaktok into Inuvik is probably \$6,000. That's for probably 14 children. I think we should be looking at that. I know the Minister's working, not working, he has done so by putting a tournament coming up in Fort McPherson this year. I really thank the Minister for that as well.

I know that our youth are healthy, they have had healthy results, and this gives us a healthy community. That's why we can challenge our government to follow through on promises and priorities established for our youth.

I look forward to seeing all our minor hockey kids in Inuvik this weekend and all the minor hockey kids' moms and dads. I hope everyone has a safe weekend in Inuvik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TALTSON HYDRO EXPANSION PROJECT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to express some serious concern and caution to this Cabinet before us. I speak in favour of the Taltson Hydro Project, but I need to see some results. We've all heard about how great this project

may be, and I certainly support any hydro expansion in our North. But when I talk to industry face to face, they show no interest in this project. They stall and don't move to make any agreements with the Government of the Northwest Territories. The longer this process takes, there will be no diamond mine industry for them to extend the power to.

We need to have signed agreements somewhere and sometime soon for this Taltson project. The GNWT continues to spend millions of dollars preparing itself for this Taltson expansion, but without diamond mine agreements showing they are interested in buying this power. They tend to pay lip service to us and are they leading us on, like a carrot with a donkey.

Mr. Speaker, we must be very careful. I've had many expert constituents who are very familiar with the power providing services and they've told me that the capacity of the expanded Taltson is just not there to serve them as a customer. So who are we supplying the power to, Mr. Speaker? Mr. Speaker, they're not interested. Why aren't we seeing this? Because if they were, they would have ran in and signed those agreements immediately to say we would have long-term sustainable power.

Mr. Speaker, I'm all in favour of hydro development and expansion, but who are we expanding it for? Mr. Speaker, this government has worked to waive the PUB process and, yes, in all fairness, this side of the House does agree with that process, but, Mr. Speaker, I fear that we've all climbed into the barrel and we're all going over the waterfall yet again on another project.

Mr. Speaker, with one mine on the tipping point now towards closure, again, who are we supplying the power for? Mr. Speaker, I've raised the issue of providing it to Avalon, which we know is going to be there for a least 100 years. That means they could be a customer two, three or maybe even four times the total capacity of what the existing diamond mines are there for.

So, Mr. Speaker, in short, we've all heard the term "show me the beef;" we've all heard the term "show me the money;" well, show me the signed agreements before we go too far on this project that we can't come back. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MUNICIPAL STATUS OF LUTSELK'E

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk about the community status of Lutselk'e. Mr. Speaker, Lutselk'e is governed by the Lutselk'e Dene First Nation and, according to the Department of

Municipal and Community Affairs, the Lutselk'e Dene First Nation is a designated authority for delivery of municipal services.

Mr. Speaker, Lutselk'e is with the Akaitcho Territory Government. The Akaitcho Territory Government is in land negotiations with the Government of Canada, so as you can imagine, there are complex factors involved here with regard to community governance. On the one hand the community of Lutselk'e does not want to give up the status of a First Nation government. On the other hand the department responsible for funding and supporting municipal governments, MACA, seems intent on holding steadfast to the terms and conditions of its NWT Act and less on trying to work with the community and their input for municipal governance. Mr. Speaker, this can be perceived as one government telling another government what to do and, worse, telling them what to think.

Mr. Speaker, Lutselk'e is in need of additional funds to deliver its municipal services. The community suffers from a lack of infrastructure and has mud and dust issues. A drainage study is needed to open the door for many infrastructure and municipal projects. However, the department will not increase its contribution to the community until it converts over to a hamlet status. This does not make sense to the community leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the community does appreciate the position of the government's cautious approach to this issue, but at the same time, they don't understand why the government can't be flexible on the issue; that is, to amend the NWT Act to allow First Nation governments to receive similar funding levels received by hamlets. I agree with the community and feel that if the department were to consider this, that Lutselk'e would make an ideal community to implement something like this. It is a smaller community with limited scope of community services and only has one governing body, the Lutselk'e Dene First Nations. Today I will ask questions of the Minister of MACA on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DATE RAPE DRUG AWARENESS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about something today. I know we're celebrating our youth and all the good news stories, but Mr. Speaker, I want to speak about something today that, I think, needs to be brought up in a public forum and we need to create public awareness.

Mr. Speaker, many of us are parents and we do everything we can to protect our children, but, Mr.

Speaker, at a certain age youth can be a danger to themselves. It's a time when they are trying to assert power and control over their own decisions, and if we can keep them safe and provide guidance about wise boundaries to get them through these years, more often than not they will eventually see the dangers themselves and will impose their own boundaries on their activities and where they go and what they do.

Mr. Speaker, today I don't want to speak about those threats. I want to speak about threats and dangers that are out there that are outside of a person's ability to protect themselves if they are not aware of this. Mr. Speaker, there's very little dialogue in our communities in the public, an awareness of something that is called, it's a drug called Rohypnol and it is a date rape drug. If you speak to people in law enforcement in the Northwest Territories -- or anywhere in Canada, I'm sure -- they will tell you that this very little spoken of drug is something that is prevalent and it is used. Mr. Speaker, the insidious thing about this drug is that it can be dropped into a glass or into a drink and it's affects leave the victim with little or no recollection of anything that happened to them while the drug had its effect; thus giving the victim a very low level of opportunity to give evidence against their perpetrators.

Mr. Speaker, these are not easy things for victims, then, subsequently to talk about and the people who would be able to warn others sometimes carry with them the stigma and the harm of such an event, which is life-changing, Mr. Speaker, and sometimes often never getting closure to this because it is very, very difficult for the law enforcement and for our courts to prosecute and successfully bring people to justice who would do this.

So, Mr. Speaker, later today I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services or the Minister of Justice what efforts our government could be involved in to bring awareness to this drug that is very difficult to charge people who perpetrate this type of activity on other people and to warn our young people about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON APPRECIATION FOR NORTHERN EDUCATORS

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Seeing that this is Education Week, I wanted to speak today about educators. I have two schools located in my riding -- N.J. Macpherson and Ecole St. Joseph School -- both of which provide excellent learning environments for children in this city. Mr. Speaker, I would put these two schools up against

any school in southern Canada for quality of education.

I want to thank all the educators at these two great schools for all the work they do on educating and growing our students. Also, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the administration of both Ecole St. Joseph and N.J. Macpherson for allowing me to host my constituency meetings at their schools. Both schools offer a great atmosphere for hosting these meetings.

Mr. Speaker, teachers have such a profound impact on people, and oftentimes you don't realize how much of an impact teachers have had until you're an adult yourself and you start looking back and reflecting on your time in school. I want to thank some of the teachers in my past that have helped me become the person I am today: Mr. Bob Dawe, Mr. Tony Florio, Ms. Leah Von Hagen, Mr. John Bowden, and Mr. Tony Campbell; our teachers I owe a great deal of gratitude to.

To the teachers and educators and the school boards around this Territory, I'd like to say thank you for all you do for our students and for us each and every day. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON APPRECIATION FOR NORTHERN EDUCATORS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Along with my colleague, I, too, rise to recognize Education Week. I'd like to speak about the contribution and dedication of the teachers in small and remote communities in Nahendeh and other communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

In comments about Education Week, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment stated that education is a collective responsibility, and rightly so. Parents, volunteers, the community, the media, education authorities, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and many others contribute to the success of our students.

However, I also think that there's a special place in heaven for teachers in small communities...

---Laughter

...who dedicate themselves to providing the best education they can to their students, with limited facilities and resources. These teachers can be isolated and do not always have opportunities to share and exchange curriculum ideas with other teachers on a day-to-day basis. Although computers and Internet access has contributed to many resources to small communities, a small school does not have specialized music or physical education and program staff like larger schools. The teacher's job is broader and demands a

personality who can see possibilities and takes advantage of opportunities.

There are many activities in the school in Nahendeh that help students to learn how to fiddle, how to hunt and trap. Contributions to the community are also supported. For example, Bompas Elementary held a skate-a-thon for charity. As well, students raise money to go on interesting trips that broaden their knowledge of the world. These opportunities increase students' confidence and help them develop organizational skills. Everyone is pleased to hear about the initiatives students show; however, the teachers are there in the background encouraging and empowering their students, giving them the opportunity to shine.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the Mackenzie Regional Youth Conference in Fort Simpson this week. Students and teachers from our small communities got together to learn and experience new things from arts to sports and academics. Good luck and I hope they had a great week.

