



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**17<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Monday, November 5, 2012**

Pages 1577 - 1620

**The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

**Hon. Jackie Jacobson**

(Nunakput)

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**Hon. Glen Abernethy**

(Great Slave)

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*Minister of Human Resources*

*Minister of Public Works and Services*

*Minister responsible for the*

*Public Utilities Board*

**Hon. Tom Beaulieu**

(Tu Nedhe)

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*Minister responsible for*

*Persons with Disabilities*

*Minister responsible for Seniors*

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(Frame Lake)

**Mr. Frederick Blake**

(Mackenzie Delta)

**Mr. Robert Bouchard**

(Hay River North)

**Mr. Bob Bromley**

(Weledeh)

**Mr. Daryl Dolynny**

(Range Lake)

**Mrs. Jane Groenewegen**

(Hay River South)

**Mr. Robert Hawkins**

(Yellowknife Centre)

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**

(Monfwi)

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*Safety and Compensation*

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(Yellowknife South)

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*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and*

*Intergovernmental Relations*

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*Status of Women*

**Hon. Robert C. McLeod**

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

*Minister of Municipal and*

*Community Affairs*

*Minister responsible for the*

*NWT Housing Corporation*

*Minister responsible for Youth*

**Mr. Kevin Menicoche**

(Nahendeh)

**Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger**

(Thebacha)

*Government House Leader*

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*Minister of Environment and Natural*

*Resources*

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*NWT Power Corporation*

**Mr. Alfred Moses**

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

**Mr. Michael Nadli**

(Deh Cho)

**Hon. David Ramsay**

(Kam Lake)

*Minister of Industry, Tourism*

*and Investment*

*Minister of Transportation*

**Mr. Norman Yakeleya**

(Sahtu)

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Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Monday, November 5, 2012****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Hon. Tom Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Dolynny, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Hon. Jackie Jacobson, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Moses, Mr. Nadli, Hon. David Ramsay, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

**Ministers' Statements**

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 90-17(3):  
HOME OWNERSHIP CLIENTS AND  
MORTGAGE AND COLLECTIONS**

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today to update Members on home ownership clients that have direct mortgages with the NWT Housing Corporation and steps we are taking to work in partnership with these clients to ensure they are able to provide their families with affordable, adequate and suitable housing, while meeting their responsibilities as homeowners.

There are about 400 homeowners who have their mortgages directly with the NWT Housing Corporation. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, many of them have struggled to reduce their loan balances and a significant amount of arrears have accumulated. The accumulation of these arrears are shared between the NWT Housing Corporation and the homeowner, and many factors such as homeowners not making timely and regular payments, the design of the programs locking in an interest rate for the life of the mortgage, and the NWT Housing Corporation being slow to take action to work with homeowners who had fallen behind in their payments have led to this situation.

I am pleased to announce today that NWT Housing Corporation will be contacting each of these clients over the coming weeks to inform them of a revised approach to their mortgage balance. The new approach is more consistent with current home ownership supports, gives these clients an opportunity for a fresh start and will hopefully lead to them to work in partnership with the NWT Housing Corporation to be successful homeowners.

The revised approach will significantly reduce their mortgage balance in most cases and provide a

fresh start in terms of arrears. The clients will be offered repayment options that will make home ownership affordable and provide predictable payments which will allow them to better plan for their family's needs.

For example, under the old mortgage program, where clients were charged as much as 12 percent interest on an annual basis, we have a client who borrowed \$145,000 in 1996 who now owes \$223,000, despite having paid nearly \$50,000 towards their mortgage over the years. Under the new approach, which takes into account our current subsidy approach and makes adjustments for direct payments and modest interest rates, this family will owe \$35,000. Depending on how fast they want to pay off the \$35,000, mortgage payments will be between \$240 and \$430 a month.

Mr. Speaker, I want to be clear that this is not about forgiving past debt. This is about giving residents a fresh start. The new approach uses our current approach to home ownership and applies it to these existing mortgage clients. This results in the reduced mortgage balances but, most importantly, this step represents considerable effort on behalf of the NWT Housing Corporation to improve the circumstances for these clients. Those clients that have made serious efforts to keep up with their mortgages will see lower outstanding mortgage amounts than those clients who have not kept up with their mortgages. We estimate that there will be 20 clients that will no longer have a mortgage with the NWTHC because they have kept up with their obligations.

We believe if the clients take advantage of this opportunity and live up to their responsibilities, this will help reduce core housing need. It will improve housing affordability and encourage homeowners to make investments in repairs and upkeep of their homes.

As I've said in this House many times, we also need to strengthen our overall collection efforts. While the new approach will give clients the opportunity to get back in good standing, we cannot and will not allow our clients to again accumulate large amounts of arrears. We will act before clients get into circumstances where they would have difficulty getting their head back above water. We are always willing to work with clients who want to get themselves out of any difficulties, but we will

also take steps for those who don't want to work with us. That will include actions like garnishees of wages, use of collection agencies, reporting of bad debts to credit bureaus, and foreclosures.

Mr. Speaker, the NWT Housing Corporation's strategic plan identified improving home ownership supports as a strategic priority. Today's action is a step in that direction and I look forward to continuing to work with Members and the Standing Committee on Social Programs as we continue to advance the priorities of the 17th Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Ramsay.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 91-17(3):  
INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to update Members on the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway project.

This important project is included in our 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly Caucus priorities, the federal engagement strategy, and in every strategic planning document prepared by the department since it was formed in 1989. It has remained a priority through past governments, with a supporting motion passed in the last Assembly. This is the first step in the development of the all-weather Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk. We plan to take that first step during the life of the 17th Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, the construction project will build on the strength of Northerners by increasing employment opportunities where they are needed most and leading to economic diversification in the short, medium and long-term.

Residents will receive the benefit of less expensive access to regional services, such as health care, education and recreational facilities.

Mr. Speaker, the highway will be the first all-weather road to the Arctic Ocean, producing substantial benefits at the national, regional and local levels. It will promote tourism and hospitality industries, making Tuktoyaktuk the first Canadian community on the Arctic coast accessible by an all-weather road.

Since my last update, the Environmental Impact Review Board held public hearings in Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk. Municipal and regional leaders, businesspeople, residents and elders used the public hearings as an opportunity to clearly express regional and public approval. Local contractors used their heavy equipment in a display of support for the project and to demonstrate its importance to the regional economy. There is strong anticipation for the project among Beaufort-Delta residents.

Mr. Speaker, the environmental review has been an

all-encompassing process resulting in 316 items submitted to the Environmental Impact Review Board's public registry to date. The documents represent two years of work and include 86 substantial technical reports covering everything from hydrology to fish and wildlife habitat, terrain analysis, permafrost assessments, geotechnical investigations, light detection and ranging surveys, aerial photography and mapping.

Mr. Speaker, since the outset of this project, we have cultivated inclusive partnerships with communities and residents and have fully considered their input in project planning. We have received valuable comments on the importance of Husky Lakes, alignment options and the management of access to the land.

Discussions with the federal government about the federal funding commitment are underway. Prime Minister Stephen Harper has acknowledged that this project is of national significance and will improve Canada's sovereignty and security position. Discussions are also underway with the federal government and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to secure land tenure.

Mr. Speaker, we are near the conclusion of the environmental review. We have just submitted the last document onto the public registry, the developer's final response to submissions. The Inuvialuit Environmental Impact Review Board will now deliberate and consider all the material presented as they develop their final report and recommendations to the federal government.

Northerners are anxious to receive the review panel's decision when it releases its report early in January 2013. While the Environmental Review Board drafts their final report, the department will be working diligently to prepare the remaining materials necessary to have a comprehensive debate and discussion on the project in this House. We will have details on the federal funding commitment, updated cost estimates and design, as well as details on land tenure and royalty costs. In addition, we continue to gather field and technical information, consultation with co-management groups is ongoing, and key draft management plans are being prepared to support the anticipated regulatory phase. If the Environmental Review Board schedule remains on track, debate on formal project approvals could occur during the February/March sitting of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 92-17(3):  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE 5-YEAR  
IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the beginning of our term, the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly set a goal of an efficient and effective government.

This was clear direction and we followed it. In June I tabled the Department of Justice 10-Year Strategic Plan and I committed to bring forward a five-year implementation strategy during this session. Later today I will table that document.

While the strategic plan outlines the department's vision, goals and priorities, the five-year implementation strategy is the roadmap for how we are going to get there.

This plan identifies the work to be done over the next five years to move the department in the direction of its goals. To reach these goals, priority work has been set. These include supporting initiatives to prevent crime and enhancing the role of our communities and their access to justice services. We will ensure there are services for victims, and we will provide integrated programs and services for offenders. Finally, priorities have been set to broaden options for families and provide a range of services for youth.

Ultimately, this will help us reduce crime, improve access to justice, and build and maintain a strong foundation of financial, human and technology resources to support core programs and services.

This strategy will help our partners and our communities understand what we are doing and how our programs and services will work with theirs. The work we do is not done in isolation.

Our plan is flexible. As circumstances change, we will adjust. We'll evaluate our programs to make sure they're working, and we'll make the changes needed to keep moving towards our vision of safe and vibrant communities.

I have committed to providing updates on our progress. This detailed strategy is the first step. Our business plans will follow this strategy, and we will keep coming back to committee to talk about how we can continue to build on the strengths of Northerners.

We now have the long-term strategic plan, the five-year implementation strategy and, each year, new business plans. I look forward to your input as we move forward working together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 93-17(3):  
FINANCIAL LITERACY

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is dedicated to providing relevant and necessary programming to suit the needs of our adult learners.

In May 2011, as part of a Memorandum of Understanding between the GNWT and the mines, the departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Industry, Tourism and Investment met with our three operating mines in the North: BHP Billiton Ltd., Rio Tinto and De Beers Canada. They identified a need for financial literacy training for their staff and we responded. ECE set to work on identifying modules for the program, with research on best practices and existing programs, information from the Task Force on Financial Literacy, and supported by Aurora College and the NWT Literacy Council.

This idea has been developed into a curricula package, including recognized learning outcomes, teaching techniques and 11 modules related to the needs of northern workers. The three mines identified household budgeting, banking, credit, financial planning tools, managing debt and other practical topics as their employees' needs. This new course will provide learners with the knowledge, skills and confidence to manage their personal finances.

Financial literacy will be one of the mandatory courses delivered through our territorial Adult Literacy and Basic Education program. It is delivered mainly by Aurora College in community learning centres across the territory and by other stakeholders, such as the Tree of Peace and Native Women's Association. The modules in the financial literacy course accommodate many levels of learners, with a wide variety of resources at various literacy levels. They will be delivered for the first time in February 2013.

The course is also designed so that it may be delivered by employers. Many employers offer workplace literacy opportunities for their employees and this package will be made available to anyone who would like to use this resource.

Mr. Speaker, November is Financial Literacy Month, and programs like this are important to the well-being of residents and our economy. Financial education will benefit Northerners of all ages and income levels. For young adults just beginning their working lives, it can provide basic tools for budgeting and saving so that expenses and debt can be kept under control. Financial education can help families acquire the discipline to save for a home of their own or for their children's education. It can help older workers ensure that they have enough savings for a comfortable retirement by providing them with the information and skills to make wise investment choices. Financial education

can help people to avoid the high cost charged by institutions like cheque-cashing services.

This course will provide our residents with the skills they require to lead fulfilled lives and contribute to a strong and prosperous future in the Northwest Territories.

I would like to thank BHP Billiton Ltd., Rio Tinto and De Beers Canada for identifying this need and helping us set course topics to meet the needs of Northerners. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 94-17(3):  
FILM INDUSTRY PROGRESS REPORT

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, the film and media arts industry makes a positive economic and cultural impact on our territory. It provides employment and learning opportunities for our residents, provides a venue for our talented filmmakers to showcase their work, and draws outside production companies to the Northwest Territories to create memorable films that use our rugged landscape as a backdrop. Today I am pleased to share with you the results of the progress report on the film and media arts industry that I am tabling later in the House today.

The departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Education, Culture and Employment have been working together over the past two years to explore the best ways to support film in complementary ways: Industry, Tourism and Investment through the business and economic side, and Education, Culture and Employment through the training, cultural and creative development side.

The process started over two years ago when members from the NWT film industry raised concerns about the need for increased support.

Realizing the need to have a closer look at the film industry, ITI and ECE undertook a review. This involved close consultation with the NWT film and media arts industry. At a workshop last year, the Government of the Northwest Territories and stakeholders came together to discuss options and develop recommendations for support.

We all agreed that improved collaboration was needed between ITI and ECE. The GNWT also committed to establish the NWT Film Commission's mandate and staffing configuration, to establish dedicated funding support for the industry, to invest in the formation of an industry association, and to invest in website development.

Today I am pleased to announce that the Government of the Northwest Territories has made

progress on each of these commitments, and the industry is becoming even healthier.

The two departments regularly collaborate on film issues. We restructured the NWT Film Commission and added a full-time dedicated associate film commissioner.

Dedicated funding of \$100,000 per year is now available through ITI's Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Policy, to provide additional support to the NWT film industry.

Also, with the full support of the GNWT, the NWT Professional Media Association was formed. This gave the film industry and our government a more formal way to discuss ways to provide the support that is needed.

Last but not least, we have made significant progress on a brand new NWT Film Commission website. This sleek new website, [nwtfilm.com](http://nwtfilm.com), is a resource to the local film and media arts industry and companies who want to film in the NWT. It also has an NWT film suppliers guide to promote the local industry.

Progress has been made on more than just what is identified in this report. ITI, through the NWT Film Commission, as well as ECE, recently provided support and took part in a panel at the first-ever NWT Filmmaker and Producer Forum in September. This kind of two-way dialogue is an essential part of working together with the industry.

Mr. Speaker, we realize there is more work to do and this report is only one way we will show our support for the film and media arts industry. We will continue to work closely with the industry, and I am confident we will see even more amazing work from our local filmmakers and film community and that interest in filming in the NWT will continue to grow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
IMPACTS OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE  
AND ADDICTIONS

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our theme today is addiction. Two and a half minutes cannot do this topic any justice because it is a very, very complex topic, but I am hoping that with all the different perspectives of my colleagues here today, we can send a message.

This is a topic I get very frustrated talking about because it doesn't seem we have a plan, the tools, or maybe even the will to deal with it. I wish we could fully quantify and articulate the impacts substance abuse has on our residents, how many



lives cut short. How the quality of life is diminished through the loss, suffering, pain and harm of substance abuse. We see all the signs: our jails are filled with inmates who acted under the influence of substances, our classrooms with children struggling because of dysfunctional homes, our students with learning impairments because of fetal alcohol effects, our hospitals with people with conditions and diseases resulting from a life of not caring about their own well-being, the sheer human toll of lives not lived to their potential.

As a government we state that the safety and well-being of our residents is a high priority, but when you see how little impact our investments, our efforts, our programs and services have had over the years in addressing our well-documented statistics on addictions and substance abuse, there has to be something wrong with what we are doing.

The abuse of drugs and alcohol in our territory is robbing and killing our people. Why can't we see that and call it for what it is? We worry about public safety, workplace safety, wear a seatbelt, wear a helmet, don't text and drive, harm reduction; the list goes on and on. We can't say that we're not involved in the safety and well-being of our people, but when it comes to drugs and alcohol, we defend the right of people to make their own choices. They drink when they're pregnant, no matter the lifetime of harm they're inflicting on another human being.

The recent incident of food safety where XL Foods Products went out and 12 people in Canada got sick from E. coli and the story headlined the news for weeks and millions of kilograms of meat was put into landfills, and yet alcohol and drug abuse is making our people sick and killing them and it's not the social norm but the way of life for countless people in our territories. This insidious problem of abuse has infiltrated every aspect of our lives and we have become complacent about co-existing with this enemy. We have adjusted our tolerance out of conditioning to thinking that this is normal. This is not normal. I have never thought it was normal.

This destruction that is passing from generation to generation is depriving our people of freedom and happiness, and consuming an inordinate amount of our resources. Why can't we see it for what it is doing?

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** I get very passionate about this topic. I apologize.

Why can't we see it for what it is and what it is doing? If we knew there was a road washed out and people went speeding towards an open pit that would result in injury and death for sure, would we not do everything in our power to warn and prevent them from speeding over the edge? Would we not

divert the road, put up barricades, warning signs, physically go out and try to do everything we could to stop them? We wouldn't stand by and say, well, it's just their choice to take that road.

We need to create a new norm, and we need to do it with the new generations of young people coming up. It's not normal to live in a haze and struggle a lifetime with addictions and we should be shouting it, as leaders, from the rooftops.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DETOXIFICATION AND ADDICTIONS TREATMENT FACILITIES

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the land addictions and mental health treatment, this is the only direction we have heard from the Minister of Health and Social Services when asked several times about the future direction of addictions treatment in the North. I'm sorry, but this is not enough. For this, I am going to be bringing today my version of a five-step program and hoping that the Minister and the department are paying attention.

For starters, we all have had enough. Enough talk, enough debates, enough studies and enough strategies. Enough already. You are just wasting valuable resources, time and energy of dusting off old notes and replacing them with new ones. Addiction is addiction. It has not changed. It has not modernized. The only thing that has happened over the years is now it is worse than ever.

