



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, March 13, 2013****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 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Ramsay.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 50-17(4):
INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK HIGHWAY**

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to recognize that the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project reached another milestone earlier this week when the Prime Minister confirmed that Canada will contribute \$200 million to the construction.

Constructing the northernmost segment of the Mackenzie Valley Highway to Tuktoyaktuk requires a federal and territorial partnership strengthened by a common vision. Monday's commitment confirms that Canada views the all-weather highway to the Arctic Coast as a vital component in our long-term plans to develop our economy. The commitment also highlights Canada's confidence in the NWT as a significant contributor to the future economic prosperity and security of Northerners and all Canadians.

It's important to note that Canada's decision to increase funding to this nationally significant project comes at a time of continued fiscal restraint anticipated in the next federal budget.

Mr. Speaker, the issuance in January of the Environmental Impact Review Board's Panel report was a significant step toward bringing together this important infrastructure venture. The panel's report recommends the project move forward, subject to conditions. The GNWT has responded to the panel's 51 recommendations in a submission to Canada seeking formal project approval. We anticipate a response from the federal Minister of the Environment shortly, with recommendations that reflect the GNWT's role as a responsible government.

The Prime Minister's confirmation of funding support provides another significant piece of the

tapestry we must create as we move forward with this construction project. The Department of Transportation plans to begin this project by upgrading the access road from Tuktoyaktuk to Gravel Source 177 and conducting additional geotechnical work. Much work also remains to obtain regulatory permits, finalize the highway design and determine an approach to procurement.

Constructing the first all-weather highway to the Arctic Ocean will produce substantial benefits at the national, regional and local levels. It is the foundation for economic development enabling natural resource exploration and while reinforcing Canadian sovereignty objectives. We fully anticipate receiving returns by way of regional development, training, jobs, and greater economic prosperity through more cost-effective access to communities and resource development opportunities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 51-17(4):
INCOME ASSISTANCE ACTIONS**

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, our income security programs provide support for those residents over the age of 19 and their families. It covers basic food, shelter and clothing needs, child care benefits, heating subsidies, income support and student financial assistance. It also provides supports for disabled residents.

Mr. Speaker, we recognize that not one formula fits all needs. This is why our client service officers have a difficult job, one that few people can do. They do their best to meet the unique needs of their diverse clients, while at the same time adhering to the general guidelines and requirements set out by our acts and regulations in the Northwest Territories. No one client's needs are the same as another's, so these are all complex cases and our CSOs do a tremendous job given their often huge caseloads. Annually, we have approximately 3,300 unique income assistance cases in the NWT. With economic circumstances and opportunities varying in some communities, some of the client services

officers manage extremely high volumes of caseloads.

We know that the challenges faced by disabled residents and seniors are significantly different than those of other income assistance clients, and this has already been identified in the draft action plan the Department is developing in response to last week's tabled report by the Auditor General. A streamlined application process will be implemented for both disabled residents and seniors, with a dedicated staff position to provide information and support for only those clients. This will ensure their unique challenges are met while balancing requirements to verify our processes to fulfill the recommendations of the Auditor General.

Mr. Speaker, this remains one of our challenges: to verify clients' information per our requirements and guidelines, and serve our clients according to their needs. They are the people on the ground, who meet with clients daily and see the hardship of broken families, mental illness, disability, infirmity and hopelessness, and they deserve our collective respect.

That said, I have directed the department's deputy minister to contact the client that Mr. Bromley spoke on behalf of yesterday, and senior staff will meet with her to discuss her challenges and work on a solution.

Mr. Speaker, as we go through the process of improving and identifying the gaps in our income security programs, our CSOs will continue to serve our clients with the best advice, support and commitment that they have provided so far, with the hope that with every case we review, we get closer to an effective and efficient program. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 52-17(4):
REPORT ON THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
POWER CORPORATION

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I stand in the House today, to inform Members on the work the Northwest Territories Power Corporation is doing to provide a safe and reliable source of electricity at the lowest cost, while pursuing opportunities to increase the mix of clean, renewable energy sources.

NTPC has been working to control its costs in order to lessen the impact on electricity rates for Northwest Territories residents and businesses. A renewed sense of focus at NTPC has led to new levels of cost control and efficiency gains. The corporation has implemented a strategic plan that focuses on areas which matter most to customers:

service reliability, the price of electricity and meeting external commitments.

Mr. Speaker, results to date are encouraging, but there is still more work to do to ensure NTPC continues to provide best value to ratepayers.

The corporation remains at the forefront in supporting and implementing this government's strategies to move the territory's energy supply away from fossil fuels as much as possible and on to renewable energy sources that are both cleaner and less subject to price fluctuations.

In that regard, Mr. Speaker, NTPC, with funding from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, recently expanded what was already the North's largest solar energy project in Fort Simpson. The project added over 40 kilowatts to the existing 60 kilowatt generating capacity of the site.

All told the site is now able to convert sunlight into enough electricity to supply 17 houses in the community, at peak. The project will displace approximately 100,000 kilowatt hours of diesel generation and remove 76.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide from the air.

As part of upgrades to Colville Lake's power system over the next two years, the corporation is investigating using smart grid technology that consists of a 50 kilowatt solar system and a battery arrangement which can supply the community's full needs.

NTPC, in partnership with the Community Government of Gameti, recently completed a pilot project to convert the community's thirty-one 100 watt high pressure sodium streetlights into 50 watt high efficiency LED streetlights. Information gained as part of that project will guide plans to roll out this greener technology across the territory. While NTPC will be assessing the performance of the new lights for some time, initial feedback has been very positive from residents who like the new lights.

There are areas within the NWT that offer significant potential to harness wind power to produce electricity. NT Energy has received \$100,000 from ENR to conduct a pilot project in a community along the Arctic Coast and is in the process of confirming where the project will be located. Lessons learned from a previous wind project in Tuktoyaktuk will be applied to this new project.

Northerners care about the environment and many have already taken steps on their own to replace fossil fuel sources with greener energy solutions for generating electricity. We encourage those self-generation initiatives and want to ensure there are policies and processes in place that support that goal.

With that view in mind, NTPC is conducting a policy review to consider the option to replace net billing with a net metering program. Under net billing, a customer who qualified for the program received a credit on their bill for self-generated power put back into the grid. The rate paid is equal to the cost of the diesel displaced and other variable costs. Under net metering, that customer would receive the higher retail rate instead.

Doing away with the standby charge that currently applies to customers who generate more than five kilowatts of solar or wind power and feed power back into the grid is another incentive we will undertake.

Mr. Speaker, this government recognizes the need to quickly press forward with other initiatives that will support that goal of reducing costs and reliance on diesel. Nowhere is that more critically important than in Inuvik. NTPC has signed agreements to secure a supply of liquefied natural gas that will address the community's power requirements in the short term, while leaving the door open for local suppliers to develop solutions for the longer term. The corporation is working toward an initial goal of having a partial supply of liquid natural gas in place as early as this fall and ramping up its supply of that less costly fuel next year as additional LNG sources are scheduled to come on-line.

Such a positive development will also mean that NTPC will avoid approximately \$2 million in capital costs to convert its gas engines to diesel in response to the town's decreasing gas supply and displace a significant amount of diesel it would have otherwise burned.

Furthermore, success in securing a supply of LNG for Inuvik's short-term requirements could also prove to be a viable option to replace diesel and reduce power costs in other thermal communities across the territory. NTPC is actively pursuing that option.

LNG can also be used as a heating fuel. With that option in mind, NTPC is working with the Town of Inuvik and the Inuvik Joint Venture to see if it is feasible to use LNG for this purpose in that community.

Mr. Speaker, one of the inherent weaknesses in our power system is that, unlike southern Canada, it is an isolated system without an integrated transmission grid. As a result, our ability to fully exploit our existing and future hydro potential and other economies of scale is limited. In that regard, NTPC is actively pursuing opportunities to expand transmission capabilities within the NWT that would stabilize rates and foster economic development.

What we envision is a transmission grid along the west side of Great Slave Lake that would connect the Taltson hydro system in the South Slave to the Snare system in the North Slave region. The grid

would also extend northeast from Yellowknife, promoting economic development by providing a means for existing and future mines in that area to connect to hydro. We also envision being able to connect the grid to communities such as Kakisa, Fort Providence and Whati.

Such a grid would change our power system and become an instrument for economic development by stabilizing rates, increasing reliability and extending cleaner hydro supply to more and new areas.

At the same time, NTPC is attending to matters at hand that affect our existing power system. Mr. Speaker, the corporation is making measureable progress to implement a comprehensive reliability improvement plan for its Snare hydro system that provides power for Yellowknife, Detah and Behchoko. The initiatives the corporation has put in place seem to be having the desired effect, judging by the number of outages in recent months.

However, as much as the signs are promising to this point, it is too soon to declare success. I will continue to monitor this issue to ensure that the corporation meets its commitment to reduce outages on that system by 70 percent over three years.

NTPC must also overcome other important challenges. It, like many northern organizations, continues to face a critical demand for skilled labour. To meet that challenge, the corporation has developed and implemented a strategy to refocus recruitment and retention efforts on northern hires through initiatives such as a scholarship program, apprenticeship program, a careers website and increased presence at career fairs. These efforts are showing results, but it is a challenge competing with growth regions such as Alberta and Saskatchewan. Two of four apprenticeships available in 2012-13 have already been filled and four more apprenticeships will be available in 2013-14. NTPC remains committed to the apprenticeship program, and will seek two more apprentices in 2014-15 and ongoing.

Mr. Speaker, NTPC has much work ahead in the years to come to ensure that Northerners receive an environmentally friendly, secure and reliable source of electricity at the lowest cost possible. It is worth noting that this year the corporation has been serving Northerners for 25 years. In 1988 the GNWT acquired the Northern Canada Power Commission from the federal government and established it as a territorial Crown corporation. Coincidentally, this year also marks 65 years since the original Northwest Territories Power Commission was set up.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing to update this House on the progress and the contribution that NTPC is making to the energy future of this territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education is in the process of improving student financial assistance. That is a good thing. I have not heard anything about improving support for students with disabilities. These students, especially those with learning disabilities, cannot compete with high school graduates to get into many colleges or universities. Students with disabilities often have to attend specialized schools that are oriented toward developing their specific gift, art, carving, writing, whatever it may be. Tuition fees are usually higher than they would be at other schools. Private schools are another option. Classes are smaller and students can get one-on-one attention, but that comes at a price that they often cannot afford.

Maybe we ignore the situation that adults with learning disabilities often face. Most, if not all, live on income support and have no way to earn and save the money they need to even attempt going to a school after high school. The luckiest ones have families that support them, but even so, adult students with disabilities face challenges most of us can't even imagine. For most, a part-time job to help get through school is just a dream.

Our Student Financial Assistance Program does include a disability grant. It is ironic that despite our system being more generous than most for all students, other jurisdictions offer more flexible support for students with disabilities. A typical student with a disability would look at the funding options here and quickly realize that schooling down south is out of reach. Instead some stay here and rely on income support that probably costs this government \$25,000 a year.

Instead we should increase student financial assistance for students with permanent disabilities. In the past three years, SFA has funded four, five, and eight of these students per year. I wonder how many do not bother applying. This issue was raised to our constituency office through Lillian Crook, who is an avid and tireless activist on behalf of persons with disabilities. I believe it is a real concern and that we do fail our young people who have disabilities by not providing more incentive for them to achieve whatever potential they can through additional education.

I believe that when ECE is looking at student financial assistance, this is an area that needs to be

looked at separately from SFA in general and it needs to be stepped up. I think the long term will prove that the more that we invest in these young people, the less they will rely on us in the future.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ORGAN DONATION AND PADDLERS FOR PARTS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Greg Loftus of Yellowknife has been interested in organ donation programs for decades. For over 30 years he's been signed up as an organ donor and had a double kidney transplant in 1997.