This statement recognizes the teachers in our small and remote communities...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Menicoche, your time for your Member's statement has expired. Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COLON CANCER SCREENING

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday I made a Member's statement and asked some questions concerning colon cancer screening in the Northwest Territories. I am frustrated that the Minister seems unwilling to meet with the Stanton Foundation to work towards real partnerships and potential solutions. However, as I indicated at the time, I am supportive of the Department of Health and Social Services' direction to encourage residents over 50 to get screened every one or two years. Given the high rate of colon cancer in the Northwest Territories, this is the right thing to do.

Given that the health system is going to be doing this anyway, we need to make sure that it is ready for the increased demand on the system and that residents are regularly updated on their progress through the system and its current delays.

I have talked with a number of residents who have indicated that they are frustrated with the follow-up related to booked or potentially booked colon cancer screening. There are many people who are not intimidated by the health care system and will actively pursue their screenings. These people don't get missed, as they make sure that they don't get missed.

Unfortunately, there are a large number of people who are intimidated by the health care system and don't follow up as rigorously as others; they rely on

the system. Often these people can be overlooked or continually dropped or deferred from their screening exams. The individuals I talked with indicate that they aren't contacted for extensive periods of time and receive no updates with respect to bookings. They are frustrated.

Missed appointments cost the system money. As a system we need to be proactive and conduct regular follow-up calls and provide reminders and updates to residents in line for colon cancer screening. I strongly encourage the Minister to have her department and Stanton review their processes for keeping clients informed, updated, and reminded about their screening appointments. As a system, we must own some responsibility for patients missing their appointments to do everything we can to ensure that appointments aren't unnecessarily missed or forgotten. As indicated earlier, missed appointments are expensive on the system and a little bit of regular contact would go a long way to reducing the number of missed appointments.

At the appropriate time I will have questions for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE
GREAT SLAVE LAKE FISHERY

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm happy to see all the green in the House today. Everybody knows I'm a green guy on the inside too. Go, Brendan, go!

A Weledeh business that has provided local food security through responsible harvesting of sustainable resources and years of local employment is passing into environmentally responsible hands. The story about new owners taking over the business of Archie Buckley selling our top quality Great Slave Lake whitefish and other fish to the community and, they hope, the world is spreading.

I met with Brian Abbott, one of the new owners, in the fall when he proudly shared his plans to make a green business even greener in every way. Mr. Abbott will continue fishing the rich stocks for dockside and in-town sales. He's upgraded with high-efficiency propane refrigeration, a biomass boiler for heat, added some solar power, and will be harvesting ice in the winter, drawing down his ice lockers as he processes his summer fish. He's upgraded his systems for purification of water used in fish processing and plans to use every bit of the fish: the best parts for people, scraps for dog and cat food, and the rest for organic agriculture-quality fertilizer.

As Mr. Abbott has reported to have said: "This is an opportunity you don't get anywhere else in the world. A fishery like this with great quality and it's dormant? We're going to create a world-class product."

Mr. Abbott has some hurdles to cross, including getting adequate harvest quotas and government inspection service for export markets. I hope our ITI officials are knocking on his door to offer their help.

I understand the Fishermen's Federation has voted in favour of the Northwest Territories opting out of the federal Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Fishers have complained for years that the FFMC is their biggest obstacle to prosperity. I commend the Minister of ITI for any enabling action he may have taken to facilitate this discussion and for taking the next steps.

This business and a revitalized fisheries industry is the kind of business that will see us through the years as megaprojects boom and bust. I applaud Mr. Abbott and the Fishermen's Federation for taking the future into their hands. They deserve every bit of support that we can give.

I will be asking the Minister of ITI questions with respect to these topics.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARDS
ESTABLISHED UNDER CLAIMS PROVISIONS

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Modern land claim agreements are the main instrument to deal with land, water, management, and to ensure that the wildlife management is managed through a system of land and water that is regulated under the Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act, federal legislation. These management arrangements were established through the land claims agreements to give First Nations people an opportunity not only to have a say in the management of the herd, but have an opportunity to manage the herd internally. Through the wildlife management boards and the land claims agreements, we have established the Inuvialuit Games Council, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board and the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board, and they are the fundamental instruments to ensure that management of wildlife in their geographical areas. Included in that is a joint arrangement for the conservation boards to work in conjunction with each other to deal with herds that travel outside their boundaries, whether it's the Bluenose herd, the Porcupine caribou herd, or the barren-ground caribou herds in the Northwest Territories and elsewhere.

One of the main reasons for the establishment of these boards was to ensure the residents and the harvesters in those areas have a system of consultation to be informed on any decision-making process so they are not left out of the system. They are part of the system, they have systems in place for how decisions will be made and they have a format for public consultation. They have a system to make decisions.

The system that was used between the Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and Sahtu regarding the Bluenose caribou herd, a species questioned about its declining numbers, they worked together between the three land claims organizations to formulate a conservation plan on how they were going to be able to deal with the restrictions in certain areas for harvesting the herds, look at measures such as the number of caribou that can be harvested, using a tag system, and allowing their harvesters to carry out their responsibilities.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. KRUTKO: These conservation measures for the Bluenose-West herd were achieved through consultation, dialogue with the harvesters and dialogue with communities where they took the time and made an attempt to find a resolution to this problem coming to an agreement by all parties.

With regard to the situation we see here in the North Slave, it looks like that system is not in place or hasn't even been considered. For some reason the Minister made a decision which overrode the political structure and the process of the Tlicho Land Claim Agreement to use that instrument, which is the fundamental instrument to deal with wildlife management in the Tlicho area and for a herd that has implications for other people.

At the appropriate time I will be asking the Minister of ENR questions about the conservation of caribou.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, I would like to draw the attention of Members to the presence of Ms. Elaine Keenan-Bengts, the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Please join me in welcoming Ms. Keenan-Bengts to the House today. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize some very important people here in the gallery today. First, Jenni Bruce, the president of

Northwest Territories Tourism and general manager of the Chateau Nova; Larry Jacquard, secretary, Northwest Territories Tourism and director of sales for the Yellowknife Inn; Ms. Kelly Kaylo, principal of K2 Communications and Consulting, co-chair of the Tourism Marketing Advisory Committee; as well as my wife, Melody, and my youngest grandson, Cooper McLeod.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize two of the hardest-working Pages among the other Pages, as well, from Whati: Janita Bishop and Tracella Romie, and their chaperone Theresa Romie, for coming down here and working for us. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's good to see the visitors in the gallery all wearing green. Today I wanted to recognize my sister-in-law Melody, and my little bundle of joy up there that can't sit still and I don't think is really interested in what we're saying, Cooper McLeod. Welcome.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two of the Pages here today from Fort Smith: Crystal Andersen and Kiana MacDonald, who's just coming in with a glass of water, and Ms. Charlotte Andersen, the mother of Crystal, who has been here all week with her two charges. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 410-16(4):

WITHDRAWAL OF NWT FISHERIES FROM THE
FRESHWATER FISH MARKETING
CORPORATION

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first question to the Minister of ITI is related to my Member's statement earlier today. Mr. Abbott reports that Fisheries and Oceans Canada has told him he cannot get a licence to export fish out of the NWT until he can prove that the NWT market is saturated and there is excess for export. Obviously, this is an overly onerous request for a single provider that would require considerable time and expense. It's difficult to understand how the market saturation could be realistically demonstrated.

Here's an instance where the Industry, Tourism and Investment department could go to bat for Mr. Abbott and all fishers to eliminate an unrealistic, almost silly barrier to prosperity. Will the Minister commit to having this investigated and including the results in their promised report to committee on the FFMC and fisheries file? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are investigating that and we are supporting the fishermen who have voted to withdraw from the FFMC. So we are doing all of the legal work. We will be undertaking consultation so that we can begin to move forthwith to proceed with withdrawing from the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I appreciate that commitment to assist Mr. Abbott in demonstrating that the local market has been saturated so he can export fish.