Secondly, we need a detox or withdrawal facility now, preferably in a location that has experienced the highest growth of rampant addictions of all types, who takes in those outcasts from all the smaller communities, and who has the highest percentage of dysfunctional residents in the territory. I am sure that Yellowknife might just fit that perfect candidate for a facility, but to make this one succeed this time, and not repeat the failure of the Somba K'e Healing Centre since 2003, we must have the right medical staff, expertise and funding.

Thirdly, let's evaluate the 30-day dry-out period requirement for Nats'ejee K'eh Residential Treatment Centre in Hay River as this medical dry day requirement in other jurisdictions has been reduced greatly and has shown success. Maybe this way we can actually get the facility to 100 percent occupancy and not the 50 percent showing that we have been seeing today.

Fourth, we need to establish the proper halfway house programs in all 33 communities so that healing and reintegration happens with the support of family. While we are in these communities, we should create mobile centres of addictions

counsellors to connect with all these communities to identify new clients willing to take that first step forward.

Finally, once this primary care detox and addictions program is up and running, we should identify the establishment of two other major addiction treatment facilities to be placed in both Inuvik and Norman Wells so as to complete the proper coverage of geographic addiction under the proper standardization model.

In closing, with over 89 percent of dysfunctional addicts walking the downtown streets of Yellowknife from outside the capital, we don't need an addiction centre here in Yellowknife. We need a detox centre. Simply put, why? It is because we need the proper expertise to monitor the medically controlled drying out period...

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Why, again? Simply put, we need the proper expertise to monitor the medically controlled drying out period, which is the most dangerous time in the healing process, and should there be a medical emergency, your medevac costs are that much lower. That's it, Mr. Speaker. A five-point plan. It's as simple as that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS ACTION PLAN

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members know, in June the Minister of Health and Social Services tabled the department's Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan. With the mention of enhancing addictions treatment programs an element in the priorities of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly, it's good to have the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan lining up with those priorities. But today I must follow up on the subject of the questions I asked the Minister last week about the Minister's Forum on Addictions.

Don't get me wrong; I am not one to suggest that consultation is a bad thing. It is a good thing. But there can be too much of a good thing. That's where we are now with this forum: doing consultation on top of all of our previous consultations on addictions. I like the forum concept, but for the long haul not for the short term. I like it as a sounding board for the department and the Minister, used to gauge how well mental health programs are working. Consultation is not needed right now.

I've read the department's action plan. It lays out where we need to go, what we need to do, and it

fully identifies the gaps that currently exist in our mental health and addictions programs and services. We should be tackling those gaps right now, revamping and reorganizing our current programs to address those gaps, one at a time if we have to, but we have to take action.

The Minister's forum will only study again, study some more, study a problem we are too familiar with. If we as Members of this Assembly and if the Minister of Health and Social Services is serious about solving the mental health and addictions problems in our territory, serious about getting our people well, we would devote funding right now to Health and Social Services to get the job done. There must be a commitment to allocate those dollars, not only from the Department of Health and Social Services but from all of Cabinet.

We must have a social safety net for our residents to land in when they fall off the tightrope of life. We don't have that safety net, those supports right now. Just look at the gaps in services outlined in the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan. If we, as a government, are ever to help our people move forward, move up, move on, if we're ever to see them start to succeed, to become contributing, effective members of our NWT society, we have to stop studying the addictions problem and start taking action.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DRUG AND ALCOHOL ADDICTIONS AND ABUSE

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alcohol is the intoxicating chemical in beer, wine and spirits. It is a little harder to find drugs, but one definition is a narcotic, hallucinogen or stimulant, especially one causing addiction. Of course, besides their misuse as intoxicants, alcohol and drugs have many other uses in our society including medicines and painkillers.

The sale of alcohol alone brings very good money to this government. In 2011 liquor sales topped \$45 million. Of that, more than \$28 million was profit. Mr. Speaker, \$45 million in sales is more than \$1,000 per man, woman and child in this territory.

Of course, it is illegal to sell alcohol to young people, but we know that many of them drink anyway. It is safe to say that the fuel for many of the worst problems we have in our territory comes from our government's liquor sales.

We know that more than 85 percent of crime is alcohol or drug-related. Those cases choke our courts and fill our jails. Alcohol is a factor in more than half of our accidental deaths. More than 35 percent of our population reports drinking to excess

at least once a month, a rate that is more than double Canada.

It is impossible to put a dollar value on the impact of alcohol and drug abuse on the health of our people, let alone the costs to our health system. However, roughly 15 percent of hospitalizations are due to mental health and addictions.

Alcohol use and abuse is also a complicated factor in many other conditions such as diabetes. We have seen that it is not easy to quit drinking or break free from addictive drugs, but we have also seen it can be done with determination and the right kind of help. I am concerned that it is very difficult to get the help in most of our communities. There is almost no detox available. They are waiting to get into treatment. Some treatment is only available down south. There is not enough support for those who complete treatment and return home.

The new Mental Health and Addictions Strategy is a step in the right direction, but I wonder if it will be funded properly. Maybe we should use some of the liquor revenue. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ADDICTIONS TREATMENT CENTRE

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to talk about addictions today and the lack of government responses. I have never seen a better defense of the status quo by finding more excuses why not to act. Government after government after government continues to find new ways to defend doing nothing. There has been nothing but a solid call from this side of the House, including the Caucus at large, when we have asked for a treatment centre here in the Northwest Territories.

The Yellowknifer wrote an editorial the other day which I completely disagree with. They were taking a shot at the idea about a treatment centre in the North, but they did a little poke at me directly saying, well, not here in Yellowknife. My point about that discussion the other week was the fact that it is so important that we should not obstruct the solution by saying it has to be here. Yes, as a Yellowknife MLA, of course I think a treatment centre needs to be in Yellowknife. I also think one needs to be in Inuvik. I also think Norman Wells deserves treatment opportunities, Fort Smith and other places. It is all about what makes sense. If you are committed to the cause, the important thing should be asked: Why are we doing it and why are we not doing it? Why are we not doing this? The people ask this particular question repeatedly. Why is there not a treatment centre in the Northwest Territories?

This is one of the problems with electing a consensus-style government. If we were a regular-style government, they would come in and say elect us because we will do a treatment centre. If they didn't, they would throw their butts out the next term.

The people of the Northwest Territories have very little accountability for the calls of the treatment centre because they can't pinpoint and say this Health Minister is not doing it, this Cabinet Minister is not doing it, this Finance Minister isn't committing money to this particular initiative. The important factor here is people are calling for action and accountability. This side of the House respects that fact and we want accountability done on this particular project. We have not seen it.

I call for action of this government to finally hear the relentless calls of this Assembly, the relentless calls of the people of the Northwest Territories and finally do something for addictions. Time for excuses has come to an end. I cannot say it enough, but I will say it again, time for excuses has come to an end. The people of the Northwest Territories, the people on this side of the House, the people we care about out there need a response and darn well deserve one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FUNDING FOR HEALTH AND WELLNESS AND ADDICTIONS WORKSHOPS

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You can see how passionate we are when it comes to mental health and addictions and programming dollars that we need. We have good and moderate programming dollars for communities who wish to initiate health, wellness and addiction workshops. These are well used in my constituency as I travel. However, there is a weakness and gap with the programs available.

The Health Promotion Fund of around \$10,000 and the Community Wellness Fund, about \$5,000 to each community, does not take into account the high cost of travel and accommodations. As a result, remote communities like Trout Lake and Wrigley will use up to 50 percent of eligible funding for travel, thereby reducing the quantity and quality of the program that can be offered to their residents.

In the Health and Social Services report called A Shared Path Towards Wellness, 2012-2015 Action Plan, there are other gaps identified that must be addressed as this will immensely help our small communities. The need for more community follow-up, more programs for children and youth and mental health and addictions. With the limited funding, my communities, and indeed all of our

communities in the North, do experience problems getting good programs and workshops into their communities.

Later on today Mr. Yakeleya will introduce a motion on mental health and addictions, calling for more financial investment into taking care of people. I certainly support it as we can fund adequately our remote communities that they have proper and professional programs and workshops to help their communities. A lot of these programming dollars are one-time funding and it's got to be more than that, it has got to be continuous. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTIONS SOLUTIONS

**MR. MOSES:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Last week the Minister of Health and Social Services made a Minister's statement on a forum on addictions that happened last Friday here in Yellowknife. In fact, he was quoted on CBC that he said that people say that government doesn't listen to them. Well, on this side of the House we often get that same type of feeling that government doesn't listen to what we have to offer.

I believe this is about the third or fourth time we've done a theme day here on mental health and addictions. If not one, it was the other. The Minister's statement last week has sparked a lot of discussions, a lot of questions, and in fact when I did bring it into the House, we had a lot of questions on this side getting verification on a few different things.

I went home this weekend, and in the Yellowknife Airport, in the city here, and in the community of Inuvik a lot of people are asking why was the Minister making a statement, making the perception that this government is doing something good for the people when it's not. I heard that from the community, I heard it from the residents, I heard it from the service providers. People who actually work in this field ask us why does the government says we're doing good things like the detox centre, why are we sending people down south and not working with them here in the Northwest Territories.

It's not only the residents, it's not only the service providers, but it's the coroner as well. There was a report that was just released that said all alcohol-related deaths were 49 percent; for suicides, 57 percent; accidental, 76 percent, or homicides. That's no laughing matter. That's serious and we have to come back here and do another theme day before we see action taken in this regard. I hope not.

There are service gaps. Obviously, there are service gaps, because there are people that are

going through the system right now where we need help. A lot of those service gaps are actually identified in the Shared Path Towards Wellness. How many reports, how many discussions, how many consultations do we have to do before we see what we had written down just last June or even a couple of years ago or the year before to actually put that plan into action?

The people of the Northwest Territories want action and they want it now. The sooner we start doing something about addictions and treatment programs and putting our plans into place rather than just discussing them, then we'll have healthier people, healthier residents of the Northwest Territories who are going to benefit the economy, who are going to benefit our communities...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Moses, your time for Member's statements... The Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPACT OF ADDICTIONS ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will talk today on the tragic consequences for young children and their lifelong health when we have inadequate addictions treatment and prevention programs.

The permanent harm of fetal alcohol disorders are the two common results of parental addiction. Drinking during pregnancy causes a variety of mental, physical and developmental disabilities in children. Mental and cognitive impairments include brain damage, leading to learning disabilities, poor school performance, poor impulse control, problems with memory, attention and judgment. Physical effects include malformations of the brain, the skeletal system and major organs. Small children exposed to repeated toxic stress may grow up to be adults who have difficulty coping with stress, anxiety and mood, and are far more vulnerable to develop substance abuse problems themselves.

Fetal alcohol affected babies grow into adults with poor employment capacity, much greater tendencies for criminal behaviour and fore-shortened lives. Human costs and suffering are untold. Program costs of ill health, corrections, income assistance, unemployment, low productivity and other factors are estimated up to \$1.5 million per fetal alcohol affected person. NWT rates of substance abuse and all the negative indicators of social malaise rooted in addictions are among the highest in the country. Adequate and effective substance abuse prevention and treatment programs are essential to improving the health of our families, communities and economy.

Considering the long-term cost of inaction, failure to devote adequate funds now is the most false of economies. When we are aware of parents who clearly love their children yet place even young toddlers in the care of a TV remote control while they engage in their substance abuse, we know tragedy is in the works. As we know, proper loving care is so critical during the early years of a child's life, even for children born in the very best of health.

Healthy parents and families free of substance abuse are the place to start. Approaches are proven and well suited to delivery through our community health centre service model, healthy baby programs, parenting skills, workshops, and mothers and tots programs provide the points of contacts for people to also seek addictions treatment and counselling.

Unless we start now with prevention and treatment, we can't break this cycle. Let's get it done.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADDICTIONS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise, also, to join my colleagues in talking about an issue that's been on my agenda for the last nine years of being an MLA and even before that. We have all the resources in our communities to help somebody who wants to help themselves. It takes a lot of commitment from the person to say enough is enough. Mrs. Groenewegen hit it right on the head. She said, this is not normal.

Growing up we didn't know about alcohol in our communities. We saw it, we felt it, but we didn't know about what was happening in our communities when there were parties going on. People were fighting. Kids were running around. We didn't know the power of alcohol. Now, we said, well, because of the person's characteristics, the defects, but we didn't know about the spirit of alcohol and how powerful it is. It doesn't matter who you are or where you come from, once it gets you, it's very, very tough to leave. Growing up, one of our saving graces was to go out in the bush, on the land. We were happy because it got us out of the community and to the bush and to live like a family. Over the years, as we remained in the community, the alcohol took us over.

A lot of good people in this room here have the answers. We can sit down and listen to each other. We know the tragic effects to people in our communities who are drinking at 11 and 12 years old. We need to create a place for them to say it's okay to get help. We need to put our policies in place to say it's okay to have this issue with alcohol and to get help. We need to create that. We need to

think beyond what our policy is saying. I hope this goes out to the people of the Northwest Territories. We are trying as MLAs to help the ones who need the help.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ECONOMIC IMPACT OF ADDICTIONS AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleagues have indicated, addictions are a large concern for this government and for the country of Canada. As a strong advocate for economic development, increasing jobs, and the economy in the North, I believe that addictions are affecting us a great deal in this area as well.

This government will often ask where will we find the money, how can we afford to do this? How can we afford not to do this? What would the Northwest Territories gross domestic production be like if we didn't have addictions? How many people have addictions that allow them not to stay at jobs? They are limited by the time they can work. They are often late for work. They often miss days of work. They are often fired from those jobs because of their addictions.

As the Government of the Northwest Territories works to develop more jobs in the North through economic development, we have to look at how we get those Northerners to these jobs. It's true that some regions are seeing difficulties in economic development; however, even the areas where we are seeing good economic development, it's difficult to get Northerners to their jobs. These addictions slow people down. People that should be working are not working.

The three diamond mines have been a godsend to this territory and I would hate to see what our economy would be without them. Even they have indicated to us that they have a large, long list of people who have failed the system mostly due to addictions. They have gone through the mines. They have been there once, twice, three times, and even now the mines have come back and given them fourth opportunities. These individuals are not able to work in these types of environments with their addictions. Our government needs to commit more dollars to it.

My point is today that Northerners with addictions need to get back into the workforce. We need to assist them where we can. This government needs to put more money into this program.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
NATIONAL ADDICTIONS AWARENESS WEEK

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Fellow colleagues, as we gather this month with our families and friends, let's thank each other for the support given on a daily basis and during the National Addictions Awareness Week, November 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>.

We acknowledge this week to recognize and overcome the addictions that we face on a daily basis. It's through community support, community leaders and community wellness workers that we can enjoy this week without addictions in our lives. Our communities in the Northwest Territories are very unique. Our very own people have proven that we can live happy and healthy. Our elders have told us time and time again that we don't need the alcohol and drugs, the gambling, smoking, and the list goes on.

We can prove to our people and ourselves that we will take a stand against addictions. So many of us struggle in our daily lives, but we must understand that there are many resources and people that care and are willing to assist us.

Family gatherings and feasts will be taking place during National Addictions Awareness Week. Let us join them and continue to support our leaders who are stepping forward to promote wellness.

Today I want to congratulate all the people who have overcome addictions, all the people who live a healthy lifestyle, and to all of us who are continuing to fight addictions. I wish you well and, again, mahsi cho for looking after each other.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Item 4 returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Dr. Ewan Affleck, if he's still in the House, and his wife, Susan Chatwood, and his father-in-law, Susan's father, Andrew Chatwood, who are here to watch their daughter Anika work today as a Page.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize my constituents from Weledeh, Dr. Ewan Affleck, Susan Chatwood, their daughter Anika working for us today, and welcome Andrew Chatwood, also visiting and with a history in the Legislature of Newfoundland, if I remember correctly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize some residents from Weledeh, but a former colleague of mine here in the medical profession world, Dr. Ewan Affleck, who is an ultra-marathon runner, the pioneer of electronic medical records and one heck of a gifted practitioner. Sitting next to him is the lovely Susan Chatwood, who is our scientific director for the Institute of Circumpolar Health Research. And as we found out, we have an esteemed colleague here with us, Mr. Andrew Chatwood, who is a former Member of the Parliament for Grand Falls-White Bay-Labrador riding and grandfather to one of our Pages here, Anika Affleck, who is here today in the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 306-17(3): PLAN FOR ADDRESSING ADDICTIONS

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are, obviously, for the Minister of Health and Social Services. In preamble to my questions I want to say that the Minister of Health and Social Services is not the enemy, the Members on the other side of the House are not the enemy, the issue that we are dealing with is the enemy. I'm sorry. I am sure that there is not one person on that side of the House who does not agree with and relate to almost everything that was said on this side of the House today. This is a collective problem. We have to find a collective solution.

I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services how we as a government can actually get the money to put a higher priority on the issue of addressing addictions. How can we physically do that? Take us through it.