Mr. Loftus became instrumental in starting up Paddlers for Parts and is still active in its operation. Paddlers for Parts is an NWT non-profit organization established in Yellowknife in 2001. Its mission is the promotion of organ and tissue donation and support of the Kidney Foundation of Canada by promoting kayaking and canoeing as healthy lifestyle choices. Through its fundraising events and in conjunction with Northern Alberta and Territories Kidney Foundation of Canada, it provides educational financial assistance to persons with kidney problems through its Assisted Paddlers Bursary Fund.

Mr. Loftus also started a petition with the objective of asking northern residents to help establish an NWT organ donor registry. The fruits of his labour were tabled, with just under 500 signatures, last week in our NWT Legislative Assembly.

World Kidney Day is tomorrow, March 14th. While we want to thank the continued community awareness and work of Mr. Loftus, we are reminded that our lack of a formalized organ donor registry in the NWT is truly hampering our ability to help those who desperately need organ transplants.

Once again, we need to make sure that all Northerners have the ability to participate in organ and tissue donation, and we need to develop a long-term plan to improve NWT participation in the donation process. We ask once again that residents of the NWT talk to their MLAs about using space on our NWT health care cards or drivers' licences to allow for and facilitate organ donation. Through everyone's commitment, and with the help of difference makers like Mr. Loftus, collectively, we can create the much needed organ donor registry for the Northwest Territories and our residents.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to carry on today from my Member's statement of yesterday and further discuss the Devolution Final Agreement and the upcoming engagement process.

Constituents have expressed their concerns to me about the lack of information and the lack of opportunity to discuss how the Devolution Agreement will be implemented. In a post-devolution NWT, after federal employees and jobs have been transferred to the GNWT, what guarantees do we have that services will remain as they are today? What have we heard from the NWT government to date to reassure residents that a post-devolution GNWT will carry on with all the activities currently done on our behalf by federal government staff? What have we heard to give us comfort that the standards of service and programs that we take over will be maintained at the same level as they are now, as delivered by Canada, when they are delivered by the GNWT?

So little has been said about a post-devolution government, with the exception of how much more money we'll have. The residents are, rightly, nervous. Will we maintain the same level of environmental monitoring and assessment? Will we continue the same land functions that the Government of Canada now performs? I sure hope so. Federal employees do a huge number of things on behalf of the NWT. Will all of these activities be continuing? What plans does the government have to incorporate those activities and departments into the GNWT public service? How will the new GNWT public service be structured? Can residents have input into the proposed structure?

All of these questions should be part of the public engagement process that was outlined by the Premier yesterday during oral questions. Not only do our residents need to understand the Devolution Final Agreement, but they need and want to understand how things will work in a post-devolution NWT. How the agreement will be implemented must be discussed with the general public, and the general public must have an opportunity for input.

The Premier's been immersed in getting to devolution for years, but now is the time to lift up our heads and take a good, objective look around, to take stock of where we are, take stock of what people know and want to know, and to provide opportunities for residents to speak and be heard.

I'll have questions for the Premier at a later time.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DEHCHO PROTECTED AREAS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] Here in Denendeh and since the treaty for Dene lands, we are living our traditional way of hunting and trapping, and also there are Metis and Inuit, and it's to the point where they are governing their own lands. [Translation ends]

...has not yet signed their land claims agreement but has reached a number of interim arrangements. There are six candidate protected areas in the Dehcho in various stages of the Protected Areas Strategy process. The land is protected under a land withdrawal interim measures agreement that expires this year. The Government of the NWT has agreed to sponsor protected areas in the Deh Cho but has stepped back from the process.

The federal government has allocated funds for this year that will lapse if we do not move ahead as planned with candidate sites under the Protected Areas Strategy. Over the long term, we are concerned that if areas are not protected, funding will be withdrawn completely.

In 1977 Justice Thomas Berger completed a year and a half of hearings on the Mackenzie Gas Project. Justice Berger recommended that land claim agreements be settled and measures taken to protect the environment before such development took place. He felt strongly that development decisions belonged to the people. The Dehcho First Nations is fiercely determined to protect their land and become the responsible owners of its resources. The settlement of land claims, and successful land use plans and protected areas rely on the engagement of all parties.

[Translation] In order to subsist in their traditional way, they need land to live by the traditional ways of living, and along with that comes the language. This is how the Dene lived in the bush. If there's going to be progress, they are going to have to have the environmental process in place. We have to keep in mind of the protected lands that has been arranged with the Dene people and... [Translation ends]

...is available. We must move ahead on this important initiative. Through the cooperation of all parties, we must reach an agreement on comprehensive land use planning. My people insist that the Government of the Northwest Territories re-engage in this important process. Land use planning in the establishment of protected areas in the region is the opportunity to map our future. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HIGHWAY EMERGENCY ALERTING
PROTOCOLS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said yesterday, in 2003 there was a fatal accident in the Chan Lake area. What that did was it caused the government to review some of its policies. In 2003 they came forward with a response which further developed in recommendations in 2004 and, of course, a follow-up report on ground ambulance services in 2006.

MACA does do policy development and certainly protocols call upon a measure called Highway Emergency Alerting Protocols.

I will be asking the Minister of MACA questions later today. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CHIPSEALING HIGHWAY NO. 1 AND NO. 7

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Firstly, I just wanted to say a big congratulation to the Catholics of this world and their new pope. However, locally my constituents continue to await the symbolic puff of white smoke which will signal new investment into Highway No. 7 and my highways.

Seriously, though, if we imagine NWT highways as a videogame, what would the Department of Transportation be in relation to all the other players? Would it be with the leaders out ahead of the pack or would it be like a car that constantly gets out-manuevered, stuck in the mud and ruts, and shoved off the road?

One of my goals as MLA has been to get Highways No. 1 and 7 to the next level. To do that, we need good chipsealing. Highway No. 1 and 7 are good investments. They are well established transportation corridors connecting communities and connecting people with opportunities.

The Nahendeh riding has a lot to offer, and encourages more exchange throughout my communities, the capital and other communities in the NWT. Why can't Fort Simpson host tournaments, championships and other events like Fort Smith or Hay River do? We are encouraging industries to invest in the North more than ever before, but to keep pace with this, the game, we need good highways.

Chipsealing work is needed on several major sections of the highway from the junctions of Highways No. 1 and 3 near Fort Providence towards Fort Simpson, from Fort Simpson towards Jean Marie River, and from the BC border to Fort Liard.

My constituents look forward to the work planned for this summer. I urge, once again to the Minister, to direct an early project start date and avoid the freezing conditions in the fall when the quality of that work suffers.

As technology advances, there are better paving options and road building techniques. Like players in a road race game, we need to be out ahead of the pack, skillfully maneuvering through challenging terrain and weather conditions. We can win by making improvements in our road system, encouraging development to taking our communities to the next level. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GAPS IN THE TREATMENT OF
ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to some of my written questions that I received from the Minister of Health and Social Services on people that are leaving the hospital after being taken there for self-harming as well as being intoxicated, or under some type of substance issue and concern, I have been doing a lot of research and a lot of efforts in communicating with the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse that's based out of Ottawa and finding what's the best research that we can have up in the Northwest Territories and in the North with our unique situation with all the isolated communities, and they gave me a lot of really good information. I just want to let them know that I appreciate the hard work, and the efforts and the support that they've given me in this battle and all the stuff that they showed us and I've been bringing to the table, got me to look at the Mental Health Act, start asking questions, written questions. It is a big issue here, especially the detoxification.

With the discussions that I had with the staff at the CCSA, they mentioned that detoxification is a fundamental component of any treatment continuum. In fact, it's actually recommended that detox before treatment, and the reason you go through detox and the reason I fought so hard to get the beds, was during detoxification you can evaluate the person, you can look at the person's unique health needs and life situations and look at their culture to see what kind of cultural needs they'll have. Then you can look at the community resources and do the best plan of action for the treatment that they might need.

I also talked about whether or not RCMP were trained in terms of the Mental Health Act, detoxification, all these questions and a lot of gaps that we have in our system, both, I believe, in the Department of Justice and the Department of

Health and Social Services. Speaking with some RCMP officers over the last week, some of them did say that there is not a big training component on the Mental Health Act and that they would like to know what provisions they could fall under to make sure that they give these people the right support. The partnerships that they have with the hospitals is that they take the patient to the hospital and once the patient gets any kind of treatment, then they go back in the cells. There's no nursing care and no follow-up during that time. A lot of gaps and I will continue to follow up. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NWT ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES
COMMISSION INTERIM REPORT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Electoral Boundaries Commission wraps up its public hearings tonight with a meeting at the Chief Drygeese Centre in Detah. Because of the importance of this work and to the health of our democracy, I'll speak on this topic again this session.

Commission guidelines say that "in keeping with the Canadian Constitution on the notion of effective representation, the commission shall make recommendations to achieve relative parity between electoral districts while balancing community of interest considerations." The discussion paper lists "one major factor" that "no electoral district should be over or underrepresented by more than 25 percent from the average population."

The commission indicates that in my riding in Weledeh, there are four times as many citizens as in the least populous riding. The commission's paper explains that ridings with populations above the mean for all are underrepresented. By this standard, Weledeh citizens are underrepresented big time at 42 percent above the average. So while 2,200 Weledeh voters get one Member, only 800 voters in another riding get the same representation.

Why is this important? The commission explains the needs for approximate equality of riding populations, saying parity is needed to "ensure that everyone has a relatively equal say in our government." What about citizens of Yellowknife ridings? Do they think it's important? Does it matter to them that when it comes to votes on substantial matters and large amounts of taxpayer dollars, their Member's vote is only a quarter as powerful? When it comes to constituency work, does it matter that their Member has up to four times as many people who maybe need his help? People are saying the last time around it took Friends of Democracy going to a court to achieve parity and wondering will it

take this again. That's what the commission's work is all about; to find out whether citizens from across the territory think the distribution of electoral seats provides a fair and approximately equal voice in the proceedings of this Assembly. The commission is faced with a very difficult task to recommend a distribution for the public government established to represent all citizens equally.

The commission needs clear direction from you, the public. Now I urge all citizens to attend the session in Detah tonight or to go to the website and submit their views on-line by this coming March 28th. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
JULY 2012 SEARCH AND
RESCUE MISSION IN TULITA

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A terrible tragedy affected Tulita this past summer. As many may be aware, this past June a young woman named Nicole Horassi went missing. Nicole's remains were discovered by a search and rescue volunteer the following month. On Friday, July 13th, Nicole's body was found floating in the Mackenzie River.

Nicole's death was heartbreaking for everyone that knew her. Nicole was a beautiful, bright young woman that died far too young. Nicole's passing showed us that tragedy can, and does, strike at any moment. In many instances it happens suddenly, without any warning.

I'm extremely proud of the Tulita response to the tragedy. The search and rescue team was formed entirely of volunteers from the community and from the other Sahtu communities. People donated their time, money and labour to help search efforts. Volunteers searched the Mackenzie and Great Bear rivers and scoured the land. Tulita residents opened up their homes to outsiders that came there to help them. Oil companies donated to help with the gas. Private and other organizations helped with the money and the food, and almost every community in the North came with donations and support. It was unbelievable the support we received.

People throughout the Sahtu arrived in Tulita to help with the search efforts. We even had volunteers from Ontario and as far away as America. These volunteers did a wonderful job and I would like to take the opportunity to thank them. Thank you for your hard work and dedication. Thank you for bringing Nicole back to her family. Thank you to the Yellowknife family and the mining company that loaned us these couples from America.

The volunteer search and rescue mission did perform well; however, we cannot wait until another crisis occurs before acting. We must remain vigilant and prepared. The only way to ensure the Sahtu responds swiftly and correctly to future emergencies is to have some funding available to us. The goal is to keep our communities protected and, most of all, safe.

The people and families in Tulita thank the people in the Northwest Territories from the bottom of their hearts. They couldn't believe the support that was out there. To everybody in the Northwest Territories, on behalf of Tulita, thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 4, returns to oral questions.

Returns to Oral Questions

RETURN TO ORAL QUESTION 197-17(4): TLICHO WINTER ROAD TO FORTUNE MINERALS SITE

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Hawkins on Wednesday, March 6, 2013, regarding the Tlicho winter road to the Fortune Minerals site.