My second question is about the implications of opting out of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. What are the liabilities and what's the process in getting this done? What are the implications we should know about? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Essentially, the process is we have to consult with other aboriginal governments and also make opportunity for interested public to have input into the process. We would have to advise the federal government or the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation of our intention to withdraw. We would have to enter into a negotiations process, because there are liabilities, financial and otherwise, that we have to deal with. We have to come back to this Legislative Assembly to withdraw or eliminate the applicable legislation. My understanding is the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation has deficiencies somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$11 million. They have working capital deficiencies and so on, so we would have to negotiate our withdrawal from that process. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that. The Minister is obviously on top of this and working on it. Sort of related is: would the Minister consider starting our own fish marketing corporation or some formalized program to assist in the export of fish as well as the local sale of fish from Great Slave Lake and other sources? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I guess our immediate intention, assuming our budgets are approved, is we were going to work on developing a domestic fishery so that we could have Northwest Territories fish processed and sold in the Northwest Territories. Until such time as we are officially withdrawn from FFMC, we are faced with

restrictions, as Mr. Abbott is presently facing for export. As far as setting up something similar as FFMC or so on of FFMC provided for the by GNWT, I think that's a discussion we would have to have with the fishermen. They just voted to remove themselves from FFMC, so one would wonder if they would want to enter into a similar arrangement so soon. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, I suspect they would be interested into entering quite a different relationship than the one that they are opting out of.

My final question is: what support is available to the unique and commendable and environmentally responsible business development that's exemplified by Mr. Abbott so that small fisheries operations can get the support they need to realize their full potential? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Presently we have all of our tool kit of business programs that are available to a business like Mr. Abbott's. For the other fishermen that have voted to have the Northwest Territories withdraw from FFMC, this government is committed to working with all of the fishermen to develop the fisheries and to develop and find further potential opportunities for fishermen of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 411-16(4):
PROPOSED CHANGES TO SUPPLEMENTARY
HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are addressed to the Minister for Health and Social Services. I would like to follow up on some of the concerns that I stated in my statement earlier. One of the real difficulties that I see with the proposed plan and the discussion paper that's out there is the timeline for implementation of these proposed changes. I'd like to ask the Minister, the time that is out there is September 1, 2010, I'd like to know what that date is based on. Thank you.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The way the policy is right now, the implementation is to be on September 1, 2010. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I don't believe I heard in there that the timeline is based on anything, so I'll have to assume it's based on nothing.

I have a question with regard to some of the things that are missing in the discussion paper that is out

there on proposed supplementary health benefit changes. I specifically feel that Members and the general public need to know how much these proposed changes will cost and I have not seen that anywhere to date. I agree with the need to provide coverage for NWT residents that don't have supplementary health benefit coverage, but I have to ask the Minister for an estimate of what the cost of covering those who don't already have it will be to this government. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I think we should remember that the extended health benefits we have are very generous and there are no suggestions made about reducing the benefits. The big issue of consultation is who accesses these benefits that are available. This is the discussion we want to have with the groups of people in the Territories who are eligible for those programs right now. So in the next coming two or three months, I think the information we have put out in a discussion paper gives a good starting point with really good information about what the program does, what does it cover, who benefits now, who is excluded. I believe the department has done an excellent job, along with support from others like Finance and the Stats Bureau, to give people the information they need in this very important dialogue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister, I don't disagree that the information that has been presented is good information. It is a clear explanation of the current program. But, you know, in order for people to make a decision or to make comment on the program and the suggestions that are out there, they need to know the cost of the program and we need to be able to consider what it's going to cost us, what it's going to save us. That information is not available. I am concerned about the timeline. I am concerned about the amount of consultation. Particularly I'd like to know from the Minister about the stakeholder working group and how they are going to be involved. I am very concerned that there won't be meetings with that working group to discuss and debate the changes. I would like to ask the Minister to outline for the House how this working group will be involved in the consultation as it goes forward over the next several months or year. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I believe I answered those questions in the Member's previous questions. The stakeholder group, the public working group, will be involved in this process, so will all the other NGOs, health authorities, individuals. We are interested in talking to the public about what this program is.

The Member had a number of questions about how much it costs. That is all the information that will be answered at a town hall meeting. We have designed the discussion to be as open and widely conversational as possible. We are presenting the public with essential information for them to start

their discussions on and we will have a facilitator. We will have key people who will be at every meeting so they can keep good track of what the people are saying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Final, short supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I reiterate my need for two meetings; one to get the info and a second one for people to provide their input. To the working group and how they will be involved, I appreciate they will be involved. I would like to know from the Minister how they will be involved. Are there scheduled meetings with the department and/or the Minister with this working group or are they simply expected to provide their input as a member of the general public? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: The public working group met with the staff who have been working on this for the last number of months a number of times. As the Member indicated, they have had input into the discussion paper and all of the publications that have gone out. They like the information they got. They gave us feedback within 48 hours. What they suggested has been incorporated, and I expect that throughout this consultation process they will play an important role, as will the committee members, the Standing Committee on Social Programs, and any other NGOs that are interested in this process, as will the...(inaudible)...leadership council who I met with last Saturday who really support the information that we are putting out to the public, because they believe, and I believe the Members believe, that we need to make important decisions that speaks to the sustainability of a very important program to the Northwest Territories. I give a lot of credit to our people that they're intelligent, they're engaged, they understand the information and they'll give us very good feedback. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

QUESTION 412-16(4):
DATE RAPE DRUG AWARENESS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today in my Member's statement I talked about something that is not easy to talk about because it's something that is in our communities, but it is a very insidious thing and it's hard to get information about it. It's hard to create awareness, because I personally have not heard of any public campaign to bring awareness of this issue of this Rohypnol or date rape drug. Mr. Speaker, I am going to direct my questions today to the Minister of Justice.

Mr. Speaker, the thing that makes this so difficult is the combination of factors that allow this crime to

be perpetrated on innocent victims without much opportunity to respond to it. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people who may be the victim of such a thing aren't aware of what they should do in order to protect evidence. Sometimes, Mr. Speaker, days go by, reducing the quality of the evidence if they did know what to do with it. Mr. Speaker, the other thing is, it's extremely difficult for the victim to articulate what happened because the effect of the drug actually makes them unable to relate that to the authorities. Mr. Speaker, of course, anytime something like this happens, it's very difficult for the victim to talk about it, because quite often under the influence of this drug, the victims are assaulted in some way.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Justice does he have any way of finding out throughout law enforcement authorities exactly how prevalent this is, understanding that quite often these cases never come to the conclusion of people being successfully prosecuted in the courts. But just through the enforcement authorities in the Northwest Territories, would we be able to get a sense of how common this particular crime is committed? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the Member is raising this key point of interest. It is important to the Justice department working along with the RCMP "G" Division. We have a Victim Services Program in the communities. That's just one step, Mr. Speaker. Also we are trying to create some awareness in the communities. We have various websites through Health and Social Services and our Department of Justice linking to various programming that is available throughout the Northwest Territories, but we continue to improve in our program. We have community justice programs, as well, that could be related. Not only that, Mr. Speaker, we need to start from a young age, as well, in schools. One good factor is those individuals are going to be involved in programs such as Going Miles, which builds self-esteem, and a new campaign called Not Us!, which is going to be happening at the end of March in Hay River. So those are the things that we need to be fully aware of and it is awareness that we continue to push in the communities. Mahsi.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: A lot of the awareness that is out there right now is to try to make young people aware of the dangers of drugs, and they are drugs that people sell to them that these people take. But, Mr. Speaker, this date rape drug is something quite different in the fact that a person could just be innocently at a social function or at a public establishment and could have this put right into their drink. Mr. Speaker, so this is a little bit different; the awareness on this. The Minister

mentions victims services. I would like to know are the victims services committees in the communities specifically aware of the signs, symptoms and affects of this particular problem? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: This particular area, whether it be date rape drugs or other drugs, I wouldn't say most of the communities are aware of it, but some communities are aware. They are somewhat aware of this particular drug that's out there and other Ecstasy drugs and other hardcore drugs out there. It is a common concern for our Department of Justice, so we continue to work closely with "G" Division. Mr. Speaker, we have a new commanding officer who is very dedicated to community involvement, community initiatives. He's been in a small community as well, so he's fully aware of what's happening in the community. We need to have our hands on the drugs that are coming in. I think we're doing that in the South Slave with the dog handler and in other areas. But we do have particular programs in place that are trying to assist with those victims as well.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Is the Minister aware, in his role as Minister of Education as well, of any campaign in the schools to warn children, young people, of the threat of being drugged by someone else? I understand that we talk to young people about the negative effect of taking drugs and what can happen to them, but how do we teach them to protect themselves from somebody who would drug them and subsequently hurt them and assault them in some way?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I'm glad the Member is raising that issue about the schools. It is a key factor in the schools. We have workshop facilitators who come out every now and then to highlight the use of drugs and the implications; what to look out for. Even myself as a parent, I have five kids in all schools and we talk to them about the use of drugs, to stay away from certain people, certain resources. I think this is an important factor that we continue to push in the schools, the public awareness. Especially with "G" Division, the committees that we have in place, Justice and so forth.