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

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Probably the first step is to really determine what the actual cost would be for some of the work that we have to do. As I indicated earlier in the House in discussion about the addictions forum, that is going to be some of their work and is going to determine what needs to be done. From there I think we will be able to cost it out and return to this Assembly to get the money necessary to do the work.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Last week I said that the Minister has definitely assembled the A-Team on this Minister's Forum on Addictions and I applaud him for that. He said that he wants the recommendations back by March 2013. Again, that

is good. We are interested in seeing those recommendations, too, but those recommendations without the resources to carry out those recommendations are not worth the paper they are written on. Unfortunately, as the Members have said here today, we have had too many studies, too many frameworks. We have spent millions of dollars on stuff like this. We need to start spending money on the actual solutions. We need a champion.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if he will be our champion who will be in that Cabinet room fighting for the funds needed to implement the recommendations of that forum.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** As one MLA said today in the House, can we afford to do nothing about addictions? I think that was the reason I, as Health Minister, began the job. I could see that the first job that needed to be done that impacts everyone, that impacts every community, that impacts the economy as some MLAs said, we need to do this work. I will be a champion to make sure the work gets done on addictions.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** I believe that. I have known this Minister and everyone on the other side of the House for a very long time and I do believe that, but it may involve necessarily setting something else that we do and spend money on aside in order to devote the resources that we need to this problem, because this is a pressing and critical problem which is absorbing so much of our resources. If we could curb it and stem it somehow, we could go back to doing those other things.

Will the Minister work with this side of the House to look at what things we now spend money on that are not as high a priority and could set aside in order to have the resources we need to address the addictions issue?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Alcohol abuse does impact most areas in health. It has a huge impact on the health of the individuals, an impact on hospital stays, individuals that are staying at the corrections facilities because of crimes they committed under addictions while they're drinking, and so on. Really, for as far as the Department of Health goes, we're simply looking within the communities and hospitals to recognize that if there was no drinking going on, or if the drinking was reduced immensely, then we would bring the costs down on hospital stays and even the nurses' overtime in the communities, which a lot of it is spent on weekends dealing with alcohol issues.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're having a theme day. I would like to have a theme government. I would like the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to be remembered as the government

that actually put their money where their mouth was in terms of addictions, and I would like to make that the theme of this government going forward. Will the Minister of Health and Social Services support that?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Yes, I believe that's the direction we are going. I felt that at the very beginning of my term a year ago, that this is something we have to deal with first. Alcohol first and then the other things will fall in place.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 307-17(3):  
FUNDING FOR ADDICTION  
TREATMENT PROGRAMS

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask some questions, as well, of the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I heard the Minister in responding to Mrs. Groenewegen in answer to the question about money, that there needed to be support. I would suggest to the Minister that the support for additional funds in the department to deal with the problem of addictions, particularly alcohol, is already there. You've got 11 votes on this side of the House already.

I'd like to ask the Minister, knowing that he's got support from the majority of the House, and I imagine he's got support on the other side of the House as well, what is stopping the Minister from putting additional dollars into next year's budget?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the outset this government had indicated that there were going to be two fiscal years where we're going to take a look at our fiscal situation and then give us an opportunity to do some planning and where we could do some adjusting in the budget and moving some money around in health. That's exactly what we're intending on doing. We are holding the line on the budget without too many increases. We're going to do some reshuffling and then put money where we think it would have the greatest positive impacts on the budget, and one of them is definitely alcohol addictions.

**MS. BISARO:** To the Minister, I accept that we have a fiscal policy that says that we weren't going to do any new initiatives, but I have to also say to the Minister and to the House that we have put a huge amount of money over and above our steady fiscal policy into other initiatives. I have to say that some of our on-the-road initiatives are pretty heavy in terms of dollars. I think if there was a will, we would find the money to put into alcohol. It would save us money in the long run.

I said in my statement that I think it's time to stop studying and it's time to take action. I'd like to know from the Minister whether or not he could see that the \$300,000 that's intended to be spent on the Minister's forum, whether or not there's a better use for that right now?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** No, I don't think there is a better use for that right now. I think that this is the best use of the money, the \$300,000, and that's the reason we're moving forward on it. I think we want to do the right thing in addictions. We don't want to do the quick thing in addictions.

**MS. BISARO:** I have to disagree with the Minister. This would not be a quick fix. We've been studying this problem for a very long time, and I think the Minister, were he to look at the asks that the people in the communities have been making over many years, I think he would find that there were things that we could do right now. We need supports in our communities.

I'd like to ask the Minister – he was with me when we did the Child and Family Services Act review – did the Minister hear from the communities what I heard, that they need supports on the ground?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Yes, I heard that, but there's always something new. When we put the forum together, the forum met last Friday and last Saturday, the addictions forum. It came as a surprise to me in the way they wanted to tackle the issues. There's always something new and they're the people on the ground. They basically know exactly what is happening at the community level, so this is why we're reaching out to them. We think this cost is going to be more than recoverable. We want to do the proper upstream work so that we have positive impacts downstream.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question to the Minister has to do with the only treatment program that we have in the territory, the Nats'ejee K'eh. One of the things that was in the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan was that there was going to be an analysis and a revamping of the programs at Nats'ejee K'eh to increase the percentage of use there. Can I ask the Minister what revamping has been done? What's the percentage of use of that facility right now?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** No revamping yet. The percentage is about 46 percent capacity right now.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

QUESTION 308-17(3):  
GNWT STRATEGY TO ADDRESS ADDICTIONS  
TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My grandfather was a very wise man who came from Europe many years ago. He passed away. With his wisdom, even with very little education, he always had these very famous sayings and those resonated even today. One of his famous sayings was, talk is cheap; whiskey costs money. I think it is only befitting that I bring that forward today. Not that whiskey costs money but addictions cost money. Talk is cheap; addictions cost money.

With that, I want to find out from the Minister of Health and Social Services, he mentioned earlier the spending of \$300,000 towards addictions treatment. Can the Minister tell us what exactly are we getting today for that \$300,000?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The work of the addictions forum is laid out in their terms of reference and also a document that we've produced with the supports in there and everything. What we're hoping to gain from that is a good plan on how we're going to move forward on addressing the issue of addictions.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** That's a pretty large number for updating a plan. I think we've already got a mental addictions treatment plan, so now we're going to have a plan with a plan. Again, talk is cheap; addictions cost money.

Can the Minister indicate to us what kind of plan we are going to have? I was very bold; I had a five-point plan today and brought it to the House here. We've only heard, really, to this date on this side of the House the Minister's one-point plan, which I mentioned earlier.

Can the Minister allude to the House here, do we have more than just a one-point plan? Can the Minister allude to his multi-point plan that he wants to table for us in the House?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** If I knew what the plan was I wouldn't hire a bunch of people to go into the communities to check with the communities what they think the issues with addictions are, and how they think that the addiction issues should be addressed in the communities. The group, in my opinion, in a very short time period have to travel around to the communities. The plan is to come back to this government to what the communities think would be the most effective method in addressing addictions in their communities. That is what we want to move forward with.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** I believe the plan is probably embedded in the archives of our Legislative library



here, and I'd be more than happy to give my library card to the Minister to go and use that.

Can we get an idea here how many of our citizens are we sending down south for addictions and detox treatment?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I don't have that information with me. I think it's a fair amount of people. We've come back for supps to the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis for southern placements and so on for addictions. It does go through the Territorial Southern Placement Committee, so the committee would then determine that an individual would go down. But the exact number, I don't have with me today, but I can provide that to the Member if he wishes. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Dolyunny.

**MR. DOLYUNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recently enjoyed the budget dialogues with the Minister of Finance throughout the Territories. We were told in the House and we were told in many of these meetings that people are gravely concerned about addictions and money put towards it. In fact, sometimes, when people were doing the Lego exercise with the Minister of Finance, there were Legos left over. They said, we want to put it into addictions. Again, I am holding Legos in my hand for health and social services.

How much money are we going to be putting towards next year's budget towards addictions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The amount of money we put towards addressing addictions issues is going to be determined by the House. We are going to go through a process, a business planning process. We will make a business case for what we find, our findings. We will have some findings as a result of this committee. Once the forum has done their work and we have our plan in place specific to that, then it will go through the business planning process. The number will be determined by the amount of work that needs to be done at the community level. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

QUESTION 309-17(3):  
COMMUNITY-BASED ADDICTIONS  
TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In communities there are very few resources in terms of trying to develop programs and at least sustain and maintain them so that we help each other. The questions I have are for the Minister. It is a known reality that detox centres are very far and few between. At the community level, when people take that very ultimate step, the big step for them is a cry for help, asking for help.

Can the Health Minister describe what typically happens when someone goes to the nursing station and says they want to quit drinking? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although within the health system we don't actually have designated beds for people to detoxify, we do have beds so that an individual that is saying that he is ready now to quit and needs to go through detox, then the health centre should be getting in touch with the authority to advise if there are any beds available for that specific individual.

Each case is different. If this person does go into the health centre needing detoxification and is ready to go, then I think it is incumbent upon the health centre to go through their authority and try to find them a bed in one of the hospitals to be able to allow him to detox. Thank you.

**MR. NADLI:** Mr. Speaker, we have treatment centres, of course, in the NWT. We have very limited access to detox centres, especially at ground level. How do we track the success rate of our alcohol and drug treatment programs? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, one of the things that we found as a bit of a gap in the one treatment centre we have, was determining whether or not we were being successful. We recognize that there are various measurements that can be used to determine the success of treatment. People will be contacted after one year and see if they still remain clean and sober. Then if they start drinking after 13 months, is that considered to be a success story or do we contact them after five years? And if they drink after six years, would that be considered a success story? It's difficult to determine success unless we're saying that the individual has stopped drinking or stopped using drugs and has stopped drinking and using drugs for the rest of their lives, essentially, if they felt that there was enough of an issue that they had to go through treatment. It is a very difficult thing to really determine because we don't know at which point we're going to make the measurement. Thank you.

**MR. NADLI:** Mr. Speaker, I think my colleagues would agree with me that the measurement that we use on this side of this House is to have more success stories of people being able to arrive at a point where they enjoy sobriety. It is 85 percent of crimes committed that are related to alcohol or drugs. What is Health's role in ensuring that treatment is available for inmates in the correctional facilities? Mahsi.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, treatment is available to individuals that are incarcerated, but the success, again, is difficult to determine.

Sometimes individuals will go to treatment, go through their incarceration without any issues, any indications, and once they get out, then at what point do we measure them?

It's difficult to determine success. You see it. There are successes. There is no question about it. There are a lot of people out there who have successfully quit drinking or have successfully quit using drugs. Again, how they affiliate with the treatment centre that is sitting on the Hay River Reserve is something that we still need to get a closer look at. We are looking at that in the idea of when we are trying to revamp programs in Nats'ejee K'eh. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the outset of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly, something that I remember very clearly is that there was a very strong, common theme that we wanted to undertake programs and services that dealt upon preventative steps to ensure that people were leading healthy lifestyles. At the same time, we wanted to ensure that the health care system was in the position to provide information to people so that, in the long run, they would lead healthier lives. What is Health doing to make sure that young people in school understand the impacts of the dangers of alcohol abuse? Mahsi.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, that work is, again, a difficult type of work. It is not common to talk about alcohol and other addictions such as cigarette smoke and so on in the lower grades. What we need to do is we have to determine at what point that we need to go into the schools, at what age category do we need to target when we start talking about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder and alcoholism, smoking and so on. Sometimes there are some issues with approaching children that are too young in the school with these types of programs. We have to determine at what point we go into the schools.

As far as school programs that go directly into addictions, we know that there are cigarette programs. Don't be a Butthead is an example. As far as alcohol and other drugs in the school, I don't have that information, but I don't think there are other programs pertaining to alcohol and drugs in the schools. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 310-17(3):  
DETOXIFICATION AND ADDICTIONS  
TREATMENT CENTRE

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope I don't hurt anyone's feelings when I

say this, but this government is addicted to the status quo. I am telling you, all we hear is this bunk message over and over again that they don't want to do anything.

I want to hear today, what has the Minister of Health and Social Services done by way of submission by providing a plan for infrastructure such as a treatment or a detox centre to the FMB, that's the Financial Management Board, and what can he tell this House today and show this House today that he is working on this particular problem? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is nothing in the capital plan for new treatment centres, new detox centres, as most people in the House know. We have made a decision at the beginning of this government that any infrastructure needed for addictions, treatment of addictions, would be from current infrastructure, existing infrastructure that's owned by the government and we're still on that task. We haven't changed in the first year of this government to all of a sudden make a decision that we're going to set aside other capital issues or plans that have been on the books for several years and then replace it with treatment centres and detox centres. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** When we talk about holding the budget line, that's nothing but malarkey. Everybody in this building would support a treatment centre option submitted to the FMB.

Why isn't the Minister of Health and Social Services demanding the Financial Management Board approve that submission to build a treatment centre in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Again, I've got to go back to the fiscal strategy of this government, that we are headed in a direction where we're going to take a look at some fiscal responsibility, fiscal strategy within the first couple of years, and then within the last couple of years, the House knows that we're planning on expanding our infrastructure budget. At that point, if this is what we determine is the best use of our dollars, that the best way to address this issue is to put people inside a treatment centre or put six people inside a detox centre and that is the best strategy for alcohol and drugs, then I'll go down that path. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I'm tired of the Health Minister defending the Finance Minister's job. I'm sorry. When will the Minister stop this bunkum message and finally say he's going to fight at the Financial Management Board table and demand a treatment centre gets built here in the Northwest Territories, whether it's in Inuvik, whether it's in Yellowknife or

Norman Wells that we get this job done? Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you. First, it's existing infrastructure. If we're going to build a treatment centre, if we're going to develop a treatment centre, rather, we're going to use existing infrastructure. There is no plan at this point to put a treatment centre anywhere. Number two, the treatment centre we do have is not used to full capacity. We're going to try to use that treatment centre to its maximum capacity before we add more treatment centres. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Minister is defending his little committees to run around. We've studied this problem to death.

What does the Minister of Health and Social Services think that this committee is going to tell him that we don't have binders, cases and truckloads of paper that is going to be new? So what does he think that's going to be new delivered by this committee on the need of a treatment centre in the Northwest Territories, as I said, whether it's in Inuvik, Yellowknife, Hay River or even Norman Wells?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you. It may not be a tremendous departure from what we already know, but we are going to have buy-in, and in order to get buy-in, it's a way to move forward on this issue. If the communities come up with a solution themselves, they're going to be committed to making sure that the solutions that they're recommending to this forum will work. That's what we're trying to do. We're trying to consult with the people, get the people to tell us what they think the issues are. Yes, we may have done a bunch of reports, I don't know of a bunch of reports being done sitting on the shelves and things like that, I know there's been some health reports done, but the thing is, I don't think individuals have gone to the communities and documented what the communities want to do in order to address this issue. That's what I'm trying to do. I'm trying to get the communities to tell us. It's been long enough that this government and other governments have always told the communities this is the way we're going to address your issue. So it's time for them to tell us how they want their issue addressed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 311-17(3):  
NEED FOR ADDICTIONS  
TREATMENT CENTRE

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on the need for a

professional treatment centre here in the Northwest Territories, and I'm with my colleagues, I think that's one of the things that we have been hearing from our constituents as well. I don't know why the Minister has to hear it again.

So I'd like to ask the Minister what kind of strategy or plan does he have for giving us a modern addictions treatment facility that includes detoxification. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No plan at this time to do that, because we think the communities may say something different. Initially, although I haven't visited all 33 communities – I have visited 12 communities in my role as Health and Social Services Minister – initially that's not what they're saying. Initially what the people are saying, the elders want to go on the land with the people, with the youth and they think that's going to address their issue. The communities where the greatest impact exists, communities where there's low employment, tremendous social impacts in the communities from alcohol, a high percentage of issues in the community is a result of addictions. They're the ones that are saying we don't necessarily want to travel somewhere else for treatment. We want to heal on the land with our own people.

So there may be no plan to build a treatment centre, no plans of building an addictions centre, we don't know. There may be a plan that comes out of Yellowknife that says that is what is needed to address the issues here, but that may not be something that the small communities want. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you. He spoke for about five minutes, but I think he said no.

I'd like to ask the Minister, is a treatment centre for the Northwest Territories even on the 20-year capital plan, the capital needs assessment. Thank you very much.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you. We have one not only on the books, it actually exists. But is there a plan for another treatment facility on the books? There isn't. There is no plan at this time within the 20-year assessment of our capital needs for a treatment centre. Thank you.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much. I think that it doesn't commit us to just put it on the capital plan. Is the Minister willing to do that? Because it is a need, it's going to be a future need because we need a good modern treatment facility that includes detoxification. Making people wait 30 days, as one of the Members spoke about earlier, it's just not doing it, because the need is immediate when you

want treatment from addictions and someone that is suffering cannot wait 30 days.

With a modern facility, I'd like to ask the Minister, is he willing to at least discuss it with his Cabinet colleagues and put it on the 20-year needs assessment. Thank you.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Yes, I am willing to discuss the possibility of a treatment centre with my Cabinet colleagues. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Now is the Minister willing to move the capital plan up? Thank you.

---Laughter

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Again, it's not my decision whether or not that thing goes into the capital plan. It's a joint decision by this side of the House and that side of the House. If I get it into a 20-year assessment, then the next step is up to this House.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 312-17(3):  
DETOXIFICATION AND ADDICTIONS  
TREATMENT FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really don't know where to begin with this. Obviously, you know where my questions are going. The Minister stated earlier that he doesn't feel that there's no better use for the \$300,000 for these discussion forums that are going on. I beg to differ, and I'm very concerned, and I do disagree, and I'm sure there are a lot of people in the medical field and justice system that would also be concerned with this attitude, as the Minister of Health and Social Services, that he feels that money cannot be better spent other than talking about what we already know is a problem.