The Department of Transportation is working with the Tlicho Government to develop a project description report for the realignment of the public winter road to an overland winter route between Behchoko, Whati and Gameti. An MOU between DOT and the Tlicho Government, signed in fall 2011, re-established a steering committee to guide the development of a project description report (PDR) for the winter road realignment. PDR work includes terrain, flora and fauna, archaeological and socio-economic baseline data collection, consultation and the development of environmental mitigation options.

The working group, comprised of officials from DOT and the Tlicho Government, have met regularly since December 2011. The working group expects to complete the PDR in fall of 2013. Traditional knowledge, socio-economic and consultation aspects of the PDR will be managed by the Tlicho while environmental baseline and engineering aspects will be managed by DOT. Field engineering, environment and traditional knowledge data collection is underway. Significant progress has been made in the development of the PDR specifically with respect to a new alignment, borrow sites, and in establishing a timeline for future work.

The department is currently only studying the realignment of the winter road, not an all-weather road as would be required by Fortune Minerals for its NICO Project.

The department has a capital budget in place to complete the project description report and

associated planning studies to move the project toward environmental approval.

The department does not have any capital funding to proceed with the realignment work. It is expected that construction of a realignment winter road from Behchoko, Whati and Gameti would cost approximately \$30 million.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Abernethy.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take this opportunity to recognize a couple of Pages from the Great Slave riding and thank them and all the other Pages for all the hard work that they've done for us over the last couple of weeks. I'd like to recognize Muhammad Awan and Linda Charlie from the Great Slave riding.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a Weledeh resident, Mr. Steve Matthews. He's a long-term resident, spent his whole career with GNWT and is semi-retired now, I believe. Also with him is Mr. John Lee, a renowned bear biologist many of you may know. Both long-term residents with their families of Yellowknife.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'd like to welcome the visitors here in the public gallery today. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 233-17(4): FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement, my questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. I'd like to ask the Minister if he is aware of how our student financial assistance for students with disabilities compares to what is offered as support to students with disabilities in other jurisdictions in Canada.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. With respect to subsidizing students in the Northwest Territories, we do have one of the attractive benefits packages compared to other

jurisdictions. However, we have done our research, as well, on what other jurisdictions offer with respect to disabilities area. We have come out with various options within our department. We also heard, through the review of SFA, how we should be addressing or increasing our funding towards disability. We have done that through this budget planning process, where disability grant amounts from \$8,000 to \$10,000 per academic year. That's just a start. I'm sure there will be others. There are all these different recommendations that were brought to our attention. We will definitely follow through with those.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: So just to be clear for people who will be listening to this, when will the improved, enhanced student financial assistance for students with disabilities go into effect? When can people become eligible for that?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The Member is referring to the increase that should be taking effect, because we just went through the budget process, April 1st. That's the information that I have, from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Again, we are doing more groundwork with respect to other jurisdictions, what kind of programs they offer. If it's better or even more than what we offer, then seriously we'll take those into consideration, as well, and make some changes to our programming as we move forward.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: In my Member's statement I referred to student financial assistance for students with disabilities seeking post-secondary education and I kind of inadvertently referred to it as being outside of the territory because that seems like where there are specialized programs for students with disabilities.

I'd like to ask the Minister, in his role as being responsible for Aurora College, has the college ever had in place, or ever contemplated putting in place, specialized programming that would allow students with disabilities, who are Northerners, stay here to take post-secondary education in various fields?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I'd just like to thank the Member for asking that particular question. We want to support our students here in the Northwest Territories to stay in the territory at the Aurora College campus. We have three campuses and we need to support those students. With the information the Member is asking for, I don't have the specific history of it, but I can provide that information.

Part of my ongoing discussion with the president and chair is to raise the profile with them. If there hasn't been any programming in that area, why not, and how can we move forward on this? I assure the Member that I will be addressing this with the college.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister if part of their consideration of what the college offers now, and what they could offer, would include, perhaps, travelling to or getting into communication with other post-secondary institutions that we do know already offer specialized programming for students with special needs.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: My understanding is that there are certain programming for disability cross-functioning with various institutions. I need to get the latest update from the college and provide that to the Members, then we can discuss further how we can improve those programs or make additions.

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

QUESTION 234-17(4):
BARREN GROUND CARIBOU HERDS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in the House today in response to what was tabled earlier this week by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources entitled Management Actions for Barren Ground Caribou Herds. Immediately I was pleased to hear that we have some herds that are doing quite well, such as the Beverly and Ahiak herds as well as the Bluenose-East herd. Although what was presented as merely a proposal on the potential limited resident harvest of these herds, we were left yet again with many questions unanswered for consideration.

The Minister mentions that we have caribou calving ground surveys, population surveys and recruitment surveys that are ongoing in the co-management and management of the species. Can the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources indicate to this House the differences between the surveys mentioned in that briefing?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've committed a significant amount of money to continue to do baseline work on an ongoing basis on the various herds. There are the major surveys, then there's the intermediate work that's done to check the health of the herd. We've done that over the summer, as I indicated, over last year and concluding some this year that I laid out in my Member's statement yesterday. They've given us some comfort – more than comfort – some certainty about the herd numbers, to the point where we're looking at going back to the co-management boards and the consultation

processes that are required to look at the current restrictions that are in place.

MR. DOLYNNY: I do appreciate the Minister's reply. I think the general population is quite confused. There are too many surveys out there. I think it would probably be well advised if the Minister of the department could be a bit more clear on what these surveys, or the outcome of these surveys, are going to be trying to achieve.

Another question I do have for the Minister of ENR: What is the formal format to allow resident hunters and commercial outfitters to have a meaningful input in all these upcoming management board discussions in the caribou management or, in this case what we're hearing, limited harvest?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The intent of the various surveys, or the main intent, is to ascertain as close as possible what the herd numbers may be. At the same time as herd numbers, the herd health, cow-calf ratio, those types of things, all towards an eye of making sure we have sustainable herds that are healthy.

Those numbers have told us up until recently, for example, the Bathurst herd has suffered a precipitous decline and stabilized not up but down significantly. It hasn't really increased from where it bottomed out about three years ago. We know the Ahlak-Beverly herd, the numbers look quite strong and the Bluenose-East as well.

The work is underway. We will be consulting with the various boards, all of which are public boards, as well in the east, with the Beverly and Qaminirjuaq, with the Government of Nunavut. As well as where there are no settled claims, we'll be involving and consulting with the Yellowknives and Northwest Territories Metis.

MR. DOLYNNY: I'm hearing some great things, but my question was, do resident hunters or do outfitters have a seat at the table in these so-called public settings. I believe there's opportunity there in consultation. It will take months and potentially another year to get the proper responses from community consultations regarding resident and commercial harvest allocations.

Can the Minister indicate why temporary tag allocation is not on the table now, especially with all the promising herd numbers discussed in this House?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As Minister I have the authority to act on conservation issues, on emergency issues. Other than that, I am bound and obligated and intend and have to follow the work that's done through the process involving the various boards, the work that they do that are public boards. They make recommendations and we're involved in those with our staff as well, but the recommendations come back up through the system. It's a system that has served us well. We

need to make sure that we continue to use that system. We're going to do that.

These discussions take time. These are very complex areas. They are multi-jurisdictional. Not only multi-jurisdictional within the Northwest Territories but in the case of the Beverly-Qaminirjuaq herd, it flows into, as well, Nunavut. We have a lot of jurisdictions to deal with and a process that we have to follow. We want to make sure we do that. They do very good work and they will do that again in this case, and we are looking by the fall of this coming year, 2013, to be able to sort out what changes will be made to the existing restrictions.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We just can assume or will assume that the Minister has had some meaningful consultations with a number of our caribou commercial outfitters here in the NWT. These outfitters have been waiting for years to get back to their livings and livelihood in the industry.

In his discussions, as we hope, has there been an indication as to the number of tags that these outfitters would require to get back into the game?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: What the outfitters used prior to the hunting ban was in the neighbourhood of a total of 700 tags, many of which weren't used annually.

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

QUESTION 235-17(4): DEVOLUTION CONSULTATION

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, my questions today are for the Premier. I'd like to ask a few questions relating to my statement earlier today.

We heard yesterday, we have heard earlier this week, that we are embarking on a consultation and an engagement process. The Premier, yesterday, in answer to my questions, laid out next steps, but in those next steps I didn't hear any indication of the provision of information on how the Devolution Final Agreement will be implemented.

I'd like to know from the Premier if he can advise whether or not the public engagement process, whether there's an intent to educate residents about implementation of the Devolution Final Agreement or is it simply to advise people of the content of the Devolution Final Agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, to both parts.

MS. BISARO: Thank you to the Premier. I've very glad to hear that we will be talking about implementation. I hope that's a very large focus of the public engagement process.

With regard to implementation, our government has already done a great deal of work. They've been working on implementation for probably a year or more. I'd like to know, to date, what steps the government has taken to inform the public, to advise the public of what this new GNWT will look like after April 1st.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We put a significant amount of information on the website, and as we go forward with organization design, we will also provide that on the website. We will also provide for that as we go around to all of the communities in the Northwest Territories.

MS. BISARO: Thank you to the Premier. It's one thing to put information on a website and expect that people will go there. I haven't seen much that advertises that website, so I would hope that there's going to be significantly more effort put in to trying to get that information out there.

One of the things that I have heard as a concern, and this is from a news article recently, it stated there are concerns that the environment and the preservation of the land will take a backseat to the exploitation of energy and minerals. This is referencing after April 1, 2014, when we have control.

When we do have control of our lands, water and resources, will the GNWT maintain the same level of environmental monitoring and assessment that we have today?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: It seems like just yesterday that some of the Members from across the way were quoting from the Commissioner of the Environment, who was complaining about the fact that the federal government was only doing 20 percent of the required land inspections. I'm sure we can do better than that, but if the Member wants us to maintain that level, we can do that too.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Through you to the Premier, I absolutely don't want us to do worse than what we think we might do, but I have heard nothing which says that we're going to do better than what we have already from the feds.

The Premier mentions that there's a lot of work been done. I wonder if the Premier could give us some idea of how our new government will be structured after April 1, 2014.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I don't want to get ahead of committee, and I've committed to committee that we will bring the organizational design, and once

we've had input from committee, I'll be pleased to make it available to the public.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

QUESTION 236-17(4):

DEHCHO PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Quite a few years back, the Berger Commission, of course, travelled all over the NWT, and in his report he outlined that before any major development happened, there had to be an effort in particular areas. Recently, there was a vision that envisioned that there would be a network of protected areas from the Yellowstone to the Yukon. Of course, with the initiative on the Protected Areas Strategy in the NWT, it's brought international recognition.

My question to the Minister: What is the Government of the Northwest Territories' position on the candidate protected areas in the Deh Cho?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories has been fully involved in the Protected Areas Strategy. We have considerable resources invested in that process. We are intent on carrying on with the intent of that process.

There's going to be a change in relationships here. The federal government is going to be stepping to the side and we are going to be playing a leadership role. We know in the Deh Cho that we are going to conclude Edehzhie and the other candidate areas. We are going to continue to work with the communities and the other stakeholders. We've had discussions and I've had discussions with the Minister of Environment about the resources that have been identified for these processes and these nominated wildlife areas to ensure that we, in fact, inherit and continue to have some of that funding that was voted by the federal government.

MR. NADLI: The Protected Areas Strategy initiative has been long established. It's a tripartite arrangement, as the Minister outlined, between the Government of the Northwest Territories, the federal government and First Nations. What's really important to recognize is it's an eight-step process that's basically driven by communities. The Government of the Northwest Territories has suddenly stepped back from the Protected Areas Strategy process. Can the Minister explain this decision?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Our commitment to that process remains unabated.

We've had recent meetings with the leadership of the Deh Cho about making sure that we can conclude the land use plan, setting up bilateral meetings between the governments so that we can talk about and resolve issues. I've met for a number of hours with the leadership from the Deh Cho on the Wildlife Act to try and resolve their concerns about the Wildlife Act, mainly as it pertains to their land claims. We are fully engaged in that. At that same time, we're in a transition period as the federal government is going to exit stage left in this area and we're going to take on a bigger role.