This is a top priority for us in the schools as both the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and Minister of Justice. This is a priority for us.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Education if this government would be amenable or open to the idea of funding some kind of awareness campaign and, hand in hand with that, a support group. My fear is that these incidents happen in isolation and no one ever knows anybody else that it happened to. They have absolutely no support. The isolation from an event

like this and the fallout throughout the rest of their life thinking about this is one of the most damaging things. Certainly the act of violence or assault is very, very difficult too, but the fact that they don't have that support. Would this government be interested in instigating any kind of a support group for people who feel that they may have been affected or know they have been affected by being drugged by someone else?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: This is a particular area of interest for us. We are open to what the Member can share with us and the public-at-large on how we can improve in our programming. We did commit up to \$100,000 last budget to focus on the drug campaign. That's why we're driving this awareness in Hay River next month. That's just one milestone that we're doing. There are others that the Member is referring to that we can certainly look at. I think the input from the public is greater interest for us, as well, to initiate certain initiatives.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

QUESTION 413-16(4):
COLON CANCER SCREENING

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As indicated during my Member's statement, I believe that as a system we must own some responsibility for patients missing their appointments, especially when they are for appointments which take place several months from the time when patients are originally notified of the requirement for a procedure.

I've talked with some residents who have indicated that they have been told by their physician that they are being recommended for colon cancer screening but they don't hear anything from Stanton for months. Could the Minister of Health and Social Services please tell me how long it usually takes for Stanton to receive referrals for colon cancer screening from individual physicians and how long it takes to transition those into actual appointments for our residents?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once a referral for a colonoscopy is made to Stanton, that referral is received immediately. It's taken into account immediately and Stanton staff works to prioritize the list of referrals. It's really important to note that people who need this procedure on an emergency basis get them.

A wait list for this sort of procedure is an issue all across the country. Stanton is not an exception and they are working to find efficiencies within the

system to make sure that the service is used as efficiently as possible.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you to the Minister for that. I'm not sure that is always the case. I know there are a number of people who have emergency situations or blood has appeared in their samples to suggest that an appointment should happen within three months, as the department indicated in the newspaper several weeks ago. There are delays that are far longer than that. Given that there is such an extensive wait list for colon cancer screening, how does the system, and Stanton specifically, ensure that residents are regularly updated as to the status of their appointment? That is one of the problems that people are experiencing, is that, first off, they don't hear anything for months that they have an appointment or anything from Stanton. Then they hear that they've got an appointment in 18 months. Then they hear nothing. What is the process that Stanton has put in to ensure that our residents are regularly updated so that they don't miss these appointments which cost us, as a system, money in the long run?

HON. SANDY LEE: I do agree with the Member, that missed appointments do cost the system. In fact, I had this discussion with the Beaufort-Delta leadership when I was there because that issue did come up. For lots of our procedures there are no-shows and obviously there is a cost to that. The system works to improve that.

With respect to the procedure that the Member is asking about, I have had personal situations in our family where we have had two or three procedures being done in the past six to eight years and I found the services okay. I have not talked or the Member has not brought to me any specific situations that I could look into. I don't believe that Stanton could, nor do they have the resources to call people on the list every three months to just update on where the waiting list is. I think they are called when their procedure is booked. I can assure the Member that the system looks at the wait list because it is long. I am not denying that. It is as long as two years for colonoscopy right now. That's the procedure; that's the length of the wait list anywhere in Canada. They have to constantly look at the emergency situation and they are doing that.

MR. ABERNETHY: Residents could die within two years. We need to make sure that people are getting these treatments as quickly as possible.

Just for the record, I think the individuals at Stanton performing the procedures are experts and are awesome at what they do and they deserve to be patted on the back. I'm not talking about the actual performance of the procedure; I'm talking about screening and getting the procedures to happen and scheduled on a regular basis.

I'm wondering if I could get the Minister to commit to having Stanton implement a monitoring and

reminder process that ensures that residents are regularly updated on the status of their colon cancer screening; something more than reminding them the day or two in advance of the actual appointment. It could be really important and a good gesture of our government to actually put in a system where we can make sure that we remind people on a regular basis so they don't miss appointments. Missed appointments cost the system money.

HON. SANDY LEE: Obviously that is part of the process. I will make sure that there is a reminder, as per the Member's concern. I need to reiterate that we as a system take this situation very seriously. This is the reason why the government issued clinical guidelines. I don't want people out there to think that people aren't getting services that they desperately need. There are other measures being taken to make sure that people are screened for possible colon cancer. There are stool samples that are collected at the doctors' offices. There is advice given about the dangers of this. Any man or woman over 50 is encouraged to take those tests. Those are being monitored closely to make sure that we don't miss anybody. When they are referred to Stanton for colonoscopy, there is a system of people there to make sure that they are looking at the list constantly and that their resources are used as well as possible.

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

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister can reiterate it all she wants. The bottom line is that people are waiting an extended period of time. I'm asking her to get her department, and Stanton specifically, to find a way to expedite those times as much as they can and to work with our residents to remind them that their appointments are coming so that they don't feel like they are left in the dark. Once again, I was wondering if I could get the Minister to commit to actually putting in a process that ensures that residents are regularly updated about the time and date of their colonoscopy as well as other cancer screenings that are required.

HON. SANDY LEE: I don't think I'm denying anything that the Member is saying. I believe we agree that our process has to do that. The staff at the hospital is doing the best they can to make sure that this procedure and other screenings for cancer and treatment are used as wisely as possible. There are people who do keep track of the files that they have in front of them.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

QUESTION 414-16(4):
VEHICLE LICENCE PLATE
REGISTRATION STICKERS

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation. I've received complaints about the 2011 registration stickers that people put on their licence plates. I know living in the harsh climate that we do, that the stickers that go on licence plates have to be durable in nature. I have a constituent that was in the office the other day and one actually fell apart while he was in the process of getting his registration changed. The Department of Transportation replaced it. He took his sticker outside and it immediately folded up on itself and was not useable. So he phoned the department and they said it was going to cost \$20 to get a new sticker.

I'd like to ask the Minister if we have changed the stickers for 2011 that we put on licence plates here in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've responded to a lot of different concerns that have been brought forward from the Members of this House, including licence plates and issuing of registration and having more transportation officers on the highways. This is not an issue that has been brought to my attention. This is the first I'm hearing of it. As far as I know, there has been no change to the quality or type of stickers that we're using. I'd certainly have to follow up on that. It's not an issue that I was aware of.

MR. RAMSAY: I'd like to ask the Minister if perhaps, and I'm not sure when the new licence plates are coming in, but maybe we've ordered new stickers for new licence plates and we're trying to use new stickers on old licence plates. I'd like to ask the Minister if that might be the case.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We are planning to introduce new licence plates sometime this summer. They are pretty impressive, from what I've seen. I'm not aware that we have changed our type of stickers. It's an issue that will be of concern, of course, as we are going to be issuing new licence plates starting this summer. I will certainly commit to the Member that we will follow it up and see what the concern is, if that's the case with a lot of people, if that is coming back to us. I personally have not had any problems, but having said that, we'll follow up with the concern.