My question for the Minister of Health and Social Services is in terms of detox, because we do need it in the Northwest Territories. Can the Minister of Health and Social Services confirm how many hospital beds are specifically designated for medical detox in the Northwest Territories?

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

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm that no beds are specifically designated for detox at any hospital in the Northwest Territories.

**MR. MOSES:** As I said, he stated earlier that he didn't feel the money could not be better spent other than talking about what we already know is a

concern. With \$300,000 we could hire a couple more nurses and designate some beds in the hospitals in Yellowknife and Inuvik or Norman Wells or Hay River for the people who need it. That's where I'm trying to get the question. It's very disheartening to sit on this side and listen to the Minister of Health make those comments and let us know that there are no detox beds in the Northwest Territories that he can confirm.

My second question is in terms of the policy for the amount of days that a person needs to be sober to access treatment either here in the Northwest Territories or when we have to send them down south, which I totally disagree with as well. What is the policy for the GNWT for the amount of days somebody needs to be sober to access treatment that they need that we're making it difficult for them to access?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The policy on the length of time individuals wait is client specific. So it would depend on the counsellor availability, the number of clients waiting, the client's need, and when the next bed in the treatment facility is available. There are a few factors. Any resident that has a crisis, that is in immediate risk, can actually get in to see a counsellor and the counsellor may be able to get that individual out to a treatment centre or detox centre or designate a bed in a hospital for an individual in an emergency type of situation where we felt there was some immediate risk.

**MR. MOSES:** I really enjoy when the Minister speaks about addictions and gives us his point of view on things. He said immediate risk. We're not always dealing with people who have immediate risk and, actually, as we know, in mental health workers, we are short on that and there's a big waiting list in that sense as well.

The coroner's report specifies that 49 percent of alcohol-related deaths are suicides. So there is a great correlation here. Until they have to be in immediate risk, then will we help them? No. That doesn't make sense.

What is the Minister doing to ensure that we do have the medical health counsellors in place in the communities where there is a big backlog right now? What is his plan to get that addressed?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** We are in constant communication with the health authorities across the health and social services. We recognize that we have vacancies across the board in every area. We have 27 percent vacancy in social workers, 16 percent vacancy for nurses. Those are two of the numbers that I know off the top of my head. There are vacant positions recognizing mental health counsellors and wellness counsellors and so on.

We wish there were no vacancies, but we go out and try to fill the vacancies working with the authorities. We do put pressure on the authorities to

be able to fill the positions. There are always other factors. Housing is generally a factor. Sometimes there's nothing available on the market for individuals when they need to relocate a social worker. We sometimes use locums to address the issues from nearby regional centres, but aside from that, I guess we're just doing the regular thing and trying to fill positions, put out advertisements, and going through that process.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final supplementary, Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make reference to what the Minister said earlier, as well, that we need to get communities committed. Does the Minister not think these communities are committed after listening to the coroner's report that alcohol-related deaths are at 49 percent, suicides are at 50 percent, accidental deaths are at 76 percent, or homicides? Those stats would make my community committed to getting detox and treatment centres in the communities even more.

Specifically to treatment programs, I would like to ask the Minister of Health what specific programs are not offered in the Northwest Territories that we do have to send our residents to southern treatment centres where they actually have to come back with a supp to top up the dollars. What specific programs are we not offering in the Northwest Territories that we should be addressing right now?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** It's nothing specific. In the cases where individuals are going to treatment and apply for treatment down south, or there's a recommendation from the authority through the community counselling for an individual to go for treatment down south is usually because of the complex nature of the individual's addictions. Sometimes addictions and mental health are very, very closely associated. I think 40, I hate to mention the percentage, but I think over half of the individuals that go for counselling for addictions also had mental health issues.

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

QUESTION 313-17(3):  
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT  
FRAMEWORK AND ADDICTIONS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there are many important questions being raised today, and I think we would all benefit from further discussion, certainly, on a new treatment centre versus programs being put in place and, of course, why a 30-day period of sobriety is required before treatment.

My statement today dealt with the impact of substance abuse on early childhood development. As I pointed out, community-based early childhood

development programs, pre- and postnatal programs, parenting workshops, mother and tot programs also provide a contact point for parents who may need to seek help with their addiction problems.

Can the Minister tell me whether, as we work towards completing the Early Childhood Development Framework, the opportunity for parents to raise their issues of addictions and seek help will be given a place in design of that programming?

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

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** One of the key pieces of the early childhood development work that we're doing is supporting healthy families in the communities. We consider that to be a very successful program. There are large groups in the communities for healthy families where there are mothers in there at a prenatal stage, right to children under one. There are those types of programs and there are other programs that are in these healthy families for two, three, and four-year-old children with their mothers in a program. A lot of that is our work in the early childhood development, is that we are looking at healthy families as a way to help combat this issue of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks to the Minister for those comments. The Minister's department is now embarking on the consultations and fact-finding of the new addictions forum. This forum should examine not just individuals' needs but families' needs, as well, I assume.

Can the Minister tell me whether the terms of reference for the new addictions forum include an examination of how better to use the health and social services system as a whole to make contact with those in need of treatment and programming in the area of addictions?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The terms of reference for the addictions forum will be to get the information, gather the information and the recommendations. Their recommendations are going to be to ourselves and will consist of this is what the issue is and the community thinks this is the way it should be addressed. Our responsibility at Health and Social Services would then be to apply our authorities' and our department's work to what the recommendations are. It's going to be at that point where those health programs and what the recommendations from the addictions forum will meet. It's not specifically in the mandate of the addictions forum.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Again, I'm pointing out opportunities here and I just hope the Minister and his staff will take advantage of them.

The Minister of Health has announced that the community family resource centres will begin to be introduced as the local seat of early childhood development programming. Because healthy families are essential to healthy children and their development, will the Minister say how the development of this delivery model will facilitate the intake of parents into addictions treatment where needed?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** The healthy families is not really linked into the addictions treatment. We could talk about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder within these groups where we're trying to build awareness of the issue and the cost of the issue, as the Member indicated, many of those factors. For the mothers to segue from healthy families into treatment centres, I don't think is something that is part of that mandate of the healthy families or the community children resource centres.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Minister. Obviously, all of these could be important portals for addictions treatment. Not that they need to provide it in their own right, they have different objectives, but they need to be linked. I'm talking about linkages here.

My last question is: Have we developed and begun a curriculum that builds awareness amongst young teenagers, awareness of the consequences of both alcohol and drug addictions to both the realization of their full potential and to the well-being of their future children?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Building a curriculum for students realized that that was something that has come as a request. There are health programs and addiction programs and so on in the high schools. That is something that ourselves... It's not early childhood development work but ourselves and Education that would be prepared to collaborate on in the development of curricula for that, but it's within the mandate of ECE in order to develop that curriculum.

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

QUESTION 314-17(3):  
ECONOMIC COST OF ADDICTIONS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if his department has ever done a cost factor of somebody who has abused alcohol or drugs. What has it cost this government? For example, it costs about \$90,000 a year to house somebody in our justice system if that person is in there for an alcohol-related crime. Has the Minister done a comprehensive cost factor in regard to someone using and abusing alcohol in our communities?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** We just know that it does cost a lot of money in a lot of areas. Like the Member said, if a person was to stay in a corrections facility for an entire year because of abuse of alcohol, it could cost the government \$90,000 to house them in there. We know that a high percentage of the hospital stays are due to alcohol abuse. We know the costs at the health centres due to alcohol abuse. We know that a lot of the money for counselling that is spent on counselling people at the community level is alcohol abuse. We know that at Nats'ejee K'eh another \$2 million is all as a result of alcohol abuse. It is a substantial cost to the system. I don't have the figure with me now, but I'm pretty sure that it would be fairly simple for us to pull that information together.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I look forward to the information the Minister is going to send over to the House in regard to the cost factor. It's about dollars and cents. Again, I go back to the point Mrs. Groenewegen made earlier that it's not normal in our communities to see people drinking on the roads, fighting, swearing. It's just not normal.

I want to ask the Minister, there's an elder in Fort Good Hope that said there's a miracle standing right before you. He said, I haven't drank in 10 months. It's a miracle that I'm not drinking. He said, it's just common sense to take our people out onto the land.

If it costs that much in our system, could the Minister look and see if a program for the people, for the Sahtu communities that makes sense to take people out on the land to look at a recovery program where, out on the land, it's normal for us to be a family?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** As I indicated earlier, that was a common theme for the small communities that we visited, that they felt that treatment, on the land programs that they would do with the people that were suffering from addictions, families, elders, youth, was the way to go. The department has made available through the authorities \$25,000 to any community that wants to put a program together for treatment on the land. Some communities have taken advantage of that. We think that in some of the communities that is a way to go. One thing was that the communities felt that wasn't enough money. That's one of the things we're hoping to get from this addictions forum in communities that want to go that way. We may be able to move money from other communities that don't want to treat their people on the land. This is something we want to look at. There is some money available for that.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I had some research done and it said that 42 percent of all our youth aged between 15 and 24 binge drink. Binge drinking is five or more drinks that they're taking at one time. We

have a serious problem. It's coming in the next five, 10, 15 or 20 years from now.

I want to ask the Minister, would he look at Nats'ejee K'eh, only having a 46 percent occupancy rate, would he look at Nats'ejee K'eh being designated within the life of this government, or sooner, as a youth alcohol and drug treatment centre.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I've had one discussion with the forum here in Yellowknife at their inaugural meeting, and I indicated to them that one of the things I would like them to look at is change in the type of treatment that is available at Nats'ejee K'eh. One of the things that I asked them to look at was a block of time where the youth can utilize the treatment centre, making sure that they have the proper counsellors in there and have one block of time, probably in the summertime, for the youth to be able to attend treatment at Nats'ejee K'eh. We are looking at that.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, 28 percent of our general population binge drink. Binge drinking is not normal and it's not normal for us. Growing up in our communities we have seen that. We thought that was normal. We thought that was okay.

Can the Minister outline any type of plan to work with us to tell the communities and show the communities that binge drinking in our communities in the North is not normal? What kind of campaign does he have in place for us to work with them?

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** I'm hoping that this is the type of information that can be brought back from the alcohol forum with the community indicating that they have high incidence of alcoholism in the community, and this is how they hope to address the issue. I would like to see the work of the forum before I can say that this is what I'm going to do.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

QUESTION 315-17(3):  
INDUSTRY-DRIVEN DRUG AND  
ALCOHOL ADDICTIONS PROGRAM

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Member's statement, I am concerned with addictions in the Northwest Territories and the lack of productivity it's causing in our industries. My questions are going to be for the Minister of ITI.

Has the Department of ITI had any involvement with a drug and alcohol program for industry?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, when you have 3,000 migrant workers working in the Northwest Territories and people in small communities aren't being employed, you have to start asking some questions. I'm glad the Member brought that issue up today, because I really do believe that we need to get more people working. If you get a training program where there are 24 individuals from a community and 12 of them fail a drug test, that certainly is an issue and it's something that we have to pay attention to.

Training programs that are being put together, and I look at what is happening in the Sahtu – and the Norman Wells Land Corp has put together a training program run this past summer and it will be run again next summer – it's important that basic life skills are taught to the younger people that want to be employed, in this case, with the oil and gas development in the Sahtu. The same can be said for mining. People have to learn that when the alarm clock goes off, you get out of bed and you go to work. You collect your paycheque and you keep working. Those types of basic life skills have to be ingrained in young people across the territory.

We continue to work with industry to find ways that that type of training can get out there and have a meaningful impact on our economy, and allow people in our small communities and across the territory to be gainfully employed.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** I'm glad the Minister understands the problem here. My question is, though – the diamond mines have been here for a long time, for many years – what programs has his department worked with the diamond mines, for example, to get these people in the Northwest Territories to the job to be able to contribute to the economy of the Northwest Territories?

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** We haven't quantified what that impact would be on the economy. At the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment we wouldn't have programs like that. As I mentioned in my previous response, our goal is to work with other departments, with Health and Social Services, with Education, Culture and Employment to find a way to get those types of training programs out there. This department is not responsible for that type of training. But we do certainly work with industry. We recognize that it is a problem. Industry has brought that to our attention. Again, it's not just mining and oil and gas, it's other, you know, tourism. It runs the full gamut of the economy of the Northwest Territories and it's certainly something we recognize.

I want to thank the Member for raising it. It's a big issue. Perhaps we should take a look at quantifying what it means and the impact that addictions and people not able to pass a basic drug or alcohol test to get employment and what it means to the

unemployment rates in some of our communities. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

QUESTION 316-17(3):  
RENOVATIONS TO JOE GREENLAND  
CENTRE IN AKLAVIK

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, my questions will be directed to the Minister of Housing today. When I asked questions about the Joe Greenland Centre in our June session, the Minister indicated that work on renovating the long-term care wing into independent living units would be underway by now. Earlier in this session, the Minister indicated that a tender would be issued shortly.

Can the Minister tell this Assembly why the renovations to the Joe Greenland Centre have been delayed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. After reviewing the cost of renovations to the Joe Greenland Centre, we had to go back and look at whether it was feasible to do the renovations again on building it. It is over 35 years old. It has had two or three major renovations. We had to have a look at that and see if it would be easier to just construct a new facility.

After we reviewed the proposal, we realized there was a lot more work that had to be done to significantly upgrade the facility to bring it to meet current codes. Thank you.

**MR. BLAKE:** Mr. Speaker, it is good to hear that the NWT Housing Corporation is examining the cost-benefit analysis of new construction versus renovating the existing facility.

Can the Minister tell me whether the Housing Corporation plans to engage with the community of Aklavik on the location of a new facility and just what should be included in such a facility? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, after determination is made whether we should go new construction versus renovating the existing facility, of course, it goes without saying that we will be consulting with the community of Aklavik on possible location and what they might like to see in the facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. BLAKE:** It's good to hear that the community will be consulted on any new facility.

The existing Joe Greenland Centre has a common area and a specialized bathing room that allows the Aklavik disabled seniors the opportunity to look

after their personal hygiene in a safe manner, with assistance from the home care workers.

Can the Minister tell me whether a new facility would have the same features in this plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, if we do need to build a new facility, we'd have to look at some of the options related to space for Health and Social Services. Obviously, we would be having discussions with the Minister and his department. We need to realize that this type of space would add to the overall cost, and again we would have to have discussions with the Department of Health and Social Services.

This is a service that's being utilized in the community right now. Of course, the community, I think, would like to see this particular part of it carry on. We would like to do what we can to have the community residents stay in the community as long as possible without having to leave. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. BLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me when he would expect construction to commence on the replacement of the Joe Greenland Centre? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we are just doing the preliminary work and we are reviewing our options right now. Our plan would be, and it should be, to have a decision made very shortly here on renovation versus new. If we decide to go new construction, then I think it would be in the best interest of the community that we begin construction possibly next summer. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 8, written questions. Mr. Bromley.

### Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 16-17(3):  
CARIBOU POPULATIONS, POPULATION  
SURVEYS AND HARVESTING

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Please provide:

1. the most recent information on caribou populations for each NWT herd, including the status of management plans and the status of population surveys, both underway and planned;
2. information on the status of caribou harvests for each NWT herd, including the actual take of animals according the harvesting quotas for each herd and including the sex ratio of animals



for each herd taken in relation to targets for harvesting;

3. information on who is measuring the harvests for each herd and how this is being accomplished; and
4. information on what categories of hunters are being provided with hunting tags for each NWT caribou herd.

Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Mr. Dolynny.

### Replies to Opening Address

#### MR. DOLYNNY'S REPLY

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have spent the better part of three to four months, with the help of research, trying to do a post-mortem analysis of the second largest capital project on the books of the GNWT. That is the Inuvik E3 School. This proved to be a daunting task and one that spawned much resistance, resentment and personal attack on my character.

The role of the MLA is not easy and at times we uncover or unearth some truths that happen behind the four walls of government. We have a duty to expose such findings, even at the risk of persecution by special interest groups, businesses and some members of the community governments.

I want to say on record, who wouldn't want to congratulate the people of Inuvik and surrounding area, the community leaders and members, education administration, teachers and students, with the announcement of the new school? How would someone question the need for a proper facility to enhance our culture, provide endless possibilities for our students and give every opportunity to our children?

These are not the issues anyone is challenging, as there is not a soul in this House that is questioning this premise. I can tell you that everyone here is proud to be opening this new facility. I, for one, am one of those in support.

So if we're not asking the aforementioned questions, then what questions should we be asking? What should we be asking now at the completion of this project? Did we act on this project in a way that was transparent and accountable? Were we good stewards of the public purse? Did we protect the public interest? Did we use the proper competitive procurement guidelines? Did our Negotiated Contract Policy stand up to the rigors of a large-scale project design like this? What did we learn to prepare us for large upcoming projects like the Inuvik-Tuk

project, the fibre optic project and the Stanton Territorial project, just to name a few?

These guiding principles or questions are what were used as a baseline for the analysis of the E3 School project. In fact, my past dealings with any project in this House has been with the same measuring stick or lens in design, and I would treat every project, large or small, with the same careful analysis of detail and design, and in doing so, I believe I have been thorough and fair in all of my assessments.