The work is there. We're going to make sure we make full use of that work. We're going to review the processes, and we know we have to do work on our northern tools so that when we look at our options, now that we have devolution, we have to be certain that we make full use of all the arrows in our quiver as it pertains to the tools we have to deal with the protected areas.

MR. NADLI: One community in particular is trying to advance protected areas, and they've been working on that for a long time, especially elders that have committed to believing that this process will work on behalf of the communities. PAS areas throughout the North would benefit all Northerners.

What options are available to the Dehcho to continue to advance areas for permanent protection?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The protected area process has eight steps to it. Most of the candidate areas in the Member's constituency, I believe, are around step five. In my time in government, it has been a process that is... The wheels grind very slow and fine in terms of advancing nominations through the system. We're committed to that system. We're going to adjust for devolution, but we're still fully committed to that. We're committed to the land use plan in the Deh Cho. We're committed to concluding our Land Use and Sustainability Framework as a territorial government, so that that broad framing policy gives us the clarity we need to go forward at these various tables, and we're going to examine more closely the northern tools that are there that have been talked about but, for the most part, underutilized to this point.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister assure this House that the pause that the government is taking at this point will not put into peril the PAS process and jeopardize committee funding. Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I can clearly commit to the territorial government's, our government's commitment to this process. There are discussions underway with the federal Minister

in regard to the federal funding. We have not yet concluded the discussions, but the goal clearly is to maintain that funding and keep it available between ourselves and the territorial government so that the work has been done, and the money that was voted by the Parliament of Canada remains there for the use that it was voted for. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 237-17(4):
HIGHWAY EMERGENCY ALERTING
PROTOCOLS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. My question is related to the Highway Emergency Alerting Protocols. Can the Minister give an update or an explanation as to what that protocol is and how it's implemented? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In 2007 MACA, in collaboration with the RCMP, Health and Social Services and DOT, developed an NWT Highway Emergency Alerting Protocol. This protocol is intended to help guide the RCMP and community responses to highway emergencies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, since 2007 has the department had the occasions to use this protocol and what occasions? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would have to get that detail for the Member. Obviously, if something does happen on the highway, there's a protocol that has to be followed. For specific events, I will gather the information and share it with the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, this protocol, as I highlighted, called the Highway Emergency Alerting Protocol, goes to ensure that all emergency responders understand the roles and responsibilities with respect to accidents. Of course, this is for accidents outside the community boundaries, to ensure training is available and community governments are deprived the opportunity to provide this type of rescue. I've been so informed that these protocols were ignored in the most recent accident. Is the Minister aware of the impacts of not following through on these types of protocols?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'm not aware. That would require some investigation from MACA, that part of it, and see if protocol was followed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 238-17(4):
DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT AND
HUMAN RESOURCE PLANNING

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask Mr. Premier some questions about the devolution consensus agreement that we have signed. Devolution is mostly known for decision-making and control of resources. However, Chapter 7 has a big human resources component, more specifically with regard to transfer of jobs. I'd like to ask the Minister... Well, just quoting from Chapter 7, it says, "We want to have a knowledgeable, experienced and stable workforce as of April 1, 2014." I know there are roughly 150 jobs in Ottawa. I just want to know how our government is working towards that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoché. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the big number in the Devolution Agreement is the amount of money. Obviously, we want as many people or federal incumbents that are in those jobs to come over. But at the end of the day, we make the decision of how many jobs we will have. Obviously, we will be making job offers and the agreement requires us to make sure that every federal employee that comes over is no worse off than they are now financially, and we are required to adhere to that for three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I'm a little concerned about the human resource plan to fill these positions. I know that the agreement speaks about offering the current federal incumbents and in Ottawa, six months prior to April 1, 2014. I'm concerned that I'm hearing that not many of them will actually come here. So how are we planning to fill these positions?

Also, I'd like to hear the Premier's experience when Arctic Airports transferred in 1995 and, as well, when Forest Management was transferred to us in 1987. What was the experience there of transferring federal employees north? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I think we've had very good success with devolution in the past. As I've mentioned, we've had about... I think every program that's with the Government of the Northwest Territories was a federal program at one time. At every instance we've been very successful at getting the incumbents to come over. I think the airports transfer was very successful as well. I think we've got some of the best airports operating around. The reason we're using six months is so we can get an early indication from those who are not intending to come as part of the devolution, so we can either go out to competition or fill from within. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: A lot of these jobs, of course, are in lands and resources. I imagine most of them are technical and specialized positions. We haven't seen the list. We're still working, of course, with our Cabinet colleagues to pay attention to this.

What is the current strategy to look at these positions? Is there a plan B for those positions that people don't want to transfer north? What is the plan B for our government to fill those positions? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We also learned a lot from division of the Northwest Territories, where Nunavut had transition agreements with the Government of the Northwest Territories. So we are looking at the possibility of doing that. We are also fully committed to decentralization. I expect that we'll be able to handle the human resource requirements during the transition so we can continue to function without missing a beat. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I think that's my concern, is we don't want to be missing a beat on April 1, 2014. What is the strategy for our government to ensure that these positions are filled from anybody from Ottawa who doesn't want to come over? I know it's the Northwest Territories; in fact, I would encourage them to come over. But in the event that does not happen, I know a lot of them have families and they're entrenched in Ottawa. So what is that plan B? What is our strategy and is there a team set up to review this and come up with a good plan to fill those positions here in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We do have quite a number of committees that are working on all these different issues and we'll be providing that information in the very near future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses

QUESTION 239-17(4):
LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS AGREEMENT

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very glad to hear the Minister's statement, the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, and the work that he's doing, and the agreements that he's signed for the liquefied natural gas, looking to address the energy needs in the fuel needs that we have for our community of Inuvik. So I have a couple of questions of clarity and to get some specifics.

I'd like to ask the Minister how long, the agreement that he signed, how long is the agreement for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the term is five years with a clause in there that would allow us to renegotiate, should a source become available that's closer to us than is currently the case. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Mr. Speaker, with the agreement signed, when can the residents and businesses start seeing the prices drop with the transportation and the delivery of this LNG to the community of Inuvik? When can we start seeing that type of energy coming into the community? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. As I indicated in my Minister's statement today, what we're aiming for is to be as fully functional as we can by this fall as it pertains to being able to use liquid natural gas and generation of electricity. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. I was just trying to get a specific date because I will be getting questions, I'm sure, from constituents. So this fall we'll be keeping an eye on it.

When we start getting this flow of LNG to the community of Inuvik, can the Minister outline where this LNG will be stored and is there enough storage space for the LNG when it gets to the community of Inuvik? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. It's going to be close to the generation site in Inuvik. They're currently looking at clarifying and finalizing the details on the tankage and vaporization equipment that is going to be required, but it, of course, will be as close as we can actually get it to where it's going to be used. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. Just in regard to following up in terms of storage space, right now we have a synthetic gas storage that can only last and hold for five days, should the Dempster shut down or ice roads, those kind of things.

When we set up this facility, how long will the LNG be there and how many days storage will we have for the community of Inuvik? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. In Inuvik we'll have full diesel redundancy. So the storage requirements are going to be, at this point, 90 days and we'll rely on being able to manage the supply in bringing the replenishment within that 90 days. The reason we say that we can manage with the 90-day supply is that we do have full diesel redundancy so that should there be a weather closure or something else untoward happen, then we would be able to still have no break in service. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 240-17(4):
DEHCHO PROTECTED AREAS STRATEGY

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on questions from my colleague Mr. Nadli to the Minister of ENR on the Protected Areas Strategy and see if we can seek some clarification for the very, very confused partners that are out there wondering what's going on with GNWT positions.

Last spring this government decided it wouldn't comment on the recommendation reports and started to block their release. I'm told GNWT asked that work in the Deh Cho be moved to the land claims table, even though all parties agreed at the beginning of this work that these are not claims issues, a position reaffirmed by regional First Nations in recent letters to the federal and territorial governments.

So my first question. Will this government continue on the long-agreed process to develop and get in gear to supply its comments on the recommendations, reports and have them publicly reviewed? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of hours booked with ENR tomorrow at eight o'clock in the morning and I will confirm that issue, but let me just restate our commitment to the long-term over this process.

We've been involved for years. We've continued to, and we'll continue to, be involved in the process. I would like to point out, as well, some of the political changes in the Deh Cho, for example, tend to confuse the issue as well when you start having overlap issues with ADK and other communities, and now the K'atlodeeche, in fact, as well, has indicated they're pulling out of the Dehcho. But in spite of that, we are going to be fully committed and the Premier gave that commitment to the Grand Chief, as well, a number of weeks ago. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. The Minister has told me by letter that the GNWT will work with Canada to conclude Edehzhie, which I appreciate, but then with respect to all of the other areas, National Wildlife Areas proposed, the GNWT appreciates the significant work undertaken. What does that statement mean? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. As I indicated in previous questions, there have been meetings recently with the grand chief and some of the leadership from the Dehcho. There was an agreement to bilateral process to make sure we are fully engaged at the land claims and land use table, which would allow us to resolve some of these outstanding issues. We are committed to concluding Edehzhie and, as I indicated as well, I met, when we were down in Ottawa for the

Northwest Territories Days, with Minister Kent and raised the issue of the funds that are currently identified for the candidate areas and the need for us to work out an arrangement to make sure that funding continues on past the implementation date for devolution. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I hope and I appreciate the work that's being done there to clear up this confusion, and I hope to confirm that. The Minister has also told me in a letter that final decisions on the boundary and establishment of a protected area will take place after devolution. Again, what does this mean? This is clearly a stall statement. What does this mean and has this also been taken care of in recent statements, negotiations with our partners? There are other partners, of course, besides First Nations out there. Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. I do understand that there is some consternation out there. I met with the folks from Ducks Unlimited, where they voiced their concern on behalf of the people they've been talking to and who they represent. We've heard it here in this House today. We've seen it in the press where some are trying to imply or impute that somehow after devolution, that this government, which I think is a leader when it comes to environmental issues and alternative energy, wildlife issues, land issues, water issues, is somehow going to turn its back on what the people of this territory have been clear that they want it dealt with for the last 17 Assemblies and it is causing needless fear and consternation.

So after devolution, when we're fully through this process, we're going to continue on with our commitment. We've negotiated these bilateral agreements with the Dehcho, for example, and I would point out once again in the Deh Cho, for example, the fact that there's been political decisions made in terms of communities splitting away from the Dehcho Process and wanting to have their own areas. There is now overlap issues, there is debate between communities over candidate area and sizes. So we will work with the parties, all of them, including non-government, and I want to reassure folks that we are committed to this process and I will be, in fact, in this House tomorrow doing a statement on the Protected Areas Strategy to provide hopefully even more comfort. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's remarks. I can't say I've got much comfort yet, but I'll look forward to that statement.

Another statement from the Minister in his letter, "The GNWT will be promoting the use of northern tools for any future areas." This sounds like a

unilateral decision to me and ignores the partners and considerable work done. I wonder, does this mean there is no support for the National Wildlife Areas in the federal dollars that are available now, but will disappear if we don't take them up on this? It sounds like the Minister will not support National Wildlife Areas and the flexibility that they bring. So what is the meaning of the Minister's statement this time? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. It means, very simply, that there is a federal process and they have put some money aside for candidate areas, that devolution is being negotiated, that we as a territory have tools that we've talked about but not used very well and there may be other tools we need to in fact develop as we manage the land and resources.

I have had discussions with the federal Minister about the federal money that is there. This process, this protected area process was in place I believe before I became a Member 18 years ago and it works, the wheels turn very slow and fine. We're at step five for all those other areas, which means there could be years yet if you look at the timelines and what we've done and how long it's taken to conclude some of these further areas. We're going to look at what options we have as a territory. We don't want to be totally reliant on the federal government in the National Wildlife Area approach, and I've had discussions with Minister Kent about that money being left there and used there for either of us for Northerners, regardless of whether it's a federal designation or it's a territorial designation.