MR. RAMSAY: If these new stickers are actually intended for the new licence plates and are different than the ones previously and are causing our residents issues when they go to put them on their old licence plates, I'm wondering if the Minister will

commit to not charging residents \$20 to get a new sticker if the one they get should be destroyed by trying to apply it to their plate.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I can see the cause for concern. If it is an issue that has been caused by ourselves as a department and we can find out what the root of it is, we will certainly try to make amends so that people are not burdened by something that is not their fault.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 415-16(4):
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARDS
ESTABLISHED UNDER
LAND CLAIM PROVISIONS

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Environment. It is in regard to my Member's statement. The land claim agreements that have been settled have established an instrument for implementing regulatory bodies, whether it is land and water boards or environmental assessment review boards or management boards such as the wildlife boards to deal with wildlife and forestry. These boards play a fundamental role in regard to ensuring that conservation measures and the management of wildlife is done in such a way that it's managed through a system, regardless if it's regional bodies or a joint arrangement of bodies, regardless if it's dealing with different herds. I'd just like to ask the Minister, knowing that the Bluenose-West herd was an issue in which the Sahtu, the Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit formulated a system that they all got together, they had public meetings, they had workshops, they were able to come up with some sort of a conservation plan, and they made recommendations to the Minister to consider those recommendations, then basically, once the Minister received those recommendations, then it was acted upon by the government. That was the process that I thought was in place to deal with this, but in regard to the Wek'eezhii board, it seemed like they haven't really started the consultation process and haven't been able to come up with a conservation plan that's workable for them. So I'd just like to ask the Minister exactly when are these boards going to be able to have the authority that was given to them and be able to act on that authority before the Minister makes the decisions, which basically, in most cases, it's a decision after the board recommends something forward to the Minister.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First, I'd like to thank the Member for his recitation of the history of the co-management

process and the support for that process which we, in fact, share. The Wek'eezhii process is in its first stages of getting up and running. In March they're going to start hearing from interveners. The plan is to have a process agreement in place by the next hunting season. We have to deal with the Wek'eezhii process. We also have to engage and work with the Akaitcho and the Northwest Territories Metis so that we have a Bathurst management plan at the end of the day, similar to what the Member has talked about that took place between the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and the Sahtu. The big challenge, of course, in the North Slave is that the Tlicho Government is set. They had their lawmaking authorities clear, the mandate is clear. With the Akaitcho and the Northwest Territories Metis, it's unsettled claims area and we have to navigate our way through those waters. But the intent is to have a plan in place before the start of the next hunting season. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, in regard to the Minister's response, I believe the key word here is "conservation" and, more importantly, consultation and ensuring that the mechanisms that we use is a formal process, regardless to boards having some authorities, boards ensuring public input and boards ensuring that at the end of it all there will be some sort of a conservation measure recommended to the Minister. I think that's the piece that we're still waiting for. I know you mentioned that they're hoping to have it by next fall. I'd like to ask the Minister exactly when will the conservation plan be, hopefully, on your desk so that you can formally either adapt it or suggest recommendations for change so that the process is not done independent by your department, it's done unilaterally, the information being provided by those boards to yourself, as Minister and before it's implemented it has to be agreed to by the parties. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The intent, as I have indicated, is prior to the start of next hunting season, is to have an agreement that the Wek'eezhii process will hopefully be complete. As well, that we will have had a chance to have a broader discussion, both with the Tlicho, the Akaitcho and the Northwest Territories Metis as well as other stakeholders, about a Bathurst management plan that covers the whole range of the Bathurst and the North Slave. It's going to be a challenging process, but that's the date that we're working towards. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, one of the main components of the agreement also talks about needs levels and conservation levels that is basically sustainable for community harvests so that it can sustain the herd on some means of harvesting. I know that they did that in regard to the Bluenose-West herd where they allowed communities tags, where the communities give out those tags to people that want to go harvest a

certain species. I think it's 25 tags per community, so the communities are able still able to sustain that. I'd like to ask the Minister in regard to the issue of needs levels for community sustainable harvests, where does that fit in regard to the decision of agreeing to a conservation plan?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As the Member indicated, that's a key component of the decision-making process. We're going to continue to do work on all the caribou herds, but we're going to do work on the Ahiak, the Bluenose-East, we're going to do some calf surveys on the Bathurst. That information will be part of the consideration that's going to be looked at by the Wek'eezhii board, it will be looked at as we meet with the Akaitcho and the Metis, and it will be part of the deliberations that will result, hopefully, in the final recommendations for a broad Bathurst management plan. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister if there's a possibility... I know there was a formal motion passed in this House to request some sort of a regional workshop or conference dealing with the boards in regard to the wildlife management boards so that they can come forward with their ideas on how to find a solution out of this problem that we're all facing. Like I said, they're the ones who are on the front-line, they're the ones who are dealing with the harvesters, they're dealing with the people in the communities. So I'd like to ask the Minister, has there been a decision made to come forward by some sort of territorial board to deal with this issue in light of the situation that we find ourselves in?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I will just point out for the people that the reality is the one area where there's some difficulty is in the North Slave area because of the newness of the process in the Tlicho, with the Tlicho Government that's getting up and mobilized, and the fact that we have unsettled claims adjacent that are part of the Bathurst herd range with the Akaitcho as well as the Northwest Territories Metis, and the need to come up with basically a tailor-made interim arrangement as these claims are settled. The Wek'eezhii process is underway. We're committed to that process, as well as to a process that's going to flow from that with the Akaitcho and the Metis. As well, we are in discussions with other co-management board executives and chairs to talk about the need to bring these folks together to look at some of the overlap issues that have come to light across the Northwest Territories as we deal with these caribou issues. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 416-16(4):
PROPOSED DESIGNATION OF DELINE
AS A HERITAGE SITE AND THE
BIRTHPLACE OF HOCKEY

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment... In the News/North newspaper last Monday it talked about a designation of territorial historical sites or events and in there it has Deline as a place of a significant event. I want to ask the Minister, in terms of the significance of this place being named as an historical site or event in the Northwest Territories, can the Minister explain to me the significance of this announcement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Member is correct that there was an advertisement in the newspaper on February 22nd requesting input and feedback from the general public at large. It was a recommendation by an ad hoc evaluation committee that met on February 12th that identified 10 different key sites and events. The Member is referring to the event of the first recorded hockey game in the NWT. Those are the areas that we've highlighted in the newspaper and now we're just waiting for feedback. The deadline for feedback submissions is March 3rd, so it's just around the corner. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister, in terms of after the feedback on March 3rd, what's the process, what will happen after that process. And I want to ask him again: what's the significance of this piece of information that's been in the paper, in terms of Deline, in terms of resources, funding and recognition? What's the significance?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, once we see the comments and the feedback, then we go back to myself, as the Minister responsible for historical sites and the events that will be before us. Then I'll certainly review them and get feedback from the committee itself, the ad hoc committee, and just go along with the process and how it's been done in the past.

This particular hockey that we talked about, the hockey game in the NWT, is one of the events of the Northwest Territories that's been highlighted here in the House, but at the same time, Mr. Speaker, the federal government does not recognize that particular event that happened, because they're saying, well, other events happen in Canada as well, particularly hockey games. Those are the areas we continue to talk about with the federal level or with the general public. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: I've been raising this issue for a number of years until I'm green in the face. There is

some movement in this government here. I will be talking to the federal government and I'll be talking to them until I'm blue in the face. However, I want to deal with this one here, Mr. Speaker. In terms of the process, the Minister said he'll deal with the process, but I want to know the significance and what will happen. Is that going to be a time when this government is going to do something in terms of Deline being the place where hockey was played in the Northwest Territories? I want to let the people know in Deline. They are pretty excited about this and the significance of this process here.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: That is waiting to be seen, based on the comments and input from the general public-at-large. I certainly cannot make the decision on my own without input from the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we have to keep in mind that the Deline First Nation, there was a study commissioned by them and the study doesn't provide certainty that Deline is the birthplace of hockey in Canada. It was quoted in there. Mr. Speaker, they realize that Deline should be recognized for their important contribution to the history of hockey in Canada and for the strength of hockey culture in the community. So that is the report we received. We continue to work with the report and the general public comments and input by March 3rd. Mahsi.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's not what I want to hear. Maybe I'm asking the wrong way. What I'm asking for is when there's a significant event or site recognized in the Northwest Territories, there is some kind of celebration, recognition, there's funds, there's stuff going to that event. Just like when they had the paving of the highway here, the last kilometre was paved, they had a big celebration. So I'm asking about that in regards to Deline. After feedback, after the process, what is this government going to do to signify if this is an event that is going to be supported by this government? What are they going to do?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: That is what we're waiting for: input from the general public. We just did an advertisement February 22nd and we have a few weeks to get input and comments from the general public. We did send out letters to stakeholders, as well, to receive their feedback. Until then, I can't stand up here and say we're going to recognize every single site, every single event that's been put out there. Mr. Speaker, that's why we want to hear from the general public of the Northwest Territories. Let's hear them out and then I can get back to the Member on what the outcome is on the particular matter. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