In this House we have undoubtedly heard many times too numerous to count, that this project was "under-budget and built one year ahead of schedule." In fact, it's almost with a degree of sarcasm that if you are presented with a claim or statement often enough and with such repetition that it must be true. Right? So it is only fitting that I start my journey with this repetitive statement, which many of us have heard in the past couple of weeks. The term "under-budget" is a very broad statement used in the industry and its definition of sorts can be used to validate almost anything you desire. To prove this point, let me walk you through a brief chronology of this school project.

In 1999-2000 year, the Sir Alexander Mackenzie School was approved in the GNWT's capital plan with a total budget of \$6.3 million. It was identified even back then that the foundation of this school and most of the building had reached its end of service life and that a simple renovation was not feasible. So at that time, ECE began to develop and plan for the school's replacement. During the next five years, there were over eight attempts of project designs, options, schematic details and construction cost estimates that propelled the original estimates from \$18.5 million to \$25.3 million, all the while with limited information on the overall scope or approach to the project. Then in 2005-2006 both schools were included as one project in the capital plan at \$35.3 million. On October 25, 2005, then-Premier Floyd Roland introduced a supplementary appropriation in the Assembly with reference to advancing "a joint design for the two schools."

By the 2006-2007 year, the combined costs had risen to \$64.1 million. Then in the 2007-08 year, the costs, of course, were forecasted at \$76.3 million. In the 2008-2009 year, the expected cost rose to \$79.9 million. One might want to pause for a second to ask why did we see such cost escalation during this period of time when really no construction work was being undertaken. This is a good question.

Actual construction costs use a type of agreed upon escalation or market escalator during every construction season. This is used as an estimate for construction and is based on information provided by northern building contractors,

researchers, market conditions, availability of raw materials, review of bank analysis on lending rates and consultations with surveyors across western Canada.

So in other words, the GNWT would forecast these expected costs during the design and build of this project to not exceed an inflationary increase of blank percent over a said construction period. This is what forecasters could also conceivably call a buffer of sorts. Although there is a bit of science to this number, it is by and large a direct result of actual construction comparables within a closed market environment. In other words, the GNWT will base a number of similar projects, square foot, type and design, and crunch a comparison number of a guess on price increases in that market.

It was important that I spend a moment to define market escalation, as we will come back to this market escalator a little bit later in my presentation.

So getting back to the chronology, in September of 2008, the Infrastructure Acquisition Plan showed that the two schools to be combined into one project with a total cost of \$115.4 million. Then in Hansard for October 8<sup>th</sup> of 2008, of that year, the deputy minister of Finance informed the House that a request for a negotiated contract had been reviewed and approved and that the GNWT was working with the contractor. The public was informed then that just the construction cost was brought down from \$110 million to just under \$100 million. This new announcement came on the heels of the new capital planning process for new projects, which we learned then to be called Class C estimates. In essence, this new Class C estimate was supposed to be, in the words of the deputy minister of Finance on October 16, 2008, "...so that we have an understanding about what the scope of work is and what is it going to cost...to get a really good idea about what it is we are building and how much it's going to cost." However, this was the first time Public Works and Services was to use the Class C estimate process for such a large-scale project. So there were many areas of concern whether or not it was truly going to pass the smell test.

What the Department of Public Works and Services told many was the most critical elements in pricing for a good C class estimate strongly depended on the market prediction or escalation used by the GNWT. In this case, the awarding of the contract for construction of this new school, the cost escalation for its various components used was a colossal 50.5 percent over the three years from the 2005-08 seasons. Let me repeat this number again, 50.5 percent.

So to put that in perspective, let's say I was getting a wage of \$50,000 in the year 2005. By virtue of this market rate escalation writer, by definition the GNWT proposed that I should receive a wage of

over \$75,000 by the year 2008. Nice as this would sound, it defies the premise of consumer price index for any inflationary statistics that we know to be true. The sound and rational person would have a hard time believing how the price of a 2 by 4, electrical tape or cement can go up 50.5 percent in three years. Mr. Speaker, many of us have a hard time fathoming this number.

Then again, were there other mitigating factors that could have conceivably affected this so-called huge increase of market escalation that could have affected the estimate awarding and a negotiated contract for this new school? The answer is yes, Mr. Speaker. Remember what I indicated what also affects market escalation? The answer is the use of comparative buildings or similar design. In this case Public Works and Services did provide a comparison of costs for various new schools that were used in this market escalation calculation. It may be relevant to indicate that three of the five new schools listed for market comparison were built by the very same proponent that was awarded the negotiated Inuvik school contract. Of the three schools built by the same proponent, Tulita was an open tender with two bidders, Ecole St. Cyr was a tender with two bidders, and Fort Good Hope was an RFP with two bidders.

So all I'm saying is, here we have five new schools that uses a comparison in which three were built by the same proponent that received the negotiated contract. Out of the three schools used, they only had two bidders. So did the GNWT have a good database of comparative and competitive similar schools to make a sound market escalation calculation? Some would argue no.

So if the waters weren't muddied before, the mere suggestion of a 50.5 percent market escalation comparison in coming up with a final price for the East Three School should boggle the mind of the average person. The question bears asking, did the lack of real solid tendering artificially raise the market escalation in favour of an out of control, heavily priced product in the negotiated process? We will never know the answer to this question.

If the waters aren't muddy enough, for some strange reason we see a supplementary appropriation No. 2 for 2008-2009 for Education, Culture and Employment for a negative amount of \$6 million for what we refer to as a reallocation towards Sir Alexander Mackenzie and Samuel Hearne Secondary schools in Inuvik. This was, in essence, for a site remediation of these two schools that was to be included in the 2009-2010 budget. I must admit, when this term was brought up by myself and discussed recently with the Department of Public Works and Services, I have yet to receive a rationale for their reallocation of this money into the project and whether or not this amount has been truly factored into the costs of the overall

budget and project. I will leave it to the department to explain to the public what this negative supplementary appropriation was used for, where the money flowed from and how this affected the total whole project cost.

I'm nearing the end of my chronology of this project and, again, I want to stress the ever important terminology that we've heard time and time again from many in this House, and that term is "under-budget." Now, with the explanations that I have brought before this House today, can one really say, with any degree of certainty, that the taxpayers received a product that was under-budget? I guess we would have to agree first what was the budget to begin with, as it is clear that it was truly a moving target for almost six years. However, even if we begin to believe this under-budget claim, the market escalation also used begs scrutiny. At over 50.5 percent in the three years of design-stasis and the perceived over-weighted aspect of one proponent used in the calculation, how is one able to believe that fairness and transparency were indeed used in a market escalation? Again, we may never know the true answer to this question.

Let's return, shall we, to the other claim of this building being built one year ahead of schedule. To do so, let's take a moment to review the contract reporting for the main construction contract that was awarded for the Inuvik E3 School. Now, the information on the awarding of the construction negotiated contract to build the Inuvik E3 School is not available on the GNWT's contract opportunities website. It is, however, listed at \$92,277,197 in its 2008-2009 contract report. Unfortunately, details and the data of the contract are not available in this contract report. However, upon further investigation, I as a Member have been granted access to information that sheds new light on this contract, timelines and the original contract of established dates and substantial completion and a revised construction schedule.

While since the GNWT has never tabled this document, we cannot discuss such findings. Too bad, Mr. Speaker, as I think many would find this information enlightening. Therefore, until the department tables the negotiated contract that was used for the construction of this project, we will never truly know what terms were used for the date of substantial completion of the building, nor will we truly know the revised construction completion date that was negotiated behind closed doors.

So again, Mr. Speaker, the term completed one year ahead of schedule is a great term to throw around, but until this document emerges, how can one validate this claim?

Mr. Speaker, colleagues and citizens of the Northwest Territories, I want to thank you for your patience as I tried to reveal the story of this project through the lens of a Regular Member. Even after

the proposed Inuvik-Tuk highway, this school infrastructure will still be the second highest cost project on our books invested by taxpayers. So it was important that we take a minute to review and evaluate it for what it was and not dismiss some of the obvious questions many still have.

Again, this investigation was never meant to diminish the need for proper learning facilities in our various communities, but does use the appropriate measuring stick showing there could have been savings and design used for other school infrastructure or programming needs for our residents.

Mr. Speaker, in the end, I truly hope the Minister and the Department of Public Works and Services are listening today, and I hope, for the sake of all residents, that this Minister and this department open this project for a formal review and table a complete forensic audit for everyone to see. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Colleagues, I have two more Members that have their names forward for replies to opening address, but I will call a five-minute break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Menicoche.

#### MR. MENICOCHE'S REPLY

**MR. MENICOCHE:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to use this opportunity to highlight a couple of topics important to my riding.

Firstly, I just wanted to let our government know to continue to pay attention to Nahanni Butte as they rebuild from the flood and patiently wait for their community to get back together.

I spoke in this House how important it is to repair the access road to the community, and I again ask the Department of Transportation to ensure that all contracts and planning are prepared beforehand so that repair work can begin as soon as physically possible. This is a critical role for Nahanni Butte and we must take it seriously. Several years ago when Yellowknife did not have a bypass road and the highway got shut in for about six hours, the panic was huge from the residents. They were actually getting stir crazy. That was only for six hours. My constituents have been shut in for six months. I pride their patience and, once again, ask Mr. Ramsay, the Minister of the Department of Transportation, to ensure that repairs to this vital access road happen sooner than later.

As well, by virtue of our involvement in the Business Development Investment Corporation, we technically have responsibilities for the replacement of the store that's in Nahanni Butte. Be assured, it must be replaced or repaired. The community

needs certainty as to when that store will be replaced.

Also, the school children and schooling was very concerning to me as the school was the temporary band office there. I'd like to see this space be returned to the school.

Another way the community was impacted in one small way was that they still don't have a radio in Nahanni Butte. No CKLB, no CBC. In future disaster planning, how can we reach out to communities when radio access is part of our emergency planning? That's a communications aspect of it. I'd like to see some work being done in that area as well.

Also, sadly, there has been resistance by our government and government departments to allow some claims. This is concerning. Residents lost skidoos and other small engine equipment, chainsaws, et cetera, that may not be allowed a claim because they are not classified as a trapper. This is a disaster, an act of God, a flood that affected everybody. Replacing our residents' losses should be a priority, not giving them a no. It is bad enough that they were impacted.

Another huge topic for residents is they really do want to begin discussions on relocating the community. We as the government have always known it was in a flood plain. Floods have occurred before, but not as severe as this latest one in June. Residents do fear that it can happen again. They do want to see some relocation plans, options and strategies. I believe we must continue to take the community seriously and it's a long-term solution, as well, that will require some financial resources dedicated to it. Floods cost money to repair, and planning for a relocation I think is money well spent. I believe the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs will be travelling with me to the community in December and I look forward to having a great discussion with the community about the seriousness of it. Not all residents want it, but I believe at least we should have a look at it.

The government has committed to do a post-mortem on the evacuation procedures and the disaster. I look forward to getting that and sharing that with the community. I don't know if it can be done by our December visit there, but I would sure like to have an evaluation of how the disaster was handled. The community leadership did point out that I think it was the Housing Corporation did not have an actual disaster relief policy and I think that surely should be addressed as well.

Once again, in closing, I just wanted to say that the needs of the community of Nahanni Butte, it's taken a long time to put their community back together, and I just want our government to pay attention and make those few small changes and address some of the concerns. People have lost things and it's

even more hurtful for our government to say no because of some rule or guideline procedure.

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

#### MR. BROMLEY'S REPLY

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're 13 months into the mandate of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly, nearing one-third of our term when we meet next in February. Today I would like to expand on my earlier assertion that this is the Assembly that studies much and does little in hopes of reversing this fact.

On Friday the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation announced the beginning of consultations on a new Energy Plan. Once completed, this plan can be added to the Biomass Plan, the Energy Priorities Framework of 2008, the Hydro Strategy and, of course, Creating a Brighter Future, the 2010 report that culminated in a massive review of NTPC power rates. The new Energy Plan will, presumably, be complementary to the Greenhouse Gas Strategy which has yet to result in any rollback outside the GNWT's limited operations in the increase of greenhouse gas production. Meanwhile, electricity rates are soaring, we've taken firm steps backwards from controlling our energy costs by cuts to renewable energy programs, and there's a distinct lack of progress on the one pilot co-generation system promised in the Biomass Strategy.

We're several years and one comprehensive study – at least one – on considering community midwifery services. Despite the benefits in patient care and cost savings demonstrated in our expensive ruminations, we have eliminated one of the two community midwifery programs we have, but we plan to introduce more sometime later.

Bulk drug purchasing. There's another important area of study.

The Early Childhood Development Framework has been dragged forward through three budget cycles and we are still studying that one.

We completed a client satisfaction survey on income assistance but, as we heard Friday, we are still unable to put cheques in the hands of the impoverished with any dependability.

The Student Financial Assistance Review, also long overdue, is still being reviewed.

Our mental health courts and Mental Health Strategy are supposedly rumbling forward. That is, we are doing yet more planning and gathering of information.

In the area of addictions, an area where we of the entire country should have beaucoup expertise, we

have created another forum on addictions soon to start its work.

We are embarking on a study and consultations for a Land Use Sustainability Framework, even while the environmental management regime we will inherit is being mangled to nothingness by the federal government without so much as a by-your-leave from us.

We are embarking on the next Economic Development Strategy and the Mineral Strategy with consultations upcoming.

We are carrying out consultations on fiscal strategy even though that was set in stone last February and its strictures are now strangling needed program improvements that would save us money in the long run.

Looking into it, exploring, researching, considering options, reviewing – the list goes on and they're rarely followed up with action verbs on what we will actually do. We have made progress in finally putting the Deh Cho Bridge boondoggle to rest, although the tower of death and lost opportunities will be with us for a long, long time. Unfortunately, any lessons learned there have been cast into the bottom of the next money pit: the Inuvik-Tuk highway for which we are now 13 months and almost \$12 million into planning.

One-third of the way through our term as of February, and we have as yet not brought one substantial piece of legislation to the floor of this House. Several observations can be made on this state of affairs.

First, departments still seem to be struggling with attempts to break down silos.

We're moving forward on development of an Anti-poverty Strategy, and that's good. The basis of that effort is the need for a coordinated cross-government approach to program development, delivery and evaluation. It's a lesson that can be applied equally across all our programs.

It's taken a mighty effort to get our Education and Health department players at the same table on the early childhood work.

As I said, the linkages aren't being made between support for renewable energy programs and the continuing hemorrhage of taxpayer money into buying down electricity rates all under the general topic heading of "cost of living."

In this area what we are talking about is government – all of government – taking an entirely new and integrated approach to doing business. That's a tall order, I admit. In this environment of supposed austerity, it is essential, if we aren't going to continue putting off preventative measures that would save us money in future program delivery.

Here I hand it to our Cabinet, they are working hard to work with cross-departmental issues and

demolishing the long-standing silos that have resulted in opposing policies. Unfortunately, despite the effort, we are still floundering with our attempts to break these down and failing in our reach for effective results. The opportunity here is for management to deal with the situation. That is, for our Premier to step in and tune up integrated approaches to be more timely and effective. Often a lead Minister treats an issue with priority, while other Ministers, whose coordinated effort is required, do not. There is an entrenched reluctance and lack of traditional process to work in an integrated way across departments and in full cost-accounting ways. I am not saying this will be easy or that it can be done without resources, but something obviously needs to be done to capture the preventative approach we desire.

That's the other big area to be emphasized. We are failing in prevention. In areas such as family violence, midwifery, mental health diversion courts, early childhood development, addictions treatment, cost of energy and increased renewable energy alternatives, we are not spending the money today to prevent continued and mounting costs later.

A lot of this I credit to the myopic view with respect to devolution. How many times have we heard that until a bounty of new funds flowing under devolution is in our hands, we can't afford anything new? I always treat this explanation with extreme caution for two reasons. First, the money coming under the Devolution Agreement is too little for the programs we will be delivering. Rather than a blessing of new resources, we will be scratching around for funds once the reality of that underfunding sinks in. As I've said, the federal dismemberment of the environmental regime is going to see us even more desperate for funds when or if we try to shore up the damage.

I appreciate this opportunity to respond to the opening address. Almost one-third of our way through our term, we need to do a bit of critical navel gazing to assess what we are achieving in relation to our goals. I do not see big improvements for our people in today's society and with today's trends. In many cases I see their challenges mounting. We need to recognize their challenges and begin putting new policy in place and implementing it in a way that meets these concerns and that begins to undercut the key militant expenses that accrue when prevention is missing in action.

I will be seeking the support of my colleagues and Cabinet to get obviously needed and straightforward programs in place and implemented rather than continuing to study them ad infinitum. Let's examine our performance and start implementing programs that will meet our public needs and expectations.

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

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5 on the Order Paper.

---Unanimous consent granted

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

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

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a pleasure to recognize my son Malachi Ramsay in the audience. It's his birthday coming up on Wednesday and he's going to be turning five years old, so I'd like to welcome Malachi. His little brother, Elijah, is with him, but I believe he just had to use the facilities and he'll be back shortly. I'd also like to recognize my new executive assistant, Mr. Ryan Strain, as well.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Hawkins.