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

QUESTION 241-17(4):
EMERGENCY SEARCH AND RESCUE
PROTOCOLS FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talk about emergency search and rescue effort in Tulita last summer and the help of many people across the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Minister of MACA if his department has this type of initiative that they can go forward in helping communities like Tulita where people just got together and did the right thing and people later on joined helping out with funding and other sorts of things. We need some help in our small communities. Is the Minister willing to look at some of these kinds of concepts that the Tulita people are asking for help?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all I want to commend the people of Tulita and all the other communities that have

good emergency plans. They seem to jump into action right away and they deal with the situations that are presented before them. We work closely with a number of the communities. We've been trying to work with them to update their emergency plans. As I've said in this House before, we have 16 communities that are updated. There are 15 we still have to work on updating theirs and there are a couple that we need to get them started on theirs. There is plenty of opportunity. A lot of emergency committees in the communities do take it upon themselves to raise some money for emergencies, but we will work closely with the community of Tulita and other communities to make sure they all have a good, updated emergency plan.

MR. YAKELEYA: The community of Tulita and the people in the Sahtu, even government departments came and said, what can we do within these couple of hours we have. The hamlet did a fantastic job. The government showed up with resources. They allowed their people to come and help us. That's the right thing to do in the small communities.

I want to ask the Minister, with regard to the emergency search and rescue funding, can the Minister bring forward a type of initial discussion paper to see how we can fund these emergency search and rescue efforts in our communities?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: That's just what communities do regardless of where they work and what they do, there is a need to come together and they come together. I think all communities should be commended for that. I will commit to the Member that we'll look at this. There have been pots of funding available from the federal government that we have been able to tap into, but one of the programs is discontinued so we'll have to see what they roll out for a new program. I commit to the Member that as a department and as a government, we try to find ways that we can access any kind of money for the communities to assist them with their plans.

MR. YAKELEYA: I look forward to the Minister's proposal or discussion here. The emergency search and rescue needed some walkie-talkies, other equipment for ground search, water search, and that's the type I'm looking for from this Minister. If he could work with his colleagues and look through his department and say, what can we commit to this emergency search and rescue kit that we have in any one of our communities in the Northwest Territories. Will the Minister look at that?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: In a number of communities, as I've said before, they do take it upon themselves to do some fundraising for this exact piece of equipment. In some cases through the community government with the money that they receive from MACA as far as infrastructure goes, then they may have an opportunity to access some of that. We would have to work on it again

and see what we can do to assist the communities again.

Communities, in many cases, take it upon themselves to try and access all this type of equipment, and we would assist them in trying to find the best pieces of equipment and giving them more of an advisory role. If there are opportunities, again, for any monies to be allocated, then we would have to explore that with Cabinet and committee.

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

QUESTION 242-17(4):
POST-DEVOLUTION
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to just follow up from the last answer that I received from the Premier on my previous set of questions. I appreciate the Premier's commitment to vet things through committee before they come out into the public, so to speak. I appreciate that the Premier doesn't want to get ahead of our processes or protocols.

I'd like to ask the Premier, there was a messenger service message which came with his name on the bottom of it on this Monday, March 11th, which stated, to prepare for the integration of transferring programs, our organizational structure will undergo some changes. It then laid out the departments that we are likely to see some changes in.

Can the Premier explain to me why this messenger service comes out and yet we have to wait for committee to provide input?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Maybe the Member could clarify. First there's not enough information, now she's saying there's too much information going out. We want to make sure that we do this properly and we will commit... We had talked to the Members about those departments and we're waiting for feedback.

MS. BISARO: If the Premier wants to think that I am conflicted that's fine, he can think that. I don't understand how we can have the information coming to a messenger service which goes to all GNWT employees and not consider that to be in the public realm. If it is already in the public realm. Can the Premier tell me what our new department structure will look like after April 1, 2014?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I'm quite prepared to do that, if committee obviously agrees with that, that they want me to go out and make these announcements to the public before I get feedback from them. In an abundance of caution, I will wait until I hear back from committee.

MS. BISARO: I guess my last question to the Premier is: Is a messenger service message that goes to every GNWT employee's e-mail not considered public?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I would consider that as internal to the Government of the Northwest Territories. Every employee swears an oath of office and we consider it on that basis.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Bromley.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 2-17(4): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE REPORT OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE 2011 ELECTION

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures is pleased to provide its Report on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2011 Election and commends it to the House.

Introduction

The report of the Chief Electoral Officer of the Northwest Territories on the administration of the 2011 election was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on June 14, 2012. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures is tasked with the responsibility to review the report and make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly.

The standing committee wrote all candidates, official agents and returning officers who participated in the 2011 election, inviting them to appear before the committee at a public hearing on the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) report and to provide written submissions to the committee. The committee also invited all Members of the Legislative Assembly to a meeting to discuss the CEO's report on December 5, 2012. The committee's public hearing with the CEO took place on January 23, 2013. At the meeting three witnesses, in addition to the CEO, made presentations to the committee. One individual also provided a written response to the committee's letter. The committee would like to thank the CEO and all those who provided their comments on the report.

Concerns and Issues Discussed during the Standing Committee's Review Process

A number of concerns and issues were discussed during committee's review process. The committee wishes to highlight the following matters.

Voters List

The committee heard a number of concerns about substantial inaccuracies in the voters lists. For example, the list not only emits a number of eligible voters, but also includes many people who no longer live at the addresses where they are registered and, most unfortunately, a number of people who are deceased. These inaccuracies impact the electoral process, and also create the appearance that voter turnout is lower than it actually is because the list includes the names of so many people who are not actually eligible voters in the electoral districts where they are registered.

During the public hearing, the CEO recognized the serious problems with the voters lists and advised committee of multiple measures underway to revise it. The committee was pleased to hear that, as a result of these measures, several thousand changes have already been made. The committee accepts the CEO's view that a general enumeration is not the most effective way to bring the list up to date, although targeted enumerations may be required for some areas. As candidates are very familiar with the eligible voters in their electoral districts, the committee suggests that the CEO consider ways to take advantage of this expertise, perhaps shortly following each election, if this can be done without creating any perception of conflict of interest or bias.

Committee members also noted that voters lists were not made available to candidates in a consistent format. In some cases the lists were provided in hard copy, and in other cases they were provided electronically. The committee recommends that the office of the CEO should make voters lists available to candidates sooner and in a standard electronic format, such as an Excel spreadsheet, which can be manipulated.

Voter Identification Requirements

The committee heard concerns that the new voter identification requirements, which mirror the requirements for federal elections, did in some cases discourage qualified voters from voting. The requirements do seem somewhat excessive, particularly in our smaller communities where we all know each other. During the public hearing, the CEO conceded that federal requirements may be stricter than what is needed in the Northwest Territories to protect the electoral process, and offered to research the issue further and return with recommendations for improvements at the Assembly's direction. The committee agrees with the CEO's proposed approach.

Citizen Engagement

The committee is not convinced that citizen engagement is as low as the voter turnout numbers reported in some electoral districts suggest. As stated earlier, inaccuracies in the voters list created

the appearance of a much larger number of eligible voters than actually existed. Difficulties with voter registration and identification, and limitations on voting opportunities for some voters may also have discouraged some eligible voters from voting. Some of the recommendations for amendments to the act outlined later in this report will help to address these issues. However, the committee would be supportive of efforts to promote civic engagement in youth and a lifelong habit of voting through enhanced curriculum content.

Training

The committee heard of some instances where elections officers seemed uncertain of how to carry out their responsibilities. The committee was therefore pleased to hear of the CEO's planned initiatives to enhance training of election officers prior to the next election.

Social Media

The use of social media, such as Facebook, raised some concerns during the recent campaign because it is highly influential, yet does not provide a way to respond to or correct misinformation. Social media is difficult if not impossible to regulate, not least because comments of concern are often posted by candidates' supporters and are beyond candidates' control. The committee recommends the CEO monitor any developments on the use of social media in election campaigns in other jurisdictions, and consider developing guidelines to assist candidates and their teams.

At this point I would like to turn it over to my colleague Mr. Abernethy, through you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank my colleague Mr. Bromley for bringing us to this point in the report.

Reused Signage

The committee heard a number of concerns about the valuation of signs reused from previous election campaigns. The committee believes it is unfair to value reused signs at their full cost for the purposes of calculating campaign expenses. Instead, reused signs should be valued using a consistent standard based on accounting principles that reflect depreciated value.

Location of Polling Stations

The committee heard that some polling stations, particularly in the city of Yellowknife, were not as clearly identified as they could have been, and that some people were unsure of where they should go to vote. While the committee is aware that this information is available on the CEO's website and elsewhere, more prominent signage identifying the location of polling stations would be helpful.

Government Advertising

The Legislative Assembly already places restrictions on advertising activities by Members during election years. However, there are no similar restrictions on government advertising. Government ads that feature Cabinet Members may be seen as conferring an unfair advantage. During the public hearing, the CEO advised that other jurisdictions have put in place some restrictions on government advertising during election periods. The committee recommends that the government review practices in other jurisdictions and develop appropriate guidelines for election year advertising.

Review of the CEO's Recommendations

The CEO's report includes 25 recommendations for amendments to the Elections and Plebiscites Act (the Act) and other changes to improve electoral processes. These recommendations are described thoroughly in the CEO's report. For the purposes of this report, the CEO's recommendations are described only briefly.

Polling Day

Polling day is currently the first Monday of October. In his report, the CEO suggested that having polling day on a Monday presents challenges for election administration and candidates, and may impede voter turnout. The CEO recommended that polling day be changed to a Saturday, or a day later in the week than Monday, or be declared a holiday.

In the absence of data supporting the argument that voter turnout is lower on Mondays, the standing committee is not prepared to support this recommendation at this time. However, the committee is agreeable to the CEO undertaking further research on this topic and providing the results to the committee at a later date.

Preliminary List of Electors

Under existing legislation, the preliminary list of electors is only available to voters at the office of the returning officer. Municipal voters lists are made available in more places, which makes it easier for electors to check whether they are registered and to provide any necessary corrections before the final voters list. The CEO recommends that the Act be amended to enable the CEO, during an election campaign, to communicate the contents of the list of electors to the public using the best available means. The standing committee agrees.

Striking Names from the Preliminary List of Electors

The CEO recommends the Act be amended to enable returning officers to strike names from the preliminary list of electors in cases where the returning officer is certain a person is no longer resident in the electoral district. The Act would also be amended to require the returning officer to post the names of persons struck from the list and to

update it daily during the revision period. The standing committee agrees.

Prohibition on Broadcasting

The CEO recommends repealing Section 104 of the Act, which prohibits broadcasting to promote or oppose a candidate's election on election day and the day before. The standing committee disagrees. The committee does, however, appreciate the difficulties of interpreting the term "broadcasting." The committee therefore recommends that the CEO undertake further research on possible definitions for "broadcasting" that would make the term clearer, and provide the results of that research to the committee.

Voting by Special Ballot

The CEO recommends amending the Act to change the period for mail-in ballots by enabling an elector to apply to the CEO to vote by special ballot up to two weeks before the issue of the writ for an electoral district continuing until the 10th day before polling day, and to change the Act so that the CEO does not provide special ballots until after the close of the nomination period. The standing committee agrees.

Advance Poll

The CEO recommends repealing the Act's provisions for advance polls, and that the CEO be directed to return to the Assembly with detailed recommendations to establish a new special voting opportunity for communities without a resident returning officer, similar to voting in the office of the returning officer. The standing committee agrees with directing the CEO to return with detailed recommendations for a new special voting opportunity for communities with fewer than 500 residents, but disagrees with eliminating advance polls in communities with 500 residents or more, as they seem to be working there.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to pass on the continued reading of the report to my colleague Mrs. Groenewegen.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Campaign Finance

The CEO recommends that the standing committee propose a set of principles to be reflected in the campaign finance provisions of the Act and direct the CEO to return to the Assembly with detailed recommendations to amend Part 9 of the Act. The committee agrees with this recommendation, however, recommends that the CEO undertake further research on other jurisdictions' approaches to campaign finance and provide the results of that research to the committee in order to assist the committee in developing a set of proposed principles.

Offences

The CEO recommends that the Act be amended to make threatening a candidate and impersonating an election officer an offence. The standing committee agrees.