QUESTION 417-16(4):
MUNICIPAL STATUS OF LUTSELK'E

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I talked about the community status of Lutselk'e and their concern about having to convert to meet certain conditions in order to receive increased funding to deliver municipal services. I have questions for the Minister of MACA. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister and the Department of MACA recognize the inherent right of self-government as an existing aboriginal right under Section 35 of the Constitution Act 1982 in their day-to-day business? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, as GNWT, recognize all communities' rights to self-government, Mr. Speaker. Because of the Indian Act not allowing band communities to own real property, we have been working with band communities to form interim corporations so we can flow the capital and gas tax money to them. We view the interim corporations as a way to build capacity for their eventual transition into self-government. There's nothing about the interim corporation model that would interfere with or go against the band communities' self-government goals and objectives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, does the Minister recognize the chief and council as a legitimate First Nation government of the community of Lutselk'e? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We do recognize them as the First Nation government and there's no reason that they couldn't serve on the interim corporation. We're asking the band communities to form the interim corporation. Currently, we have seven of the eight band communities who have formed, or are in the process of forming, an interim corporation, so they can own real property and the capital money can flow to them. We're sitting on close to \$3 million, Mr. Speaker, in capital and gas tax money for the community of Lutselk'e. So it's in their best interest to form a corporation and take advantage of that money. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Will the Minister affirm that recognition and direct his staff to begin discussions with the community with the end means of funding them at similar levels as other community governments created under the NWT Act as hamlets? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: MACA officials have been meeting with Lutselk'e staff and council to try to see if they would be willing to form an interim corporation. Mr. Speaker, we're not asking them to change status or anything along those lines. That

would be a decision that they would have to make. We are asking them for the benefit of flowing money into their community, that the GNWT is holding for them. We are asking them to form an interim corporation so that they would be able to start using the money. We continue to have discussions with them. If it comes to where it needs to be a meeting between political leaders, myself and the chief, myself and council, I would be willing to do that, because this is an opportunity for the community to receive the money that's due them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final supplementary, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you. The community recognizes that the Minister is not asking them to change status, but it's asking for provisions into the NWT Act to accommodate them. Will the Minister commit to keeping me informed and the community when these discussions are to be taking place, so I can also keep the community abreast of the most recent things that are occurring in these discussions?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The NWT Act is a federal act that we don't change. The bands are governed by the Indian Act, so we're working with the band to try to get them to form an interim corporation so the money can go to them. But I will commit to working very closely with the Member and seeing if we can get the message to the leadership in Lutselk'e that this is a step that they should look at taking for the benefit of getting capital land gas tax dollars into their community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 418-16(4):
PROPOSED CHANGES TO SUPPLEMENTARY
HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask a few more questions of the Minister of Health and Social Services relative to the supplementary health benefits proposed changes. I did ask about the timeline for consultation and implementation and mentioned the implantation date. I will try my question again and ask the Minister on what is the implementation date of September 1st based. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is aware, this policy was changed by the last government in 2007. My job was to implement those changes. The first time out, the public and the Members wanted us to review the changes. We are now ready to go back with some

of the hard facts about the program: what it does, how does it work, what is it for, how is it different from the Canada Health Act. So we are going back to the public to have that discussion. Originally this was scheduled to be implemented in April 2009 and it's been delayed to September this year, so that's the date. I believe the Member is aware of all that historical background. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I thank the Minister. I am aware. I thank her for the short history lesson. My question was more to the amount of time that's required for implementation. How much time is being allocated for consultation? How much time is needed for implementation? That was why I asked for the basis for September 1st.

To the Minister: once a decision is made on whatever these changes are going to be, how soon does she and the department expect the changes could be implemented?

HON. SANDY LEE: As I stated earlier, these changes are to be implemented September 1, 2010.

MS. BISARO: I'll try to be a little more definite. If a decision were made tomorrow, how much time is required for the department to put in place implementation? There's got to be changes, I would imagine, within the bureaucracy that are going to be required to put in place whatever changes are determined to get them into effect. How much time is required from when a decision is made to when things can be immediately implemented after that? How many months? How many days? How many years?

HON. SANDY LEE: I will have to speculate a little bit. I'm not going to speculate. I can tell the Member -- and I think that's what the Member is getting at -- I believe the department is prepared to implement with any changes of the policy within three months. So for September 1st implementation, by June they will be ready to implement it in September.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister for that specific information. She mentioned, when I asked earlier, that there's no need at this point for cost information, but I'd like to ask the Minister this question -- and I exaggerate these dollars totally -- if it's going to cost \$100 million to cover the end of our working spectrum who are not currently covered, if it's going to cost \$100 million to do that, that's going to have a huge impact on what I determine to do with the "high-end" earners or where I'm going to get the revenue from to offset that expense. I'd like to ask the Minister again how she believes that we can make a decision without knowing the costs involved.

HON. SANDY LEE: We could do that because this is not about cost cutting and this is not offsetting.

The Member knows that this is not a reduction of extended health benefits. This is about having a dialogue with our residents about what extended health benefits are as opposed to insured core health service that everybody is entitled to. Every Canadian, every NWT resident is entitled to doctor services and hospital services and some other procedures. Extended health benefits are extra benefits that each government does and they are different all across Canada. The conversation we are having is we are going to talk to the people about how it works now. And we're not talking about the basket of services. We're not talking about reducing. This is not a cost-saving measure. This is not a cost-cutting measure. This is about sustainability and making this program more fair and accessible to people who need it the most. Right now people get it if they're over 60 or if they have a specific condition. We're looking to see how the access could be more fair and equitable based on need, and income being one of the factors.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Mr. Miltenberger.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 26-16(4): RATIONALE FOR CONTRACT TO FACILITATE BASIC ACCOUNTING COURSE

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by Mr. David Ramsay on February 23, 2010, regarding the rationale for contract to facilitate a basic accounting course.

In 2008 the government was in the initial stages of implementing its new financial information system. It became apparent that financial staff across the GNWT would need an increased level of understanding of basic accounting concepts to operate the new system. A review of various basic entry-level accounting training programs and services being offered, particularly in the North, was conducted. This included offerings from the School of Community Government and Aurora College.

It was determined that the offering from the School of Community Government was the best match for the identified needs. The course has a northern focus and was designed for northern accounting staff. The curriculum needed some minor modifications to provide relevant examples for GNWT staff and highlight expected changes between the old financial accounting system and the new system.

As MacKay LLP were the original developers of the training materials for the School of Community Government, they were contracted on a sole-source basis to make the necessary modifications

to their original material and provide "train the trainer" courses. The decision to award the contract on a sole-source basis was made by the previous deputy minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat on the advice of the FIS Project Deputy Minister Steering Committee.

However, the contract had not been formally signed before a change in deputy ministers occurred. Because deputy ministers may not enter into contracts with immediate family members unless authorized by the ethics counsellor, the current deputy minister sought and received the authorization of the ethics counsellor before the contract was executed. Arrangements were made as recommended by the ethics counsellor, to ensure that contract administration and dispute resolution, if required, excluded the deputy minister.

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

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 19-16(4): DETAILS ON NWT HC PROGRAM APPLICATIONS

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 19-16(4) asked by Mr. David Krutko on February 10, 2010, regarding details on Northwest Territories Housing Corporation's applications.

It should be noted that the Housing Choices programs were introduced in 2007, so the information provided here is for the years 2007-2009 and includes information for the 2009-2010 program intake.

The NWT HC offers three homeownership and repair programs through Housing Choices:

- Contributing Assistance for Repairs and Enhancements (CARE);
- Homeownership Entry Level Program (HELP); and
- Providing Assistance for Territorial Homeownership (PATH).

During the period in question, the NWT HC received a total of 316 applications for these programs in the communities of Aklavik, Fort McPherson, and Tsiigehtchic. Of these applications, 161 were approved program assistance while 131 applications were declined as the applicants did not meet program criteria. In addition, 16 applications were withdrawn by the applicants. Nine applications from the 2009-2010 intake period are still pending approval at this time.