### **Reports of Standing and Special Committees**

#### COMMITTEE REPORT 6-17(3): REPORT ON AUGUST 2012 HYDRAULIC FRACTURING STUDY TOUR: TOWARD A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR HYDRAULIC FRACTURING IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure is pleased to provide its Report on August 2012 Hydraulic Fracturing Study Tour: Towards a Policy Framework for Hydraulic Fracturing in the Northwest Territories and commends it to the House.

#### **Introduction**

The emerging shale resource play in the central Mackenzie Valley has the potential to bring unprecedented economic activity and prosperity to the Sahtu region and the Northwest Territories as a whole. These oil and gas resources must be extracted through the use of the horizontal drilling process and multi-stage hydraulic fracturing, used to extract hydrocarbons from deep subsurface shale. Hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, has attracted worldwide attention and continues to be the subject of much publicity and environmental concern. Northern regulators have recently received applications to hydraulically fracture exploratory wells in the Sahtu.

In August 2012, Members of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, and Sahtu Member of the Legislative Assembly, Norman Yakeleya, traveled to Calgary with the territorial Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment and departmental representatives on a hydraulic fracturing study tour. Members received presentations from the minerals, oil and gas division of the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment; the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers; Husky Energy; and all proponents in the central Mackenzie Valley shale play: TriCan Well Services, the National Energy Board, the Energy Resources Conservation Board of Alberta (ERCB), and the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission. The committee also visited a gas plant and well site in the Kananaskis area west of Calgary.

Prior to the study tour, the committee sought to establish a basic understanding of the hydraulic fracturing process and the status of drilling activity and regulation in the Northwest Territories and other jurisdictions. The committee met with the departments of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Environment and Natural Resources, as well as the Pembina Institute, to discuss the possible implications of hydraulic fracturing in the Northwest Territories. The goal of this research has been to gain an understanding of the technical, environmental and regulatory aspects of unconventional resource extraction in order to contribute to the development of a responsible policy approach to hydraulic fracturing in the Northwest Territories. The committee would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank all organizations and individuals for their significant time and effort in meeting with Members, engaging in meaningful discussion, and sharing valuable knowledge and expertise. The committee has discussed the findings of its research and prepared this report and recommendations for the Legislative Assembly.

It is well beyond the scope of the committee's mandate and capacity to comprehensively address all aspects of hydraulic fracturing and its related regulatory processes. Although the committee highlights some areas of specific concern, the main intent of this report is to provide broad recommendations for policy development.

I would now like to turn over the reading of the report to my colleague Mr. Robert Bouchard, MLA for Hay River North.

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

#### **Regulatory Considerations**

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories, as well as Aboriginal governments with settled land claims, have authority in areas such as air quality and wildlife. The Government of the Northwest

Territories is currently negotiating increased management authority for land and water. The committee recognizes the current Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act as a strong federal law, designed by Northerners, that allows for control of the pace and scale of development. A policy on hydraulic fracturing is needed to supplement provisions in the Mackenzie Valley Resources Management Act that respect cultural and ecological values.

Until a Devolution Agreement is reached, the National Energy Board and federally legislated land and water boards will continue to regulate the Northwest Territories' oil and gas industry. Prior to devolution, it is important that the Government of the Northwest Territories has input into this process based on sound, publicly supported policy. There are strong signals that, post-devolution, the Northwest Territories will continue regulatory activities through a service agreement with the National Energy Board.

The future of the shale industry in the Northwest Territories largely depends on the regulatory system. The Northwest Territories' current regulatory process is frequently criticized for various reasons. Through meetings with the National Resource Conservation Board of Alberta and the British Columbia Oil and Gas Commission, Members learned how industry activities can be effectively managed under robust regulations. Both British Columbia and Alberta demonstrated how single-window permitting accelerates regulatory time frames without totally compromising thorough review, industry oversight, consultation with First Nations, and respect for cultural values. The committee recognizes the importance of requiring industry to disclose its activities, establishing regulations for each step of a drilling operation, and the benefits of developing a lifetime regulatory system, from the time land tracts are granted to the time the last well is capped and abandoned.

#### **Recommendation 1**

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a policy framework on hydraulic fracturing that will guide interim input into regulatory processes and form the basis of a future regulatory system post-devolution, and further that the Government of the Northwest Territories consider the examples of other jurisdictions and adopt best practices where applicable.

I will now turn the floor over to my colleague Mr. Blake.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Blake.

#### **Environmental and Technical Considerations**

**MR. BLAKE:** As Members heard from proponents, the central Mackenzie Valley resource play is considered "frontier" not only because it is remote with little infrastructure to support development, but because specific drilling and production conditions for this shale formation are still largely unknown. The technical considerations and impacts of hydraulic fracturing vary from one shale play to another, depending on a wide range of environmental and geological factors. The success of an operation relies on sound knowledge of local geology and finely tuned engineering and drilling expertise. The committee insists that in order to protect ecological integrity and sustain this industry, a baseline understanding of the environmental and geological features of the central Mackenzie Valley must be established before projects enter the production phase. Should companies choose not to advance to production in the near term, this data will remain a valuable starting point for future development.

In addition to geological mapping, the committee agrees that ground and surface water sources, permafrost conditions, seismicity, and proximity of drill sites to critical habitat are among the issues that must be specifically addressed in baseline information gathering, and that the Government of the Northwest Territories should pursue federal resources to enable this work.

#### **Recommendation 2**

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories include in its policy framework on hydraulic fracturing a strategy to gather environmental and geological baseline information, with federal support.

I will now turn the floor over to my colleague Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While many aspects of hydraulic fracturing are specific to a well's location, some technical features of this process are universal. Hydrocarbon-bearing shale is found at least one and a half kilometres below surface. A resounding message that the committee heard from all presenters on the study tour is that sufficient well casing, cementing and depth are critical to protecting groundwater and human and environmental health during any horizontal drilling operation. Inadequacies in these areas are among the leading causes of groundwater contamination in shale plays in the United States. Wellbore integrity is also crucial during the drilling and fracturing process and the management of flowback and produced fluids.

In addition to sound wellbore construction, Members also highlight the importance of micro-seismic monitoring to ensure that fractures remain in their target zone, and to monitor, mitigate and avoid any negative impacts of induced seismicity.

Hydraulic fracturing is, by its very nature, water intensive. Proponents may use propane or other hydrocarbon-based fluids to fracture a well; however, the majority of wells are fractured with large volumes of water, sand and chemical additives. A typical well in the central Mackenzie Valley may require 10,000 to 25,000 cubic metres of water; that is 10 to 25 times the amount in the large water tanks in many of our communities, or 10 times the volume of an Olympic swimming pool. Committee members recognize our northern waters as a treasure and a resource that must be preserved through carefully considered management tools. Any policy on hydraulic fracturing in the Northwest Territories must speak to water management. The committee encourages the Government of the Northwest Territories to support industry initiatives to protect water quality, use non-toxic additives to fracturing fluid, and reduce fresh and surface water consumption. The committee agrees full chemical disclosure is vital to environmental protection and public accountability.

The province of British Columbia presented a clear example of how it regulates, monitors, allocates and reports industrial water use. Industry and provincial regulators felt strongly that provinces and territories should lead regional water monitoring. More baseline information is required for the Northwest Territories to develop effective water management tools.

During the exploration phase, industry will ship fluids and other drilling waste to Alberta for disposal. Transporting waste out of the Northwest Territories on the winter road system appears to be an adequate temporary solution; however, industry emphasized that in order to advance to production, a made-in-the-north water treatment or disposal system must be found.

Deep well injection, pumping wastewater back underground, is the preferred disposal method. Certain jurisdictions regulate disposal wells to ensure environmental protection. The committee learned that these wells must be located in areas where natural and technical barriers can create a secure disposal site. The layers of rock above disposal zones must be tested and monitored to ensure that contaminants do not migrate. Proponents highlighted that if a water treatment plant is established, it must be designed specifically for the oil and gas industry.

The Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers has introduced principles and guidelines for industry that include detailed requirements for fracturing fluid additive disclosure and

management, baseline groundwater testing, wellbore construction, water sourcing and reuse, and fluid handling transport and disposal. Alberta and British Columbia also have well-established regulations for all phases of the drilling process.

### **Recommendation 3**

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories adopt standards for all phases of the drilling process and include these in its policy framework, and strongly recommends these standards be incorporated into regulation at the appropriate time.

I will now turn the floor over to my colleague Mr. Bromley.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Meetings with industry helped the committee establish confidence that proponents will apply their best expertise to development in the central Mackenzie Valley throughout the drilling process. However, the committee insists that environmental and technical challenges require made-in-the-north solutions, as presenters in Calgary also emphasized.

The central Mackenzie Valley is home to many species of wildlife. Land consumption and disturbance, habitat fragmentation, and noise pollution are areas of serious concern for Members as well as for the people of the Northwest Territories. Strategies to monitor the impacts of industry on wildlife and habitat should include the development of independent and project-specific environmental monitoring. The committee highlights the need for comprehensive land-use planning in any area where oil and gas development is contemplated. In the absence of finalized land use plans, area management plans may facilitate both the protection of the natural environment and efficiency in the development of key infrastructure.

### **Recommendation 4**

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories include in its policy on hydraulic fracturing the implementation of environmental monitoring and area management plans.

Absent from presentations during the Calgary study tour was discussion of a comprehensive approach to greenhouse gas emissions related to oil and gas production. These emissions are significant and need to be managed. Best practices are available to limit air pollutants. The Government of the Northwest Territories has the authority to uphold provisions in its Greenhouse Gas Strategy, and



should take into account greenhouse gas emissions related to oil and gas development in its emissions targets and management objectives. Both Alberta and British Columbia report and publish volumes of flared and vented gases, and the Northwest Territories could adopt a similar requirement and require mitigation.

#### **Recommendation 5**

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories include greenhouse gas monitoring and mitigation measures in its policy on hydraulic fracturing.

Mr. Speaker, I will now turn the floor over to my colleague, with your permission, Mr. Nadli.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Nadli.

#### **Public Engagement**

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Northerners are concerned about the use of hydraulic fracturing, as evidenced by participation in public information sessions and frequent northern media coverage on this issue. Due to anti-fracturing activism and political controversy that surrounds shale resource development, the public has varying views and concerns about the unconventional drilling process. Regulators agreed that public concern and criticism provide opportunities to improve the regulatory system and promote good public policy. Along with proponents, they stressed the need for significant public engagement. British Columbia, with the support of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, is moving toward requirements for full public disclosure of industry activities, including well sites and the chemical composition of fracturing fluids. The committee highlights the province's fracfocus.ca initiative, a website designed to provide objective information on hydraulic fracturing, and related oil and gas activities and regulations across Canada. The committee agrees the Government of the Northwest Territories should support and consider future contribution to this valuable public resource.

#### **Recommendation 6**

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories undertake meaningful public consultation in the development of a policy on hydraulic fracturing.

The committee is of the view that the general public and residents in the area where hydraulic fracturing is planned need to be kept informed of industry's activities and afforded the opportunity to benefit from resource development taking place on our lands.

#### **Recommendation 7**

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories include in its policy on hydraulic fracturing requirements for fair and transparent communication and opportunities for public engagement throughout all phases of the development of shale oil and gas projects.

I will now turn the floor back to the chair of the committee, Mr. Hawkins.

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

#### **Conclusion**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In areas where legislated authority does not exist, it is the committee's view that the Government of the Northwest Territories must exercise its moral authority to represent and act in the best interest of the people of the Northwest Territories, and promote sound management of our land and resources. The Government of the Northwest Territories has long experience in ensuring that residents' voices are heard in resource development initiatives, but the time has come for it to assume responsibility for more active policy development as well.

The Calgary study tour and preceding information-gathering helped Members better understand the challenges and opportunities for the further development of the central Mackenzie Valley shale resource play, and the high priority of addressing these issues. In its exploratory phase alone, oil and gas development is generating significant activity in Sahtu communities. The sustainability and success of this industry relies on how the Northwest Territories responds to the risks and opportunities at hand and the steps we take to ensure adequate environmental and geological information, public involvement and regulatory processes before production. To facilitate production in the most socially, environmentally and economically responsible way, the Northwest Territories must establish its own policy to guide the practice of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing within its jurisdiction.

#### **Recommendation 8**

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days that includes a plan to develop a policy on hydraulic fracturing.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure on the August 2012 Hydraulic Fracturing Study Tour.

MOTION TO RECEIVE  
COMMITTEE REPORT 6-17(3)  
AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,  
CARRIED

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Committee Report 6-17(3) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

---Carried

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and move Committee Report 6-17(3) into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** Committee Report 6-17(3) will be moved into Committee of the Whole today. Thank you.

Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Abernethy.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 93-17(3):  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE STRATEGIC PLAN:  
5 YEAR IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY  
2012-2017

TABLED DOCUMENT 94-17(3):  
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2011

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents, entitled Department of Justice Strategic Plan, Five-Year Implementation Strategy, 2012-2017, and the 2011 Public Service Annual Report. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 95-17(3):  
ANNUAL REPORT ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES  
2011-2012

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled Annual Report on Official Languages, 2011-2012. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Minister Ramsay.

TABLED DOCUMENT 96-17(3):  
NWT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND  
INVESTMENT CORPORATION  
ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

TABLED DOCUMENT 97-17(3):  
BDIC NWT 2012-13 CORPORATE PLAN

TABLED DOCUMENT 98-17(3):  
GNWT SUPPORT TO THE NWT FILM  
AND MEDIA ARTS INDUSTRY  
PROGRESS REPORT

**HON. DAVID RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following three documents, entitled NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Annual Report, 2011-2012; BDIC NWT 2012-2013 Corporate Plan; and GNWT Support to the NWT Film and Media Arts Industry Progress Report. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 99-17(3):  
MEASURING SUCCESS AND FOCUSING  
ON RESULTS: NWT HEALTH AND  
SOCIAL SERVICES SYSTEM  
2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled Measuring Success and Focusing on the Results, NWT Health and Social Services System, 2011-12 Annual Report.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Dolynny.

TABLED DOCUMENT 100-17(3):  
INUVIK EAST THREE SCHOOL  
PROJECT DOCUMENTS

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table various documents pertaining to my analysis of the E3 School. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Mr. Bouchard.

### Motions

MOTION 18-17(3):  
APPOINTMENT OF TWO MEMBERS TO THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS ADJUDICATION PANEL,  
CARRIED

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS Section 48(1) of the Human Rights Act provides for the establishment of an adjudication panel composed of at least three persons, appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS Section 48(5) of the Human Rights Act provides that the members of the panel hold office, during good behaviour, for a term of four years, with the exception of the first members appointed;

AND WHEREAS the appointments of two of the adjudication panel members expired on October 31, 2012;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management has considered a number of qualified individuals for appointment as adjudication panel members;

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

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the following persons be recommended to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for appointment as members of the Human Rights Adjudication Panel, effective November 5, 2012, for a term of four years:

Mr. Louis Sebert of Fort Smith; and

Mr. Sheldon Toner of Yellowknife.

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called.

---Carried

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Yakeleya.

MOTION 20-17(3):  
MENTAL HEALTH AND  
ADDICTIONS RESOURCES,  
CARRIED

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS investing in prevention, education and awareness, and enhancing addictions treatment programs are priorities of the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Health and Social Services has recently released its Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan 2012-2015, which identifies service gaps including needs for a medical detoxification program, more on-the-land programs, more community follow-up and aftercare following residential treatment, supported independent living programs for individuals with chronic mental illness, stronger integrated service management, more programs targeted towards children and youth, programs to address specialized addiction treatment such as for crack cocaine and prescription drug abuse, programs

addressing mental health and addictions issues among the elderly, and more individualized mental health and addictions programs;

AND WHEREAS Northwest Territories rates of substance abuse remain among the highest in Canada and substance abuse is a factor in more than 90 percent of complaints to police in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories coroner recently reported a total of 84 suicide deaths between 2001 and 2010, accounting for 10 percent of all deaths during that 10-year period and a trend of between seven and 10 deaths by suicide each year;

AND WHEREAS countless individuals and organizations across the Northwest Territories have for decades been calling for additional investments in mental health and addictions treatment programs, most recently during the pre-budget consultations conducted by the Minister of Finance;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly strongly urges the Government of the Northwest Territories to include sufficient new funding, of at minimum \$2 million, in the Health and Social Services 2013-14 Main Estimates for the department to substantially enhance addictions and mental health services;

AND FURTHER, that these funds be added to the department's base for future years and be directed at program delivery to address service gaps identified in the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan, 2012-2015, rather than further evaluation and studies, with the ultimate objective of creating a seamless, integrated system of addictions and mental health programs delivered within the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHER, that the government provides to the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, before the February-March 2013 sitting of the Legislative Assembly, a list of the proposed new addictions and Mental Health Program delivery investments to be implemented in 2013-14;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the government provides a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, colleagues. We bring again another motion in regard to this issue. We had two other motions in the 16<sup>th</sup>. So these motions we bring forward as MLAs because this is a very powerful issue that we're dealing with.

When we all sat down 13 months ago as MLAs, we talked about our priorities. Our priorities talked about this very issue about having healthy people, independent people and healthy families, and

addiction was one of the biggest issues that we talked about. So this motion speaks to our priorities of the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

This motion talks about recognizing gaps – and the government also recognizes there are gaps – and how do we help people. We want to look at ways that we can create a place where people who want to get help... Sometimes it becomes very difficult for someone to look for help and even ask for help. So we need to create place, a policy within our government that welcomes them to get help without any shame, without any guilt.