Tariff of Fees Regulations

The CEO recommends that the Legislative Assembly support in principle that the CEO will recommend to the Commissioner a restructured Tariff of Fees Regulations to reflect the rebalancing of duties between election officers and to remunerate election officers for the completion of specific assignments. The standing committee agrees in principle that the regulations should be amended, but recommends that the CEO provide the draft regulations to the committee for comment before recommending them to the Commissioner.

Registration of Incarcerated Electors

In order to facilitate voter registration of incarcerated persons, the CEO recommends that the Act be amended to require the deputy minister of Justice, at the request of the CEO, to provide the names and addresses of inmates who are residents of the Northwest Territories on a date specified and who have or who will have attained the age of 18 years on a date specified. The standing committee agrees.

Define 'Sponsor'

The CEO recommends defining the term "sponsor" in the Act and proposes to work with legislative drafters to define the term "sponsor" as being: the person or organization that pays for, provides, or incurs the costs of the campaign material bearing the identification. The standing committee agrees, and further recommends that the CEO be directed to develop a consistent phrase to be used to identify sponsors on campaign material and include that in guidelines for candidates.

Mobile Poll Administration

Currently, only returning officers can conduct mobile polls, which limits capacity to deliver this service. The CEO recommends amending the Act to allow all elections officers to conduct mobile polls. The standing committee agrees.

Vouching

The CEO recommends that the Act be amended so that a person vouching for an elector without sufficient identification need only reside in the same electoral district, rather than in the same polling division. The standing committee agrees.

Nomination Papers as Public Records

The CEO recommends that the Act be amended to add candidate nomination papers to the list of public records that may be inspected during office hours at the OCEO. The CEO also proposes to convey through guides and other publications that

nomination papers are public records and that, during the campaign period, nomination papers may be inspected in the office of the returning officer; further, during the nomination period, the CEO proposes to convey to the public an unofficial list of who has been nominated and how many people have been nominated across the territory. The standing committee agrees.

Investigative Powers of CEO

The CEO recommends amending the Act to grant the CEO the same enforcement powers as a board of inquiry under the Public Inquiries Act. While the standing committee agrees that the CEO may need broader enforcement powers than currently exist in the Act, Members are concerned that the proposed amendment may make those powers too sweeping. The committee instead recommends that the CEO return to the committee with recommendations for additional specific enforcement powers and substantiation of the need for those powers.

Deputy Minister to Grant Leave - Public Service Act

The CEO recommends that the Public Service Act be amended so that the authority to grant leave to an employee who wishes to seek nomination to be a candidate resides with the deputy minister accountable for the administration of that Act rather than with the Minister. The Standing Committee agrees.

Housekeeping Amendments

On pages 42 to 45 of this report, the CEO proposes nine housekeeping amendments to the Act. The Standing Committee agrees with all of the proposed amendments, with the exception of recommendation 21 on the 25 metre voting rule.

The CEO recommends that the 25 metre restriction on campaigning outside of advance polling stations and election day polling stations be extended to all voting opportunities.

While the committee understands the concern about the potential for campaigning activities near other voting opportunities, Members are concerned that the proposed amendment would be difficult to enforce and would result in many inadvertent breaches of the Act. For example, a person with a candidate sign in the window of their vehicle could be committing an offence if they parked on the street outside the office of the returning officer. These offices are frequently in community buildings that house many other agencies and businesses. To expect anyone with a campaign sign on their vehicle to avoid parking in front of such buildings for an entire election period seems unduly onerous. The committee therefore disagrees with the CEO's recommendation.

I'd now like to turn the floor over to Mr. Hawkins for the continuation of the reading of the report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I am reading the recommendations.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer make voter lists available to candidates in a more timely manner, and in a standard electronic format which can be manipulated.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer undertake research on voter identification requirements, and report back to the committee with options for amending the current requirements to make them more appropriate for NWT communities.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer monitor developments on the use of social media during election campaigns in other jurisdictions, and consider developing guidelines to assist candidates and their teams before the next general election.

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer develop a standard, based on accounting principles that reflects depreciated value for calculating the value of campaign expenses for signs that are reused from previous elections.

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer ensure that for the next general election there is improved signage to clearly identifying the location of polling stations.

Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the government review practices in other jurisdictions concerning government advertising during election campaigns, and develop appropriate guidelines for election year advertising by the end of 2014.

Recommendation 7

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer undertake research on the relationship between voter turnout and the day of the week on which elections take place, and

report back to the committee with the results of that research.

Recommendation 8

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to enable the Chief Electoral Officer to communicate, during an election of a campaign, the contents of the list of electors to the public using the best available means.

Recommendation 9

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to enable returning officers to strike names from the preliminary list of electors in cases where the returning officer is certain a person is no longer resident in the electoral district; and to require the returning officer to post the names of persons struck from the list and to update it daily during the revision period.

Recommendation 10

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer identify options for a clear definition for the term "broadcasting" and report back to the committee.

Recommendation 11

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to change the period for mail-in ballots by enabling an elector to apply to the CEO to vote by special ballot up to two weeks before the issue of the writ for an electoral district continuing until the 10th day before polling day; and to provide that the CEO does not provide special ballots until after the close of the nomination periods.

Recommendation 12

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer develop detailed recommendations to replace the provisions for advance polls in communities without returning officers and fewer than 500 residents, with a special voting opportunity, and report back to the committee.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would like to now turn the continuation of the report over to my colleague Mr. Menicoche. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Recommendation 13

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer provide the committee with a

review of approaches to campaign finance in other jurisdictions, and that the committee develop a set of proposed principles to guide the development of new campaign finance provisions and report those back to this Assembly.

Recommendation 14

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to make threatening a candidate and impersonating an elections officer offences.

Recommendation 15

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer proceed to develop restructured Tariff of Fees Regulations and provide the draft regulations to the committee for comment before recommending them to the Commissioner.

Recommendation 16

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to require the deputy minister of Justice, at the request of the Chief Electoral Officer, to provide the names and addresses of inmates who are residents of the Northwest Territories on a date specified and who have or who will have attained the age of 18 on a date specified.

Recommendation 17

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to define the term "sponsor" as a person or organization that pays for or provides or incurs the cost of the campaign material bearing identification.

Recommendation 18

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer develop a standard phrase to be used to identify sponsors on campaign material, and include that information in guidelines for candidates.

Recommendation 19

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to allow election officers to conduct mobile polls.

Recommendation 20

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended so that a person vouching for an elector without sufficient identification need only reside in the same

electoral district, rather than in the same polling division.

Recommendation 21

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to add candidate nomination papers to the list of public records that may be inspected during office hours at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer.

Recommendation 22

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer provide the committee with recommendations for additional specific enforcement powers for the Chief Electoral Officer, and substantiation for each of those powers.

Recommendation 23

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Public Service Act be amended so that authority to grant leave to an employee who wishes to seek nomination to be a candidate resides with the deputy minister accountable for administration of that act, rather than with the Minister.

Recommendation 24

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the "housekeeping" amendments, which are identified by the Chief Electoral Officer on pages 42 to 45 of the report of the Chief Electoral Officer, with the exception of his recommendation 21, be considered by the legislative drafter during the preparation of the other amendments.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will now turn the conclusion over to Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, committee.

Conclusion

By way of conclusion, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures will return with additional recommendations after its review of additional research and recommendations from the Chief Electoral Officer on the following topics:

- voter identification requirements;
- polling day;
- the definition of "broadcasting";
- options for new special voting opportunities for communities with no resident returning officer and with populations of fewer than 500;
- campaign financing provisions; and
- additional enforcement powers.

MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 2-17(4) AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CARRIED

That concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2011 Election. Therefore, I move, seconded by the Member for Great Slave, that Committee Report 2-17(4) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Mahsi.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and move Committee Report 2-17(4) into Committee of the Whole for today. Mahsi.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 57-17(4):
LIST OF INTERACTIVITY TRANSFERS
EXCEEDING \$250,000 FOR THE
PERIOD APRIL 1, 2012, TO DECEMBER 31, 2012

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled List of Interactivity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period April 1, 2012, to December 31, 2012. Thank you.

TABLED DOCUMENT 58-17(4):
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN:
A COMMUNITY PLAN FOR THE
PEOPLE OF TULITA

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the Proposal to Emergency Preparedness Plan: A Community Plan for the People of Tulita.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act; Committee Report 1-17(4), Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Human

Rights Commission Annual Report; Committee Report 2-17(4), Report on the Review of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2011 Election, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What's the wish of the committee today? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The committee wishes to consider Bill 1, Bill 2, Committee Report 1-17(4) and Committee Report 2-17(4). Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. We'll proceed with that after a brief break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. The first item that we're going to deal with today is Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act. I'd like to go to Minister Robert C. McLeod for opening comments. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I am pleased to introduce Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act.

In 2005, when the Tlicho Agreement came into effect, the community governments of Behchoko, Gameti, Whati and Wekweeti became Tlicho community governments with municipal authorities pursuant to the Tlicho Community Government Act.

Since 2005, the four Tlicho community governments have identified a number of needs that the Tlicho Community Government Act does not address and have expressed a desire to amend the act to reflect these needs, most of which relate to Tlicho community government elections. For example:

- Currently, a defeated council member holds on to their seat for six weeks after their defeat. One of the proposed amendments is to change the beginning and end dates of terms, so the new term can begin as early as the day after the election.
- Originally it was thought that the amount of debt a person could have and still hold a seat on council would need to be \$5,000 due to the potential high cost of property leases. Experience has shown us that most leases are less than \$600 and so \$2,000 is a manageable amount of debt.

- Controversy between the four Tlicho community governments regarding whether a council member would be ineligible if they owed property tax arrears has resulted in making this criteria a local option. Councils would be empowered to pass bylaws to make the lack of property tax arrears part of the criteria for being on council.
- The current act only allows for a vacancy on council to be filled by a by-election. There have been occasions where no candidates have come forward and proposed amendment that would provide communities where this happens an alternative way to fill vacant seats when this occurs. This alternative would allow councils to appoint eligible persons in a way that mirrors what other municipalities can do.

In addition, the Government of the Northwest Territories has made amendments to other NWT municipal legislation to reflect the changing needs and realities in the Northwest Territories, but has not made similar amendments to the Tlicho Community Government Act. For example:

- Clarifying the requirements for voter petitions for or against a bylaw.
- Allow debts to the municipality to become property tax arrears. In tax-based situations municipalities can take bad debts due to the provision of municipal services and other charges and apply those debts to their tax account. This allows municipalities more significant ability to collect bad debts.
- It also clarifies the amount of grants that can be provided from municipal funds, just like in other municipalities.

For the past three years, the Government of the Northwest Territories worked closely with the Tlicho community governments and the Tlicho Government to ensure the amendments proposed in the act meet Tlicho needs. Our work together also allowed us to fulfill our obligation under the Tlicho Agreement to consult the Tlicho Government and receive their consent to any changes to this act.

As this is a unique act, it required a unique process. This unique process was developed by the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Tlicho Government to ensure that there was significant consultation with the public. A key feature of this process was the creation of a working group consisting of representatives from the Tlicho community governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories. These working group meetings, both formal and informal, developed a preliminary set of amendments. This evolved into broader consultations with larger groups of community representatives and directly with community councils.

Community residents and councils reviewed these suggested amendments at regional workshops and in meetings between Municipal and Community Affairs and individual councils. A final set of recommended amendments was then advanced to the Tlicho Government for approval and consent.

I am proud of the positive, hard work of all involved in this process. The Chief's Council of the Tlicho Government has reviewed and consented to this bill and I am confident that it will meet the needs of the people it will directly affect. This type of collaborative approach to working with community governments in the Northwest Territories is helping create a strong and independent North built on partnerships as envisioned by this Assembly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff at Municipal and Community Affairs. I would also like to acknowledge and recognize, we have four of them in the gallery with us today, Mr. Tom Williams, deputy minister of MACA, Eleanor Young is the assistant deputy minister of MACA, Amy Simpson is the manager of policy and planning at MACA, and Yvonne Doolittle, regional superintendent for the North Slave region. We thank them for the work that they put into the working group.