In addition to CARE, HELP, and PATH, the NWT HC also offers educational programming to prospective homeowners through the Solutions to Educate People Program. During the years in question, the total attendance at STEP courses in these communities was 155.

In addition to Housing Choices, the NWT HC also delivers repair programs in the NWT on behalf of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation. During the year in question, an additional 28 applications were received for these programs, 21 of which were approved. Four applications for the 2009-2010 intake period are still pending while three applicants for these programs were declined as the applicants did not meet program criteria.

**RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 21-16(4):
BARRIER-FREE HOUSING**

Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question 21-16(4) asked by Mr. Robert Hawkins on February 12, 2010, regarding barrier-free housing.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Design Guidelines for units incorporating barrier-free/visitable design features, as well as a listing of public housing units that incorporate barrier-free features in the NWT HC inventory. As specific data on the number of bedrooms is still being compiled, I will provide this information to the Member prior to the next sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

The NWT HC considers a unit to be barrier free or visitable if it provides a basic level of accessibility and independent access for everyone, including people with limited mobility or those with disabilities. While the modifications that may be made to a unit are unique to the personal situation of the resident who requires these modifications, they can include items such as a one-level no-step entry, wider doorways, a wheelchair accessible bathroom on the main floor, reinforced bathroom walls, levered door handles, raised electrical outlets, and lowered climate controls and light switches.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 10, petitions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

---Unanimous consent granted.

MR. SPEAKER: Return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
(Reversion)**

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to acknowledge the work of a constituent who is working here as a Page, Mr. Tommy Jorge. As well, I'd like to thank the rest of the Pages for all the hard work they've done for Members this past week and for their service to this House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Tabling of Documents

**TABLED DOCUMENT 89-16(4):
NWT 2010-2011 MARKETING PLAN**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories Tourism 2010-2011 Marketing Plan.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**TABLED DOCUMENT 90-16(4):
GNWT RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE REPORT
4-16(4): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE
2007-2008 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE LANGUAGES COMMISSIONER**

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled GNWT Response to Committee Report 4-16(4): Report on the Review of the 2007-2008 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

**TABLED DOCUMENT 91-16(4):
LIST OF INTERACTIVITY TRANSFERS
EXCEEDING \$250,000 FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 1, 2009 TO DECEMBER 31, 2009**

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Pursuant to Section 32.1(2) of the Financial Administration Act, I wish to table the following document entitled List of Interactivity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period April 1, 2009, to December 31, 2009.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**TABLED DOCUMENT 92-16(4):
DESIGN GUIDELINE: UNITS INCORPORATING
BARRIER-FREE/VISITABLE DESIGN FEATURES**

**TABLED DOCUMENT 93-16(4):
PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS THAT INCORPORATE
BARRIER-FREE FEATURES**

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Return to Written Question 21-16(4), I wish to table the following two

documents entitled Design Guideline: Units Incorporating Barrier-Free/Visitable Design Features and Public Housing Units that Incorporate Barrier-Free Features.

TABLED DOCUMENT 94-16(4):
INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Pursuant to Section 68 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I wish to table the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Information and Privacy Commissioner.

TABLED DOCUMENT 95-16(4):
SUMMARY OF MEMBERS' ABSENCES FOR THE
PERIOD JUNE 5, 2009 TO JANUARY 26, 2010

Pursuant to Section 5 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Summary of Members' Absences for the Period June 5, 2009, to January 26, 2010.

Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 12:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 4,
2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2009-2010, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2009-2010, has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 13:
APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS
EXPENDITURES), 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Boot Lake, that Bill 13, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2010-2011, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 13, Appropriations Act (Operations Expenditures), 2010-2011, has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 14:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2009-2010, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2009-2010, has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 15:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1,
2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2010-2011, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2010-2011, has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 12:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 4,
2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2009-2010, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2009-2010, has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 13:
APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS
EXPENDITURES), 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Boot Lake, that Bill 13, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2010-2011, be read for the second time.

This bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make operations expenditures for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 13, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2010-2011, has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 14:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 3,
2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2009-2010, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2009-2010, has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 15:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1,
2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2010-2011, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2010-2011, has had second reading.

---Carried

Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 3, Medical Profession Act; Bill 11: An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act; Minister's Statement 47-16(4), Transfer of the Public Housing Rental Subsidy, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole
of Bills and Other Matters**

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We have several bills: Bill 3, Medical Profession Act; Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act; Minister's Statement 47-16(4), Transfer of the Public Housing Rental Subsidy. What is the wish of the committee, Mrs. Groenewegen?

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The wish of the committee is to deal with those three items that you just listed in that order. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We'll begin with Bill 3. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if she has any opening comments. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes I do.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce Bill 3, Medical Profession Act.

This Bill 3 replaces the current Medical Profession Act and modernizes the processes for the registration and discipline of medical practitioners in the Northwest Territories. Bill 3 was developed through a collaborate effort by the Department of Health and Social Services and representatives of the Northwest Territories Medical Association and their legal counsel.

Mr. Chairman, the existing act is almost 30 years old and is significantly out of date. In the provinces, regulatory colleges license physicians and also discipline their members. In the Northwest Territories there are too few resident physicians to maintain a college structure and, therefore, the GNWT registers and licenses physicians. This regulatory process will remain in the new act but some functions will be assigned to entities other than the Minister to be consistent with other health profession legislation in the NWT and in the South.

In keeping with the goal of modernizing the legislation, the language of the registration section was updated and the act contains an express

provision to appoint a registrar who is responsible for administrative functions, such as maintaining the various registers and issuing licenses under the direction of the Medical Registration Committee. This formalizes the role of the registrar, assigning administrative functions to this person instead of the Minister.

Mr. Chairman, the main reason why a new Medical Profession Act is required is that the disciplinary process in the existing act does not clearly separate the investigative and adjudicative provisions. This is of concern, as it is contrary to the laws of natural justice. To ensure procedural fairness, the new act has a provision for the express appointment of a complaints officer who will be responsible for reviewing and deciding on how the complaint will be handled. A separate investigator will look into the matter if the complaint cannot be resolved in the early stages of the review and, most importantly, the person that investigates a complaint cannot also sit on the panel that hears the complaint if it is referred to a board of inquiry.

The new act also includes an alternative dispute resolution mechanism so that not all complaints have to automatically be decided by a board of inquiry.

Mr. Chairman, there is a movement towards assessing the qualifications and practice of international medical graduates. In order to meet the growing demand for medical professionals, the NWT will have to consider such options for recruitment and retention. The new Bill 3, Medical Profession Act, has a provision for the appointment of a review officer to allow for a process to assess these "non-standard" applications. The Department of Health and Social Services will closely monitor national trends regarding the assessment of the qualifications and practice of international medical graduates and will determine how best to adapt these trends to the North.

Mr. Chairman, we all know that innovative, reliable technology is vital to the safe, sustainable delivery of health care in the NWT. This act gives the flexibility to be able to license medical practitioners who practice medicine in the Northwest Territories by employing telehealth technology to bring specialized services to northern patients, while still physically being in another jurisdiction. This issue is being discussed at a national level and a consistent approach can be adopted by regulation in the future.

I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for their review of this Bill 3, Medical Profession Act, and for their comments. A number of motions were put forward as a result of the valuable stakeholder input they received during the public review and Bill 3 was strengthened by clarifying the language in a number of provisions.

Mr. Chairman, I would also, again, like to acknowledge the time put into this legislative initiative by the Northwest Territories Medical Association, particularly Doctors Don Giovanetto, John Morse, Bing Guthrie and David King who were members of a steering committee that provided feedback to the Department of Health and Social Services during all phases of the legislative development. This collaborative effort has resulted in a modern piece of legislation that meets the needs of all stakeholders -- physicians and the general public -- and I would like to thank the doctors for their efforts. Also, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Anna Reid, president of the Northwest Territories Medical Association, for voicing her support of this bill during the public review process.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my opening remarks. I would be pleased to answer any questions Members may have. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): At this time I'd like to ask the chairperson of the standing committee which reviewed the bill if they have any comments. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted a public review of Bill 3, Medical Profession Act, at meetings held on February 15 and 24, 2010.

Bill 3 replaces and repeals the existing Medical Profession Act, which is almost 30 years old. The new act will modernize the processes for the registration and discipline of medical practitioners in the Northwest Territories and will make consequential amendments to the Ophthalmic Medical Assistance Act and the Pharmacy Act.