So this motion speaks about the strong abuses that are happening in our communities, it talks about the complaints that we get from the RCMP, 95 to 90 percent of the complaints come from our communities. They RCMP say if we did not have alcohol abuse or substance abuse, we know we would be a pretty good community, but most of the complaints deal with that. This motion talks about how we deal with issues of great importance to our people in our communities. Even the coroner's report talks about people dying with a high rate of alcoholic-related deaths in our communities, and we know them personally.

The people in the North are calling for help. People in the North are looking to us to help our own people. We have been saying this over time, over time, and that we seem yet to be, I don't know if it's stuck or stubborn not to find ways how to help them. This motion talks about some specific actions, investing some money into a program that would help them.

Government may say that's another \$2 million, and where do we find that \$2 million. Government will say that. We know that. We ask this help for the 16<sup>th</sup>, same thing. The Minister has embarked on a journey with the addictions forum. I think the Minister is on a path that people will tell him what we're already saying here. We need programs in our communities. If we could find money for the Deh Cho Bridge, we certainly can find money for this here.

I think once and for all – we're at the early start of this Assembly – this Assembly could be known for attacking the alcohol abuse and drugs in our community. If anything, we can be known for stepping up and fighting the alcoholism in our communities. When we first became MLAs, people looked to us for hope. They looked for us to lead and stand up and say no longer is this the norm in our communities. No longer is it normal to drink weekend after weekend after weekend. They look to us when we ask them to put their X on our names and they ask us to help them.

There are a lot of good people in our communities who have stopped using alcohol altogether. I know a lot. There are a lot of good people who also want to stop. They have a hard time because of their

own personal reasons. This motion talks about creating that place for them. I don't know what it is but I know people want help.

This motion talks about investing in people. Investing in the hope just as much as we invest in the Deh Cho Bridge, just as much as we invested in the fibre optic line, just as much as we invested money in the Tuk-Inuvik highway. We found money for those infrastructures; certainly we can find money to invest into our people. I ask the Members to speak on this motion and support this motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I'll allow the seconder on the motion to speak. Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to thank publicly MLA Yakeleya for bringing forward this motion. It is one that I believe strongly in and I want to thank him for his stewardship of getting it on the floor. I also want to thank the Members in advance of those who will be speaking in favour of it. Of course, I want to use the time now to shame and shun the government, who will not be voting on the motion, who will be abstaining, as we know in advance of this.

Addictions are a relentless problem. I do not have to tell anyone in this House how important action is required. Significant action keeps being called by Members and the public, and the government shows little interest or response. Yet again, they show shameless interest in studying the problem, one that they know well. We have many smart people, hardworking people in our public service that could write book after book on issues like this, yet we need to seek more public input.

There comes a time when public input has reached its peak and we have received more than enough to deal with this problem. Why? Because I can tell you I've been here nine years and it's the same message over. Do something. What? Study again? Do something, please. More excuses. Status quo has become the norm on this particular issue. I call upon this government to say excuses no more, we will act.

There is always money for government projects. Members are asking for what really looks like 1.5 percent on our budget. Yet we hear them whining about balanced budgets, our books, yada, yada, yada. The reality is those books belong to Members, too, not just Ministers. Those books belong to the people of the Northwest Territories. This relentless fight must have this brought to the table and people will understand this in this House, in this business, in this ministry, in this Assembly, that the books belong to the people. The ones we talk about defending and balancing, we're also putting greater people at risk.

It is our chance to leave this term, as we look forward to just under three years from now, with the sense of accomplishment. When are we going to

look back and say what did we do? Sure, fixing a policy line makes sense to some bureaucrat out there, but, quite frankly, I don't care what they think on that point. I want the citizens to feel strongly when we leave this term that we've done something to improve their lives. I want them to be able to look at this last Assembly and say the 17<sup>th</sup> Assembly pulled up their socks, they changed the ground, they heard our message and they did something. The average person doesn't care about a little policy line buried in some sentence with commas and whatnot. They want to see action. That's what this motion speaks to. That's what Mr. Yakeleya just said a few minutes ago.

There are hundreds and hundreds of pages. There are shelves and shelves of binders. What do they all say? No to this issue. I'd say, finally, let's get this government behind a yes once in a while. This government could do it. If it was a shiny project that the government thought they'd get some excitement behind, they would have built this years ago.

There are many aspects to this particular motion that need to be further highlighted, one being youth treatment. There is a huge gap in our territorial system. The second one which has come across my desk many times over the years is couples treatment. What do we do?

It's time the Minister and it's time the government understand what the people are saying. The people have been leading on this issue far too long. They've been calling upon their Ministers to lead on this issue for a change. They are getting tired, as I am getting tired, but I will never miss an opportunity to tell this government to do something. The excuses are over. Let's get to work.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this motion. As I referenced in my statement, it's time to put the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan to work. It is not time for further studying.

There are lots of actions that are planned for in the document, but the department needs the resources to get the job done. That's what is asked for in this motion: resources.

This Assembly should have a priority focus on prevention and addictions. We said so in our Caucus priorities. The Assembly should put money into those priorities if we really believe what we said over a year ago. There's no point in having priorities if we don't focus our resources on them, and we are focusing a lot of our resources on the economic development priority, also in our Caucus priority, but we are forgetting to fund the social priorities effectively.

The Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan identifies 10 service gaps, identifies them thoroughly, and I agree with the department's analysis on those gaps. But I have to say, again, that there is no need to continue to study or to start another study on the issue of addictions.

Follow the recommendations of this motion, it calls for funding and it calls for action. The Minister has been heard to say that the communities feel ignored, not listened to. I don't doubt that they feel that way, but I believe it is because we as a government continue to ignore their requests, their need for resources at the community level. We know the problem, we just refuse to provide the supports that our people are asking for, and it's been said that the people closest to the problem often best understand it and know how to fix it. Our communities have been asking for resources for a long time. We should hear them and act on their asks.

The Community Wellness Plan currently being developed is a good step, but we need to put lots of other financial resources, as well, into the communities. We need mental health workers and programs at the community level for prevention, for detox, for aftercare, just as an example, and the programs must be targeted for youth, for adults, for older adults, for families, for males, for females. The needs for each are slightly different, and each should have programs and supports adjusted to fit their group. I think we – and by “we” I mean MLAs, residents, communities, staff – have a pretty good idea of what is needed.

To the government I say, put money into the Health and Social Services budget and begin to attack the Mental Health and Addictions Program where it's most needed: at the community level. With adequate supports, our people will start to turn around and become successful contributing members of our NWT society.

I fully support this motion. Addictions are the scourge which underlies our northern society, and it keeps us from a healthy life and a healthy society. This motion can start us on that long, difficult path to success, but we have to take the first step down that path. I urge all Members to support this motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion. Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have all heard our Members' statements, questions, the motion brought to the floor about how big of an issue this is to the people of the Northwest Territories. It goes way beyond the walls of the Legislative Assembly and the decisions that are made here. If I'm going to say one thing, and as we keep our fiscal responsibility in place and the status quo for programs and services, what else is going to be put in place for the status quo is the alcohol-related deaths: 49 percent suicides, 57 percent

accidental, 76 percent homicides, which today, if actions were taken, could all be decreased. Those are big statistics that are way above the national averages. The decision has to be made in this House today, and I'm hoping that our Minister of Health and Social Services is looking at those stats and looking at making a decision on them. When these things happen in our families it doesn't only affect the families, but it affects our communities and even territorial-wide. We are a small population in the Northwest Territories. When something happens in a community it affects us all, and it affects us very deeply and strongly.

Like I said, if I can leave one thing, if we're going to keep the fiscal strategy as the status quo, then all our health status reports are going to stay the status quo as well. All the jails, all the crime-related people going to jail for alcohol-related crimes are going to stay status quo unless we do something about it. More importantly, the tragic deaths that happen in our communities are going to stay the same, as well, unless we act on it today.

I am in support of this motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion. Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this motion. It's about this side of the House identifying an issue and providing some solutions. I like what Mr. Moses said about performance measures. If those indicators of homicides and deaths, if we make them indicators and in one year's time when we're standing here we see a decrease in that, that's action. The only way we can do it is by recommending to government to invest more resources by adding \$2 million. I know the government is going to play poor as a pauper, but it's okay when they invest in infrastructure. They've got millions from out of... They've got magic money and we want some of that magic money to invest in our people.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This isn't the first time that my colleagues have called on the government to take some real action on this issue. I have to admit that I have been very disappointed to the response to previous calls for action, and particularly I wanted to mention a treatment system that had been developed in the Yukon and was written off, as we heard in the response from Cabinet, apparently because it wasn't fully carried out. They didn't have firm evidence that it worked, yet it was based on common sense and it was a comprehensive approach. It was full of common sense and yet our Cabinet chose to, again, ignore this when they had an opportunity to put it in place even on a pilot basis.

What were some of the bits of common sense that it proposed or brought? It was community-based. It involved strong preparation and support of people who were putting themselves forward for treatment in preparation to ensure that they achieved the best benefits from the actual treatment itself. It ensures community peers went forward together so that they could always have that support. It provided for follow-up and aftercare once people returned to the communities. All elements of this study and yet nonchalantly, apparently written off in favour of more study.

We've heard over and over again from people across the Territories what needs to be done. I can be walking down the street and be pulled over by a staff person from the Tree of Peace, and I'm sure that this phenomenon is true for all of us in all of our communities. There are people that know what needs to be done, and surely we've listened to them over the past decades.

Of course, in terms of the economies of investment here, this has the potential for a big return. We know that we are losing our people and what they can contribute to society and our economy. There's a big cost to procrastination here. Again, as has been mentioned, the biggest cost is people. We are talking about community members, friends, relatives. We're talking about our families, individuals in our families, and when we lose them or see the suffering that they cause or experience or bring to others, it's a major cost that we need to be addressing.

The motion calls for – and I thank my colleagues for this – creating a seamless, integrated system of addictions and mental health programs. A seamless, integrated system of addictions and mental health programs. To me, this means we need to, again, support a person through a period of sobriety prior to treatment, help prepare them for taking the best advantage of that treatment, help them through treatment and, of course, the aftercare, and all within the context of family, community, their personal history, counselling and so on.

A seamless, integrated system means that the policy is focused on families, children, community, education, health, corrections and so on. They all need to be cognizant of addictions and responsive to the opportunity to help address addictions and people who are suffering from them, fighting them or experiencing trauma because of people that have addictions.

I just want to say that I think a lot of strong points have been brought forward. I'm sure the message is clear. We can't be procrastinating any further. The time is now. Let's get it done.

I will be supporting this motion. I, again, would like to express appreciation to my colleagues for bringing this forward. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of the motion. I want to congratulate and thank Member Yakeleya for bringing it forward, Member Hawkins for seconding it, and for all our colleagues here today who have brought forward into this House very strong and compelling arguments for the need of not just addictions awareness, but now we're putting some money behind that need.

We've heard today, and we've also heard over the last couple of weeks during this sitting, many different ways where money has been used frivolously or monies where we could have been reapplying it to proper programs such as this. We have the need and we've had the desire to finance money for another territory at huge cost to this government and huge cost to taxpayers that goes unnoticed, but there is a number quantifiable to that and a quantum.

We were able to find no problem to find monies and bonuses for \$1.2 million for senior bureaucrats, and yet that goes without question. It seems to be common practice. We can afford to pay over \$750,000 in WSCC penalties over the last two years. Again, with very little question with very little care in the world as to, really, the true cost to we, as taxpayers, and to the people who need it most. Yet, we hear many times the experts, the medical practitioners and how many more coroner's requests and inquests we're going to have to have in this House before we can do something proactive for the people who need it most.

We've heard from the other Minister, the Minister of Finance, on his Lego road show. This is a dialogue and budget dialogue talks that he took throughout the Northwest Territories, and in this Lego road show it was clear and evident that people came back to the table with Legos in hand saying we want to put these Legos, we want to put this money and infrastructure into addictions. We've heard it. We've heard it from everybody in the Northwest Territories. We've heard it from people here.

The question I have to ask not just the Minister of Health and Social Services but all of Cabinet: Are you listening to the people? Do you hear their voice? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion. Mr. Nadli.

**MR. NADLI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise on this occasion to support the motion. I think we all can safely say that we have brothers and sisters that are going through some problems and, of course, in our communities we likely see it every day. It's an affliction and that is something that gravely affects our society in this day and age, especially as we're going towards the future as we

take on challenges and also, at the same time trying to work with each other, it becomes a very big issue.

Although, perhaps in some instances alcohol and drug addiction is an individual decision that a person has to make, I think government still has the responsibility to provide programs and services. If there are treatment programs out there, they need to be enhanced. Is there a need for a detox centre? Well, it needs to be established. There's no doubt it's been acknowledged, perhaps, in the communities that we do need help. I think this government cannot deny that we have problems. This government has to accept the reality that, yes, we have to admit that we have problems, stop denying and start addressing the immediate problems.

I think there's the support for people that is needed to try to maintain a healthy and wellness lifestyle. Some people have made the comment that it's a real challenge in the communities when they try to stay sober and healthy. What kind of support mechanisms are there for them to try and maintain that healthy lifestyle? I acknowledge those challenges. At the same time, I think the challenge that we have is to not only try and work with the mainstream concepts of recovery in terms of treatment and addictions, but to try and infuse it with culturally appropriate ways so that, you know, perhaps it could be on-the-land-based programs that create thinking in terms of a person's wellness, in terms of trying to give them support so that at least we make the attempt to try to make them succeed.

With those things, again, I support this motion. I'd like to thank the mover and the seconder for taking a leadership role and stepping up to say that, yes, indeed, we need to go down this path right now. We need to do something. Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

**HON. TOM BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government is looking at the current residential treatment facility. It will look at the youth treatment and how we handle youth treatment across the territory. It will look at community-based addictions programming. We're going to look at traditional healing. We're going to look at current addictions programs and how effective they are. We're going to look at best practices not only across the NWT but across the territories and across the country. We're going to determine what needs exist to support those individuals with addictions and mental health. We're also going to look at all of the reports that the Members speak of, the reports that apparently were done but were not actioned. We are going to look at those. Although some of them have been actioned, we will look at them to make sure that they've been actioned.

All of that work is going to be done by the addictions forum. That's their mandate. That's why they want to do what has been requested today.

We have the integrated service delivery model in health. That is not only health care, it's also social services and what's needed in each community. We're going to look at that. We're going to look at aftercare. We're going to look at the Mental Health and Addictions Action Plan. We tabled that. It's clearly a three-year plan. We are at the very outset of this plan. At the beginning of this plan, we indicated that we are going to put a forum together. That is going to help us carry the plan out. We are open to suggestions. The MLAs have asked if the addictions forum could meet with them. I said yes, that's not a problem. They are prepared to do that. So it's going to be an opportunity to work with that forum.

We have gone through the business planning process. In the business planning process, the Standing Committee on Social Programs has made recommendations to this government. There is a dollar figure in there, as well, that says this is how much money Health and Social Services needs to move forward with prevention, addictions, mental health and addictions work. We are looking at that. We are still looking at that letter from that standing committee that asked.

But there are a lot of requests, all kinds of requests from that side of the floor and all over. There are pressures all over. We have to make decisions and we have to utilize the money for the best way that we think those dollars should be utilized. That's why we're looking at the letter from the Standing Committee on Social Programs, because that has given us an opportunity to sit back and look at the requests and say, how much of that is something that's essential to what we need to do right now this year.

This \$2 million request is not something that has gone through the business planning process. It could be a part of the request from the Standing Committee on Social Programs; it could very well be a part of that request. This is what our position on that is. We are looking at that through that process. We are following the business planning process. We are following the government's process on how to get money into the budget.

Just a comment as an example, youth treatment. We talk about youth treatment. There is a request for a youth treatment, maybe even a youth treatment facility. I've tried to respond to that by saying we could probably have a youth treatment component within our residential treatment. It would be very difficult to ask the people of the Northwest Territories to pay for a full treatment facility for youth. We treat five youth per year. It's very difficult. That's a lot of money. We've done that before. We've seen that in the young offenders facility. A

young offenders facility was operating at an astronomical cost per person. This government recognized that and shut it down. We can't afford that.

Our best bang for the buck, if we can't put a program into our current residential facility for youth, is to send them south. We have no option. We cannot have a facility there, because treating youth is a little bit different. Treating youth means that the youth are going to identify that they have an addiction issue. There are not many people at 18 years old who are going to all of a sudden say, I have an addictions issue. At that point, being an addict is far, far from their mind. It is later on in life when they become adults and have work, responsibilities, and families that they realize that they may have addiction issues and then seek treatment at that point. It is very difficult for youth and very uncommon for youth to be standing up and saying they have addiction issues. That's just one example.

We are doing wellness plans. We are going to be forging into some health plans across the territory, every community. We are hoping that this forum will give us some information. Considering what their mandate is, their research mandate, I feel that we can move to the next level through the regular business planning process.

As this is direction to the government, the government will be abstaining from the vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the motion. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to try to be concise and measured in my comments here. First of all, let me say that I do support the motion. I think that we as a government do need to do more to address a very prevalent and a very large problem in the Northwest Territories. However, there is no amount of money that this government could acquire or could spend that could address this situation in and of itself.