I'd also like thank the Tlicho Government for the concerted effort put forward while working on this bill. I would also like to thank the staff at the Department of Justice who worked extremely hard to ensure the bill was drafted in a timely manner.

I would be pleased to answer any questions that Members may have. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister McLeod. I would like to ask Minister McLeod, would you like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I would, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister McLeod, for the record, could you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. To my right I have Kelly McLaughlin, who is the director for legislation, Department of Justice. To my left I have Mr. David Kravitz, the manager of community governance, Department of Municipal and Community Affairs.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister McLeod. General comments on the bill? Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will be speaking for myself and not necessarily for

committee, although I chaired the committee that oversaw this. I want to use the occasion to thank the work from the committee members who got behind and supported this particular bill. They certainly deserve the credit on taking the position we did, which was this was something we could get behind. This brings our rules and regulations much in line with what the territorial government is doing in the sense of our act that controls and delegates and directs community governments across the Northwest Territories to have their elections. I certainly supported the bill in committee and I will continue to support at the Committee of the Whole level as well. Once again, I wish to offer the praise of committee members for their hard work in getting this done.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Any further general comments? Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. An oversight on my part, and a very important one. We should thank the members of the committee and the Members for their support of this and we look forward to discussing it in detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister McLeod. General comments? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Just a few comments, Madam Chair. Congratulations to the Minister and the team, and to the Tlicho. It's quite something when you work it out on a government-to-government relationship, especially with the Tlicho people on a new path to governments in the Northwest Territories. Now, seeing this, would this also be similar to Deline, once they finish their community self-government. Would this type of process also be undertaken?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. We don't exactly know what the process is going to be yet in Deline. Obviously, what we had to go through with this one, I think will be valuable, good information for those going forward. We're not quite sure at this point.

MR. YAKELEYA: We look forward to it once that day arrives, and the Minister and his staff will be prepared to start dealing with the Deline self-government. I know they're close to organizing themselves to have the final vote, and then we'll see what we can do within the Legislative Assembly.

I guess, just to say that it's quite exciting to talk at this level, talking about the Tlicho Government. They've come a long way and I just want to say that I never thought that in my day and age that we would come to this type of realization where we're talking government to government. I look forward to

the Minister's responses on other self-government initiatives in the Northwest Territories. We're breaking new ground and this is good. I just wanted to say that to the Minister and his staff for their hard work. It's something new and so anything that's something new requires little aches and pains, a little pushing, and we come to, as was said in the Minister's opening comments, is that it took a lot of people to get where we're at today.

More of a comment and a pat on the back to all the people in the Tlicho and MACA staff. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I'll take that as a comment. General comments. If there are no further general comments, we'll go into clause-by-clause review of the bill. If you can stand down the actual clauses, please, and go to the schedules, page 4, Schedule A, Amendments to the Tlicho Community Government Act. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Schedule B, Amendments to Other Statutes. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): If you could now please return to the front of the bill, Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 3 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does the committee agree to the bill as a whole? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Does committee agree that Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 1 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Thank you, witnesses.

Committee, the next bill we are going to be looking at is Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act. I would like to ask Mr. Ramsay if he has opening comments on the bill.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I do, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Please proceed.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am pleased to present Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act.

The first amendment is in relation to fire restrictions in territorial parks.

Additional authority is needed, as a matter of safety for parks users and to prevent damage to the park. The proposed changes now provide ITI with the ability to issue restrictions and bans with respect to fires in all territorial parks, and for regulation-

making power to prohibit or regulate the setting, use and extinguishing of fires.

This proposed amendment relates to safety precautions and procedures for regulating fire use that exist in all other Canadian jurisdictions. It is time to update our legislation to match the same level of protection and security in other Canadian parks.

The second amendment is in regard to parking issues. Controlling vehicles, including where they park, is also critical for the safe, enjoyable and efficient operations of our parks and campgrounds. ITI needs this enforcement tool to deal with the minority who choose to ignore the rules to the detriment, inconvenience and possible threat to safety of other park users.

These amendments will set a framework within the act that will give the department the authority to deal with specific concerns that were identified following the 2012 parks season. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Next I would like to go to the chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Madam Chair, thank you very much. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure met on March 5, 2013, to review Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act. Following the clause-by-clause review, a motion was carried to report Bill 2 to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's general comments on Bill 2. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Chairman Hawkins. I'd like to ask Minister Ramsay if he'd like to bring witnesses into the Chamber at this time.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, please, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witnesses to the table.

Minister Ramsay, for the record, could you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. To my right is Ms. Kelly Kaylo, assistant deputy minister at ITI and to my left is Ms. Lucy Austin with the legislation and drafting division at the Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. I'm going to have to probably get someone to come here and take the chair. Sorry. Then we'll go to general comments.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Committee, are there any general comments on the bill? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Madam Chair, I wasn't too involved with committee on this bill and my first question to the Minister would be on the Aboriginal rights, I guess, in these areas. I know there's some discussion in some of the parks that we are establishing in the Sahtu and I know the fire restriction has to do with safety and precaution. People, when we go out on to the land, we like to make our fire and have some tea or whatever and sometimes these areas that we are protecting are used for public enjoyment. So I'm not too sure what provisions there are or how it's being looked at in regard to having some of the older people who just want to go into a park and make a fire. Sometimes we explain to them that sometimes that's not the case and they kind of get upset with us or ask why, we've done this all our lives. So those are the type of things I just want to ask the Minister to have some discussions in that area.

I know we're having some discussions at the federal level of parks and our right to pursue the enjoyment of our land. That's something that I wanted to raise so it's clear on the record as to how this amendment to the territorial parks would affect the Aboriginal people and their right to enjoy the land as set out in several agreements. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thanks, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. We had substantial consultation that took place with Aboriginal groups across the Northwest Territories and nothing in these regulations would be interpreted, or should be interpreted, so as to affect Aboriginal rights in any way. So that is in the regulations, Madam Chair. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I appreciate the Minister being straightforward and clear with me. So thank you very much. I have no more questions.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thanks, Mr. Yakeleya. We are on general comments. Members, any general comments on Bill 2? Daryl. Sorry, Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. As Mr. Hawkins says, the Chair is always right.

Madam Chair, just on the opening comments, I'm actually quite proud to say that I like what I'm seeing here in terms of some of these amendments, especially with the fire restrictions, but my questions or my overall comments here of concern is, would this act compete with current

legislation that we have for motor vehicle legislation with respect to if there is infringements of the vehicle in a park. Which act would supersede in the event of a breach? But other than that, I do support what I'm seeing here, but I'm a little confused as to which act would definitely have a precedence here. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Minister Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. If the vehicle was located in a territorial park it would be the parks legislation that would take precedence. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I guess in its broader sense, the current act, what were some of the impediments that the department was facing to come forward with these type of amendments?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: It was difficult for enforcement of parking infractions where the owner of the vehicle had to be issued the ticket. The changes would mean that park officers could ticket the vehicle itself. When the charge would get to court, it would be much more likely that a charge could stick. I think that is the biggest reason for the change. It's not directed at the owner of the vehicle, it's the vehicle itself so as we can enforce parking in the parks much more effectively.

MR. DOLYNNY: So I would assume that the assumption is that the vehicle or motor vehicle or, let's say, all-terrain vehicle, it would need to be a registered vehicle in order to ticket a vehicle. What happens if the vehicle is non-registered? What happens if there's a motorcycle, quad, ATV that is a non-registered piece of equipment in the park? What would occur in that regard?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The vehicle would be removed from the park if it was not registered, it had no plates. Typically a parks officer would contact the RCMP. The vehicle or ATV in this case may have been stolen, and we would look at getting the RCMP and the authorities involved and removing the vehicle from the location.

MR. DOLYNNY: I would assume in that scenario that the parks act would not indicate...or the violation would not be under the parks act. This would actually be under the Motor Vehicles Act. Would that be my assumption?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Ms. Austin.

MS. AUSTIN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm sorry, Madam Chair, I'm going to have to have the question clarified again.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): No problem. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. No problem. This is in relationship to a vehicle that is non-registered. What I mean by vehicle, it could be

motor vehicle, ATV, or other that is non-registered that is ticketed as an infringement. Again, I'm reading the new act here that it's the vehicle that is ticketed. But because this vehicle is not registered, would the Motor Vehicles Act supersede the parks act or amendment in this case?

MS. AUSTIN: There is authority in the Territorial Parks Regulations to remove a vehicle or one of those types of vehicles if it's been left in a park for more than a certain time period. ... (inaudible)...

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Ms. Austin, could you repeat your last sentence, because the mike was cut off?

MS. AUSTIN: It's in the Territorial Parks Regulations, that power to remove abandoned vehicles or ATVs.

MR. DOLYNNY: I would assume in that scenario a vehicle is removed that is non-registered. Therefore, there would be no ticket issued because proof of ownership or registration would not be able to be ascertained. Is that my understanding?

MS. AUSTIN: I believe that's the case.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Ms. Austin. Mr. Ramsay, do you perhaps want to confirm that back to the Member at a later time?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, if the Member could repeat the question, we'll get him an answer.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The scenario is a vehicle that is non-registered – what I mean by vehicle is it could either be a regular car or truck or this would also include any ATV, snowmobile, those types of vehicles that may not be registered – so a non-registered vehicle in a park that infringes the park act. It appears that this vehicle would be removed. But because proof of ownership cannot be ascertained because of a non-registered vehicle, that it would just be removed, that no ticket be issued to an owner because there was no registration of that vehicle. That was the question.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: If you couldn't find the owner, it would be impossible to ticket somebody. If the vehicle was unregistered and we couldn't ascertain who owned it, it would be impossible to issue a ticket. The vehicle would be removed from the park and put in impound. If somebody came to collect it and claimed to be the owner of that vehicle, then a ticket could be issued to that person.

MR. DOLYNNY: Would the department not be able to identify ownership through the vehicle identification number of the said vehicle?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: They may be able to with the help of other authorities. Parks officers wouldn't have the capacity to run a serial number through a

computer system to find out who owns it. They would have to involve other agencies.

MR. DOLYNNY: My last question on that subject has to do with liability. Where does the liability of the GNWT lie once this vehicle is impounded? Is the GNWT liable for any damage done to the vehicle during the course of its impound, transit and storage?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: If the vehicle was left unattended in a territorial park for, I believe it's more than 48 hours, there is no liability in that case. The vehicle has to be removed. There is no liability there on behalf of the GNWT.

MR. DOLYNNY: I'm a bit confused here. If we're ticketing a vehicle, we're impounding a vehicle on GNWT territorial parks, and there's damage done to that vehicle either in the impound process, during the transportation to the storage compound, or within the compound itself, who is liable for damage to that vehicle?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: If the vehicle was removed and done so in good faith, the Government of the Northwest Territories would not be liable for any damages to that vehicle if it was left unattended in a territorial park. I think it's 48 hours. The government would not be liable for any damages that happened to that vehicle in its removal.

MR. DOLYNNY: I'm a bit concerned that there is liability even though it's not mentioned in the act. My concern is as to the GNWT would be liable because we are actually in possession of that vehicle in that impound process. Can the Minister indicate if there is any other law, act, or statute that would protect the GNWT for liability during that transit of an impounded vehicle?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I can direct the Member and committee to Section 9 of the regulations where it speaks to the issue the Member raises in regard to liability, Section 9(2) and (3), more (2).

MR. DOLYNNY: Unfortunately, we don't have the regulations with us here today, so I'm at a bit of a handicap. If the Member could actually read those excerpts from the regulations, I would appreciate it.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Section 9 of the regulations say: The superintendent may remove or cause to be removed to a safe storage area a boat, trailer, vehicle, tent or other thing that has been left unattended in a Territorial Park for a period of more than 48 hours, and is not authorized under the terms and conditions of a park use permit. (2) The superintendent shall ensure that all reasonable care is taken in the removal of anything under subsection (1), but neither the Superintendent nor a person acting under the authority of the Superintendent is liable to an action or proceeding for or in respect to an act done or omitted to be

done in good faith in the exercise of the powers granted by subsection (1).