The committee heard from several stakeholders including the executive director and the legal counsel for the Canadian Medical Protective Association, the president and legal counsel for the NWT Medical Board of Inquiry, the registrar of the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the president from the NWT Medical Association. These presentations had been prepared carefully and thoughtfully. Committee members appreciated the participation of these stakeholders.

Based on the insights of the various stakeholders, and after some discussion with the Minister, several amendments were proposed. Some of the amending motions reflected non-substantive but important changes, while other amending motions helped to clarify certain sections of the act. The Minister of Health and Social Services concurred with the amending motions during a clause-by-clause review. Following a clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report to the Legislative Assembly that Bill 3 as amended and reprinted is now ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes committee's general comments. Individual members may have comments or questions as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. At this time I'd like to ask the Minister if she'll be bringing in any witnesses. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree the Minister brings in her witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

For the record, Minister Lee, please introduce your witnesses.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my right is Ms. Lisa Cardinal, director of policy, planning and evaluation. To my left is Mr. Mark Aitken, director of legislation division of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Minister. Welcome, witnesses. General comments in regard to Bill 3. Detail? Since we are dealing with a pretty hefty bill, I'll be proceeding in regard to clause 1 to 10. Clause 1 to 10.

---Clauses 1 through 10 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 11 to 20.

---Clauses 11 through 20 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 21 to 30.

---Clauses 21 through 30 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 31 to 40.

---Clauses 31 through 40 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 41 to 50.

---Clauses 41 through 50 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 51 to 60.

---Clauses 51 through 60 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 61 to 70.

---Clauses 61 through 70 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 71 to 80.

---Clauses 71 through 80 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 81 to 90.

---Clauses 81 through 90 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 91 to 99.

---Clauses 91 through 99 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that Bill 3 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 3 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Minister. Thank you, witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witness out.

As we agreed, the next bill we will be dealing with is Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act. At this time I would like to ask the Minister if he has any comments. Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, thank you for the opportunity to provide opening comments on Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act. The proposed amendments allow for the creation of a legislative presumption that firefighters with certain types of cancers are presumed to have developed the cancer from their work.

The presumption for firefighters, full-time, part-time and volunteer, will recognize that firefighters who have certain types of cancers after working as firefighters for specified periods developed those cancers from their work. Seven Canadian jurisdictions currently provide for a legislative presumption for firefighters. Regulations will list the cancers and the required length of employment as a firefighter for the presumption to apply.

Secondly, the proposed amendments allow greater flexibility for appointing qualified individuals to the position of Governance Council chairperson.

The provisions of the current Workers' Compensation Act limit the term a person can serve on the Governance Council, in any capacity, to a maximum of six years of consecutive service and no term of appointment can be longer than three years. In other words, if a person had served on the Governance Council as a director for a total of four years, the maximum time this person could serve as chairperson is two years.

The proposed amendment will allow the Minister to appoint a director to the Governance Council for a total period not exceeding nine years. The chairperson provides a leadership role; increasing the time limit of service on the Governance Council gives the Minister options to ensure the Governance Council has effective leadership. The bill does not seek to modify term lengths. That is, the Minister can still appoint a director to a maximum term of three years. The proposed amendment allows the Minister to reappoint a director for up to two additional three-year terms.

I would like to thank the standing committee for their input and comments to enhance the bill. I look forward to our discussion today and am prepared to answer any questions the committee may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time I'd like to call on the chair of the standing committee which reviewed the bill if he has any comments. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, makes two amendments: to create a presumption that certain diseases which occur more frequently in firefighters than in the general population have been caused by the firefighter's exposure to conditions at the scene of fires. A further amendment extends the period of time that a Minister may reappoint a person to the Governance Council.

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure held a public hearing on Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, on February 23, 2010. The committee brought forward some proposed amendments at the public review on the same day. The first amendment broadens the definition of firefighter to include part-time and volunteer firefighters. The second amendment limits the tenure of a director on the Governance Council to a period not exceeding nine years without a break in service and that a person who has served on the Governance Council may be reappointed after a break of one year. The Minister concurred and the bill was amended. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 11. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. At this time I would like to ask the Minister if he will be bringing in any witnesses.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, I would, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have with me, on the left, Anne Clark, president of the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; and, Mr. Ian Rennie, legislative counsel. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. General comments on the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Detail. Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 4 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that Bill 11 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 11 is now ready for third reading. With that, I would like to thank the Minister, thank the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses out, please.

As we agreed, the next item on the list is Minister's Statement 47-16(4). General comments. What is the wish of committee? With that, we'll take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): [Microphone turned off]...transfer of public housing rent supp. Questions? Comments? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: I've got a cold here, Mr. Chairman. I want to comment on the initiative that the Housing Corporation's going to pursue on the housing rent initiatives. Certainly we look forward to it in our communities.

I wanted to say that this is a longstanding issue. For many years they talked about the whole process of the rents. It has an impact on our relationship with the federal government and their way of doing business. I want to just encourage the Minister and his staff to see if they would be able to speed up the process. I know it takes some time to go through the transition; however, if they could speed up the process to look at the rent issue here and help the people in our communities to find some room for them to make a good living, to pay their bills, and to look at how they could get some savings out of their paycheque. A lot of my constituents do find jobs; however, they are dinged pretty high on household rent assessment. They get pretty discouraged when wanting to find work or stay with a job. I hope the corporation and the Minister can put this rent assessment in place right away so we can start seeing some benefits in our communities. That's all I have to say.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Any comments regarding the transfer of public housing rent supp? Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 39-16(4):
EXPEDITION OF TRANSFER OF
PUBLIC HOUSING RENTAL SUBSIDY,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee strongly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories take immediate steps to expedite the transfer of the administration of the Public Housing Rental Subsidy back to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation;

And further, that quarterly progress reports on the status of the transfer be provided to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure and that progress reports include a human resource component identifying how affected employees will be managed and deployed;

And furthermore, that the transfer be fully implemented no later than April 1, 2011.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is in order. The motion is being circulated. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question is being called.

---Carried

Does the committee agree that the discussion on Minister's Statement 47-16(4) is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: I move that we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 3, Medical Profession Act; Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act; and Minister's Statement 47-16(4), Transfer of the Public Housing Rental Subsidy. I would like to report that Minister's Statement 47-16(4) is concluded and that Bills 3 and 11 are ready for third reading. I move that the report of the Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 2:

FORGIVENESS OF DEBTS ACT, 2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 2, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2009-2010, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is on the floor. The motion is order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 2 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 3, Medical Profession Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 3. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with Bill 3, Ms. Lee.

BILL 3:

MEDICAL PROFESSION ACT

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 3, Medical Profession Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 3 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

BILL 4:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 4 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

BILL 5:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
COMMISSIONER'S LAND ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 5 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

BILL 7:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
SUMMARY CONVICTION PROCEDURES ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act, be read for the third time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 7 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

BILL 10:
EXEMPTIONS ACT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 10, Exemptions Act, be read for the third time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 10 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 11. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with the third reading of bills, Mr. McLeod.

BILL 11:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 11 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 12:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 4,
2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I moved, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2009-2010, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 12 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 13:
 APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS
 EXPENDITURES), 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Boot Lake, that Bill 13, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2010-2011, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 13 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 14:
 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
 (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
 NO. 3, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2010-2011, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 14 has had third reading. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 15:
 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
 (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
 NO. 1, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act (infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2010-2011, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 15 has had third reading. Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain whether the

Commissioner of the NWT, the Honourable W.J. Whitford, is prepared to enter the Chamber to assent to bills and prorogue the Fourth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly.

Prorogation

Assent to Bills

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Tony Whitford): Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, Canada is sixth; Green is in the warm-up as we speak. An update from the front. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

- Bill 2, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2009-2010
- Bill 3, Medical Profession Act
- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act
- Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act
- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Summary Conviction Procedures Act
- Bill 10, Exemptions Act
- Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act
- Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2009-2010
- Bill 13, Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2010-2011
- Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2009-2010
- Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2010-2011

Prior to proroguing this Fourth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly, I wish to announce that the Fifth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly will convene on Monday, March 1, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the Fourth Session of the 16th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, merci beaucoup, thank you, qnanami, and mahsi cho.

---PROROGATION

The House prorogued at 1:15 p.m.