We have to meet people halfway. I do like the fact that this ministerial forum is going out to talk to people in the communities. We as a government have done a disservice to our people and we are deceiving them if they look at us and think that we have all the answers to this problem of addictions in the Northwest Territories, because we don't now, we never will have. We have to put that out there. But what we have to do as a government is we have to be ready to respond to the aspirations of communities and of people who do want to be sober. We have to also go even further and encourage them. I think we need to denormalize. The Minister said you can hardly find a teenager that is going to say I have an addictions problem and I need help. Somehow we have to denormalize that after a Friday or a Saturday night out on the



town that the whole talk the next day is bragging about how drunk they got. We heard the binging statistics there provided by Mr. Yakeleya today. We have to tell people that isn't funny and that isn't normal. And you know what? That's nothing to be celebrated. Can we say that? That is nothing to be celebrated, people going out and getting that silly, crazy drunk. As I said in my statement today, it's not normal.

Myself, I tend to avoid things that make me sick, I don't eat food that makes me sick. I don't put things in my mind that make me sick in my mind, and I don't ingest things into my body that make me sick. That's not normal behaviour. We have to somehow instill that in our young people, that self-respect, self-preservation... People say oh, that's just a rite of passage, that's just the young. You know, they think that they're indestructible. No, I don't buy that. We have to start, I believe, with the young. Somebody said, how early of a curriculum, at what age would it be okay to start teaching little children? I think any time. I think you wouldn't believe the ability that children have to absorb and understand these sorts of issues.

As a government, I think we have to do our part, but there are many, many paths to sobriety. For as many people who have become sober who had addictions that were prevalent in their life, you will find a different story of how they got there, through mentorship, through sponsorship, through AA programs, through meditation, through prayer, through recognition of their need to be spiritually well as well as physically and emotionally well. I think if you interviewed people that have crossed over and become well, you will find many, many paths. I think we have to hold all of them as possible prospects for... Then it has to be celebrated.

I remember during National Addictions Week over on the K'atlodeeche First Nation, there was one year in their gymnasium at their school where they actually posted all the names of the people in their community that were sober. Yay! I mean, that's great. That is something to be celebrated. That was a progression. That was a celebration for their community and I think we need to really support that kind of thing.

Let's not lead people to think that we as a government have all the answers, that we have enough money. It is a multi-pronged problem. It is complex and out of control. We have to do our part, but people also have to meet us. We have to respect the ways that they come forward with, as well, on how they see accomplishing a healthy lifestyle.

I hear my friend Mr. Yakeleya – just to show you how far we as a government have taken away people's autonomy and people's self-determination – talking about on-the-land programs. Nobody has

to ask, no community has to ask our permission as a government to go on the land and remove themselves from whatever the temptations of community living are. The land is there and if you know how to survive on the land, go on the land. Like, where do people get the idea they need our permission to go do that? They surely don't. So it's a balancing act. We have to do our part, people have to do their part and we have to support them in doing their part. I will be supporting the motion. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I'll allow closing remarks to the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues for their comments. I know the Cabinet is listening. I know people in our communities are listening, and I want to let my colleagues know that this issue has been a long-standing issue in our small communities, no different than the larger centres. They have the same issues in the regional centres and in the small communities.

I think if each Member stands up who has been affected in one way or another by an alcohol or drug issue, we'd all be standing up. We know family and friends, and this motion talks about believing in people. What do we believe in? When we became MLAs we believed in the people. Everybody that came and voted for us and talked to us, some were right down in the dumps, as the saying goes, and we talked to them. They honestly said they want to get sober or get away from drugs. That's a powerful dependency they have. They told us. The sober people walked up to us and talked to us and said this is what a good life they had either through a 12-step program, through prayers, church groups, they talked about a good, sober life.

Then we've got the young people who learn the ways that it's not okay, it's not okay to walk around the communities sober, because everybody else is drinking and going out to party and they act tough and they joke about it.

I believe in my people. I believe that they can get well if we meet them halfway. This is about asking for money. It costs a lot of money to go on the land.

Mrs. Groenewegen is right; our land is out there, but somehow we have created a dependency in our people to say government help me with rope, because we've got so far away from that independent thinking, that strong thinking in our mind, that we depend on government for food, housing, everything, to clothe us and we're running out of money. The Finance Minister keeps telling us where are we going to find the money. We've become so dependent in our minds that we want government to sober us up. We can't even do that ourselves. That's how far we've come. That is not right.

We have to do it now. We've got to do it right now as we speak, so people will hear us in the communities. It's a very powerful addiction, alcohol or drugs. It's very powerful. The people cry to be sober, but they cry in silence.

Why do it? Because our people depend on us as we depend on them, and there's a lot of pain associated with it. I didn't realize the amount of pain that alcohol brings until my stepfather got killed by alcohol – I was 19 years old – on January 1, 1980. I stood at the bed of the hospital health centre with my brothers and sisters and we asked my mom, can we take him home. Mom said he's not coming home with us. The amount of pain that caused us, my brothers and sisters, we stood there, tears in our eyes and we didn't say anything because men don't cry. The amount of pain that we felt all those years.

We all have personal stories like this, and it's cunning and baffling because we don't know why. We have to do something, as leaders, for our children. I remember my grandmother telling me that. This has to stop. I said no, Granny, I like my drink, I'm not going to stop. Elders tell us and now we're telling our children. I never would have thought that I could be in leadership like this if my Granny didn't believe in me. Thank you for not stopping believing in me. I didn't realize that. There's hope in all of us, in our people. That's what leaders do when we bring our issues to the table here in this Assembly. This is our government, and I think the Minister is doing something that's going to cost us \$300,000, and I hope the end result is priceless from what you're going to get from the community.

We're in a position to lead today, right now at this very moment. We're leaders. People elected us to lead, to give them a better life, to inspire enough. To say nothing is a disservice to our people. We have to say some of the things that sometimes are not very popular, are not very comfortable, but we need to say these things. We're all from the Northwest Territories and that's what leaders do. We hear from Cabinet we have to make decisions. They might not be the ones you guys like over here, but we have to make them. This side of the table puts a motion here, you might not like it, but we have to do it. We've got 11 Members here.

So again, I hope this motion starts a new way of life, a new way of thinking, a new way to give hope to our people, a new way to deal with issues. This motion talks about giving life and respecting people in a way that they know what's best for them. This motion talks about investing in people. Certainly, we have found money, like I said, for other infrastructure projects. We certainly can find money for this project. Put it into the education. Put it into the schools. Put it into healing. Put it into justice. We've got to do other things because of the sanity

of this alcohol that is brought to our community. It's going to drive us to endless more amounts of high crime statistics and other things that we're not very good at dealing with.

I would like a recorded vote. I thank my colleagues for speaking on this. I thank Mr. Hawkins for seconding the motion. I thank also the Minister for speaking to this motion.

#### RECORDED VOTE

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Member is seeking a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Blake, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Dolynny, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Moses, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. All those opposed, please rise. All those abstaining, please rise.

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. All those in favour, 11; all those abstaining, zero; abstentions, seven. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

#### First Reading of Bills

##### BILL 17:

##### SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2012-2013

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2012-2013, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2012-2013, has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

#### Second Reading of Bills

##### BILL 17:

##### SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2, 2012-2013

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable

Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2012-2013, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2012-2013, has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Bouchard.

BILL 15:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
HUMAN RIGHTS ACT, NO. 3

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3, be read for the second time.

Bill 15 amends the Human Rights Act to establish that the director of human rights is an employee in the public service. This act also amends the act to modify the terms of employment of the members of the adjudication panel established under the act and to authorize the Speaker, on the recommendation of the Board of Management, to designate the chairperson and deputy chairperson of the adjudication panel. The adjudication panel members may designate an acting chairperson for the adjudication panel in certain circumstances.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3, has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 39(2) and have Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3, moved into Committee of the Whole today.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2; Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act; and Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3, with Ms. Bisaro in the chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Alright. I will call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The committee wishes to consider Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2; Bill 13, An Act

to Repeal the Credit Union Act; and Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, committee. We will start with Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2. The Minister responsible for the bill, the Minister of Justice, would you please introduce the bill?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I am pleased to appear before committee today to review Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2. We are here to propose a change to this act to ensure that NWT residents are not affected by a change in terminology.

The current Human Rights Act establishes various prohibited grounds of discrimination including a conviction for which a pardon has been granted. The proposed changes have become necessary as a consequence of the Government of Canada's Bill C-10, the Safe Streets and Communities Act, which received assent on March 13, 2012. That omnibus bill amended the Criminal Records Act to set up a new system which replaces the use of pardons, in most instances, with record suspensions. The Canadian Human Rights Act has already been amended by the federal legislation to include a prohibition of discrimination based on a conviction for which a record suspension has been ordered. This proposed amendment to our territorial Human Rights Act will also prohibit discrimination based on an operative record suspension in addition to the existing prohibition pertaining to a pardoned conviction.

The process for obtaining a record suspension is nearly identical to the previous process for obtaining pardon. This proposed amendment will serve to ensure that NWT residents who received a record suspension will be protected against discrimination to the same extent as those who have received a pardon.

I am pleased to respond to any questions that committee may have.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. I will go to the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Mr. Moses, for any comments on the bill.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2, on November 1, 2012. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill. The amendments were made necessary by the federal Safe Streets and Communities Act which set up a system of records suspensions to replace pardons in most instances.

The Canadian Human Rights Act has already been amended to prohibit discrimination based on a conviction for which a records suspension is in place. Bill 12 makes a similar change to our territorial Human Rights Act.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 12 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on the bill. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Moses. I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he has any witnesses he wishes to bring into the House.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** I do, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the witnesses into the House.

Okay, committee, I will open the floor to general comments on Bill 12. Are there any general comments? Is committee agreed we'll move to detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Mr. Abernethy, would you introduce your witness for us, please?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. With me today is Mark Aitken. He is the acting assistant deputy minister for the Attorney General branch.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Welcome, Mr. Aitken. Bill 12. We will defer the bill and title page until after we have considered the clause-by-clause. Committee, we'll move to clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 4 inclusive approved

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** We'll return to the previous page, Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** To the bill as a whole.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Does committee agree that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 12 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Thank you to your witness. Sergeant-at-

Arms, if you would escort the witness out of the Chamber.

We'll move onto Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act. We'll go to the Minister responsible for the bill. Mr. Abernethy, do you have any comments or an introduction to the bill?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm pleased to appear before committee today to speak to you about Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act.

There have not been any credit unions in the Northwest Territories since all of those that had been established failed in the late 1970s. After the depositors of the insolvent credit unions were compensated by the GNWT, a review to determine the cause of the collapse was conducted and one of its conclusions was that the act should be repealed. This was not done at the time, but the act was rendered inoperative with the repeal of most of the regulations and appointments under the act. The Credit Union Act is now very outdated.

Amendments to the Bank Act have been passed that will soon allow local credit unions to be incorporated or branches established under federal legislation. These credit unions would be regulated by the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions, the existing entity that regulates the banks, and deposits will be insured by the Canadian Deposit Insurance Corporation. I look forward to responding to any questions that committee may have.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. I will now go to the chair of the committee that reviewed the bill, the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, Mr. Moses.

**MR. MOSES:** Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act, on November 1, 2012. The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The Credit Union Act is so out of date that it is inoperative. There have been no credit unions in the Northwest Territories since 1978. Meanwhile, changes to the federal legislation will soon enable NWT-based credit unions and national credit unions to operate here.

Bill 13 also deletes references to the Credit Union Act in two other territorial acts. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 13 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 13. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Abernethy, do you have witnesses that you would like to bring into the House?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I do.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Is committee agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would please escort the witness into the Chamber.

Mr. Abernethy, would you introduce your witnesses, please?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. On my left I have Gary McDougall, the director of legal registries. On my right is Lucy Austin, legislative counsel.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Committee will defer consideration of the title page... Right. Do we have any opening comments? I forgot that. Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I do have some general comments. I just want to do due diligence on behalf of being a committee member that was present during the public review on November 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, with respect to the repeal of this act.

It would definitely be important to note and, again, to get reaffirmation and confirmation by the department and by the Minister that there is, indeed, no proponent, no one individual or no organization that is currently in the queue for any type of application process with respect to forming, or the intent of a credit union. I'm hoping that within the framework of the general comments that we can get that again, that reaffirmation, that reassurance that if we are going to be repealing, that there is going to be a gap in availability as we're waiting for the federal statute to occur with respect to the formation of a credit union.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. There is nobody that we're aware of. Nobody has expressed an interest or has indicated to the department or the government at this time that they're interested. Even if there were, there would be a problem anyway. The regulations around the existing act have been pretty much gutted at this point so that even if somebody were to submit, we wouldn't have the tools to consider them.

The federal government is working on their bill, which will hopefully be in place soon. Then if anybody chooses to pursue this in the future, there will be an opportunity, but there's been a gap since probably the late '70s or early '80s until now. As I

said, nobody has approached us expressing any interest to do this in the Northwest Territories.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** No further questions.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Are there any further opening comments? Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to confirm; am I to understand that we are repealing this act and we're not planning to bring another sort of updated equivalent in?

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Abernethy.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. That is correct.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks for that confirmation. I've just, by way of a question, the Minister is comfortable that the new federal legislation, which has been passed but we're waiting for implementation, will provide a full opportunity for a credit union to be established in the Northwest Territories as an NWT institution under federal law.

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** It will provide anybody who's interested in doing that in the Northwest Territories the avenue to do so, yes.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you for that. The last question I have is the act that's been passed, does it strive to ensure, sort of, the local benefits that we've come to expect from credit unions where investors have the opportunity to invest locally and see their dollars bring the greatest benefit possible to the local and regional economies?

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** The federal legislation does provide the cooperative features that many have become familiar with when it comes to credit unions across the country.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Are there any further opening comments? Is committee agreed we will move to detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Okay. Committee, we will defer the title page of the bill. We'll move to page 1, clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 3 inclusive approved

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Okay. Committee, we will go back a page to the title page of Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act. Does committee agree to the bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act is now ready for third reading?

---Bill 13 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Minister. Thank you to your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would please escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, we'll move onto Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3. The bill's sponsor, Mr. Bouchard, I will go to you to introduce the bill. Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I am pleased to provide opening comments on Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3.

Bill 15 amends the Human Rights Act to make the director of human rights an employee in the public service. The director will continue to be appointed by the Commissioner, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, for a term of four years.

Bill 15 also allows the Legislative Assembly to make appointments to the Human Rights Adjudication Panel for terms ranging from two to four years. The amendment is proposed to help ensure that there is staggered turnover on the adjudication panel. It is anticipated that the vast majority of appointments to the panel will continue to be for four-year terms, such as the two appointments made to the panel earlier today.

Finally, Bill 15 allows the adjudication panel to appoint its own chairperson when both the chair and the deputy chair are absent or unable to act. This amendment ensures that the work of the panel is not unduly delayed for want of a chairperson.

In keeping with the Caucus protocol on legislation originating from the Board of Management, these amendments do not amend any of the substantive clauses of the Human Rights Act. They are administrative in manner and fall under those sections of the act that are administered by the Board of Management and Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

I would be happy to answer any questions you might have on the bill.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Bouchard, would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Yes, Madam Chair.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please bring the witnesses into the Chamber?

Mr. Bouchard, if you would introduce the witnesses to the Chamber, please.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Thank you, Madam Chair. To my right is Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative

Assembly. To my right is Kelly McLaughlin, acting director, legislation, Department of Justice.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. I will open the floor to general comments. Are there any general comments? Mr. Dolynny.

**MR. DOLYNNY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just have a brief question as to... We seem to be modernizing this act. Is this act bringing us in line with what we're seeing in other jurisdictions across Canada?

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Bouchard.

**MR. BOUCHARD:** Madam Chair, the importance of the changes here is to make it a little more... It is updating it. We are not consistent with all of the jurisdictions, but it is modernizing it. It is only the second director that we have in the position, so we are looking to modernize ourselves. Are we consistent with every jurisdiction? Every jurisdiction is a little bit different and ours is special in its own way.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Are there any other opening comments? We will move onto detail. We will defer the title page of the bill. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 3 inclusive approved

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** We will go back to the title page. Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3. To the bill as a whole.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 15 as a whole approved for third reading

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, committee. Mr. Menicoche, what is the wish of committee?

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Before we go to that motion, I will thank the witnesses for their service this afternoon and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

Committee, we have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order and the motion is non-debatable.

---Carried

**CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro):** Thank you. I will now rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, Ms. Bisaro?

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2; Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act; and Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3, and would like to report progress and that Bills 12, 13 and 15 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Do we have a seconder to the motion? Mr. Moses.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

### Third Reading of Bills

BILL 17:  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT  
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),  
NO. 2, 2012-2013

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 17, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2012-2013, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 17 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 5:  
LEGAL AID ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 5, Legal Aid Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 5 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 7:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
JUDICATURE ACT

**HON. GLEN ABERNETHY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Is that the Judicature Act?

--Laughter

Bill 7 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 6, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
  - Motion 21-17(3), Federal Changes to Environmental Law
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Committee Report 6-17(3), Report on August 2012 Hydraulic Fracturing Study Tour
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
  - Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 2
  - Bill 13, An Act to Repeal the Credit Union Act
  - Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, No. 3
22. Prorogation

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 6, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