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Dolynny, your time is up. If you have further questions, I have nobody else on the list. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair, no. Questions answered.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. We're on general comments on the bill. Are we agreed that we are concluded general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Then we'll move on to clause by clause.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): We will leave page 1 and start with... We will start on page 1. Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 4 inclusive approved

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Does committee agree that Bill 2 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 2 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you to the witnesses. Thank you to Mr. Ramsay. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would escort the witnesses from the Chamber.

We will move on to the next item of business, that being Committee Report 1-17(4), Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report. I'll go to the chair of the Standing Committee on Government Operations. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Government Operations has submitted its report number 1-17(4) on the Review of the 2011-2012 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report.

The committee's report, which includes three recommendations, was read into the record by the chair of the committee, and with the kind consent of the Assembly, a motion was passed to move the report into Committee of the Whole.

This report thanks the past chair, members, and staff of the Human Rights Commission for their exemplary efforts to promote the understanding of human rights and responsibilities amongst our citizens.

The report recommends that the Legislative Assembly's Board of Management provide sufficient additional funding for legal expenses on

an ongoing basis to permit the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission to continue becoming a party to all complaints referred to the NWT Human Rights Adjudication Panel.

The report recommends, as well, that the Board of Management provide sufficient additional funding for the Human Rights Commission to review the NWT Human Rights Act in the context of current Canadian human rights legislation and Northwest Territories realities and make recommendations in its next annual report.

It is more than 10 years since the NWT Human Rights Act came into force. This is a year of transition for the council with a new chair, new members and a new director. The committee considers that this is an opportune time for a fresh look at human rights legislation in the NWT.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Are there any other comments on the committee report? Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 25-17(4):
FUNDING FOR LEGAL EXPENSES,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: I move that this committee recommends that the Board of Management provide sufficient additional funding for legal expenses, on an ongoing basis, to permit the NWT Human Rights Commission to continue becoming a party to all complaints referred for hearings to the NWT Human Rights Adjudication Panel.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 26-17(4):
FUNDING FOR THE REVIEW OF THE
NWT HUMAN RIGHTS ACT,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Board of Management provide sufficient additional funding for the Human Rights Commission to review the NWT Human Rights Act in the context of current Canadian human rights legislation and Northwest Territories realities and make recommendations in its next annual report.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 27-17(4):
RESPONSE WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the government provide a response to this report within 120 days.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Before we move on, does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 1-17(4), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2011-12 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, committee. Committee, we are waiting on a bit of paperwork, so we'll take a five minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Alright, committee. We will reconvene and come back to order. We are considering Committee Report 2-17(4): Report on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2011 Election. I'll go to the chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures for opening remarks. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Earlier today the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures reported on its review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2011 General Election. The report contained recommendations from the committee which we would like to introduce now.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To committee, are there any other general comments on the committee report? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a number of motions to present, and I will call on my colleague Mr. Abernethy as well.

COMMITTEE MOTION 28-17(4):
AVAILABILITY OF VOTERS LISTS,
CARRIED

I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer make voters lists available to candidates in a more timely manner, and in a standard electronic format which can be manipulated.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 29-17(4):
VOTER IDENTIFICATION,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer undertake research on voter identification requirements, and report back to the committee with options for amending the current requirements to make them more appropriate for NWT communities.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 30-17(4):
USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA DURING
ELECTION CAMPAIGNS,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer monitor developments on the use of social media during election campaigns in other jurisdictions, and consider developing guidelines to assist candidates and their teams before the next general election.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 31-17(4):
DEPRECIATED VALUE FOR
CAMPAIGN SIGNAGE,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer develop a standard, based on accounting principles that reflect the depreciated value, for calculating the value of campaign expenses for signs that are reused from previous elections.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 32-17(4):
IMPROVED SIGNAGE FOR
POLLING STATIONS,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer ensure that for the next general election there is an improved signage to clearly identify the location of polling stations.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 33-17(4):
ELECTION YEAR ADVERTISING,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the government review practices in other jurisdictions concerning government advertising during election campaigns, and develop appropriate guidelines for election year advertising by the year of 2014. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 34-17(4):
POLLING DAY,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer undertake research on the relationship between voter turnout and the day of the week on which elections take place, and report back to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures with the results of that research. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 35-17(4):
LIST OF ELECTORS,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to enable the Chief Electoral Officer to communicate, during an election campaign, the contents of the list of electors to the public using the best available means. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 36-17(4):
REVISION OF PRELIMINARY LIST
OF ELECTORS,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to enable returning officers to strike names from the preliminary list of electors in cases where the returning officer is certain a person is no longer a resident in the electoral district; and to require the returning officer

to post the names of persons struck from the list and to update it daily during the revision period. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 37-17(4):
DEFINITION OF BROADCASTING,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer identify options for a clearer definition for the term "broadcasting" and report back to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Minister Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 38-17(4):
VOTING BY SPECIAL BALLOT,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Elections and Plebiscite Act be amended to change the period for mail-in ballots by enabling an elector to apply to the CEO to vote by special ballot up to two weeks before the issue of the writ for an electoral district continuing until the 10th day before polling day; and to provide that the CEO does not provide special ballots until after the close of the nomination period. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Minister Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 39-17(4):
SPECIAL VOTING OPPORTUNITIES,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer develop detailed recommendations to replace the provisions for advance polls in communities without returning officers and fewer than 500 residents, with a new special voting opportunity, and report back to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 40-17(4):
CAMPAIGN FINANCE PROVISIONS,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer provide the committee with a review of approaches to campaign finance in other jurisdictions, and that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures develop a set of proposed principles to guide the development of new campaign finance provisions and report back to this Assembly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 41-17(4):
OFFENCES UNDER THE ELECTIONS
AND PLEBISCITES ACT,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to make threatening a candidate and impersonating an election officer offenses. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 42-17(4):
TARIFF OF FEES REGULATIONS,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer proceed to develop restructured Tariff of Fees Regulations and provide the draft regulations to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures for comment before recommending them to the Commissioner. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Minister Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 43-17(4):
REGISTRATION OF
INCARCERATED ELECTORS,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Elections and Plebiscite Act be amended to require the deputy minister of Justice, at the request of the Chief Electoral Officer, to provide the names and addresses of inmates who are residents of the Northwest Territories on a date specified and who have or who will have attained the age of 18 years on a date specified. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Motion is in order. Motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 44-17(4):
DEFINITION OF SPONSOR,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Elections and Plebiscite Act be amended to define the term "sponsor" as a person or organization that pays for, provides or incurs the cost of the campaign material

bearing their identification. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Motion is in order. Motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Minister Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 45-17(4):
CAMPAIGN MATERIAL GUIDELINES,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer develop a standard phrase to be used to identify sponsors on campaign material, and include that information in guidelines for candidates. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. Motion is in order. Motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 46-17(4):
MOBILE POLLS,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to allow election officers to conduct mobile polls. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Motion is in order. Motion is on the floor. To the motion. Minister McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Yes, to the motion, I already thought that they were able to do mobile polls.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Sorry, I don't have a response to that right off hand, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Alright, committee, could we have some order, please. Committee, the motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 47-17(4):
QUALIFICATION TO VOUCH
FOR AN ELECTOR,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended so that a person vouching for an elector without sufficient identification need only reside in the same electoral district, rather than in the same polling division. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Motion is in order. Motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 48-17(4):
CANDIDATE NOMINATION PAPERS
AS PUBLIC RECORDS,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to add candidate nomination papers to the list of public records that may be inspected during office hours at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Motion is in order. Motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Minister Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 49-17(4):
ENFORCEMENT POWERS FOR
CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer provide the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures with recommendations for additional specific enforcement powers for the Chief Electoral Officer, and substantiation for each of those powers.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): A motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 50-17(4):
DEPUTY MINISTER TO GRANT LEAVE,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I move that this committee recommends that the Public Service Act be amended so that the authority to grant leave to an employee who wishes to seek nomination to be a candidate resides with the deputy minister accountable for the administration of that act, rather than with the Minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): A motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 51-17(4):
HOUSEKEEPING AMENDMENTS,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I move that this committee recommends that the "housekeeping" amendments, which are identified by the Chief Electoral Officer on pages 42 to 45 of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer, with the exception of his recommendation 21, be considered by legislative drafting during the preparation of the other amendments.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): A motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 2-17(4), Report on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2011 Election?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): What is the wish of committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that we report progress.

---Carried

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report from the Committee of the Whole, please, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act; Committee Report 1-17(4), Report on the Review of the 2011-2012 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report; Committee Report 2-17(4), Report on the Review of the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Administration of the 2011 Election, and would like to report progress with 27 motions being adopted, that Committee Report 1-17(4) and Committee Report 2-17(4) are concluded, and that Bills 1 and 2 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The seconder is Mr. Bromley.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty.

POINT OF ORDER

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I feel that I have to rise on a point of order. I have waited until today to raise the point of order because I wanted to review the Hansard with respect to comments made in the House yesterday by Mr. Bromley.

Yesterday, in his reply to opening address, Mr. Bromley quoted a poem from an income security client and that quote referred, by name, to an income security worker and criticized the performance of that person in the House. These references can be found on page 30 of the March 12, 2013, unedited Hansard, and I quote: "Hi, is ... available?" I calmly say. "No, sorry, she is not available today." "Well, I am feeling a little frustrated that my paperwork has been lost. My social worker and I brought it in last week." "Oh, yes, I remember stamping it and putting it in her box." From the office space behind, ... walks in."

Mr. Speaker, my point of order is that there have been numerous rulings in the past about making references in the past in the House about government officials and private citizens who are not present and unable to defend themselves. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I will allow some debate on this point of order. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly did read those words in the House, as the Speaker knows. It was a poem that was given to me that outlined the experience which happened to be a terrible experience that my constituent had had in accessing income assistance. So I did read the poem just about in its entirety, on the advice of both the Speaker and the Clerk. I did leave out some sensitive words.

I did see the name "Lynn" in the document. I didn't know if that had been the name of an actual person or had been substituted to rhyme with "walks in" or what. But I didn't ask that question, either. It didn't actually cross my mind.

There's no question that I did read those words out. They certainly weren't intended to identify an individual or anything like that. That's all I have to say. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Premier.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think every Member in this House should be responsible for whatever they bring into this House. If you bring in something written by another person or party that has references to individuals, you should be held responsible to make sure that you don't refer to individuals. Otherwise, we could all get individuals to write letters and we could read them out holus-bolus without any form of control. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. To the point of order. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've pulled out my book that I treasure very closely. Although I'll be speaking both for and against the point of order, but to make reference, I think the point of order makes sense, by all means, and I give credit to Minister Jackson who has brought it to the attention of the Assembly. Unfortunately, the rules call upon us to call a point of order at the earliest convenience. Therefore, it probably should have been called right after the prayer.

The only thing I will add is, I agree with the comments added by the Premier that it probably should have been done differently, but that said, I think timely innocent procedure trumps this in this particular case. By the same token, I didn't take the word that was caused to offence, the name of the employee was, from my perception and perspective, sitting here listening to Mr. Bromley's comments earlier. I did not treat it as a grievous strike in any manner. It was used in the context as he's described with good intent. I didn't feel that there was any other intent to strike against anyone.

With that said, Mr. Speaker, in summary, I agree with the point that the opposition has raised but not in the timeliness, which I think should be ruled out. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the point of order. I will take it under advisement and have it back to the House for you tomorrow.

Before we move on, I would like to wish Mr. Norman Yakeleya a happy birthday today.

---Applause

You almost got away, Norm, without saying something. Happy birthday, Norm. All the best. Thank you for always being there for everybody. You're a good Member.

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Orders of the day for Thursday, March 14, 2013, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
 - Motion 9, Extended Adjournment of the House to May 29, 2013
 - Motion 10, Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services
 - Motion 11, Plebiscite on Ratification of Devolution Final Agreement
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 5, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013
 - Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014

- Bill 7, Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012
- Bill 8, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2011-2012
- Bill 9, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2012-2013
- Bill 10, Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2013-2014

19. Second Reading of Bills

20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 1, Tlicho Statutes Amendment Act
- Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 14th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

