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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	3261
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	3261
94-17(4) – Education Renewal Framework (Lafferty)	3261
95-17(4) – On-line Driver and Motor Vehicle Services (Beaulieu)	3262
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	3263
Senate Expenses Controversy (Groenewegen).....	3263
Team NWT Participation in 2013 Canada Summer Games (Dolynny)	3264
Great Slave Lake Commercial Fishery (Bouchard).....	3264
Decentralization of Positions Post-Devolution (Nadli).....	3265
McLeod Cabinet Family (Hawkins)	3265
Inclusive Schooling Funding Formula (Bisaro).....	3266
Mental Health Act Consultation Documents (Moses).....	3266
Maude Barlow, National Chairperson of the Council of Canadians (Bromley)	3267
Frequency of Oil and Gas Spills in Norman Wells (Yakeleya)	3267
REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	3268
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	3269
ORAL QUESTIONS	3269
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	3280
NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS	3280
Bill 30 – Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015	3280
MOTIONS	3280
26-17(4) – Universal Affordable Daycare (Bromley)	3280
FIRST READING OF BILLS	3288
Bill 28 – Supplementary Appropriation (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014.....	3288
Bill 29 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014	3288
Bill 30 – Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015	3288

SECOND READING OF BILLS	3288
Bill 27 – An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act.....	3288
Bill 28 – Supplementary Appropriation (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014	3288
Bill 29 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014.....	3289
Bill 30 – Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015	3289
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	3289
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	3299
THIRD READING OF BILLS	3299
Bill 3 – Wildlife Act	3299
Bill 24 – An Act to Amend the Liquor Act	3301
Bill 28 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014	3302
Bill 29 – Supplementary Appropriation (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014.....	3202
Bill 30 – Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015	3202
ORDERS OF THE DAY	3302

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, October 31, 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, 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. I would like to draw your attention to the presence at the table of our Honourary Clerk, Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford. He's celebrating the 25th anniversary of his election in this House. On behalf of all Members, thank you for joining us here today, Tony.

---Applause

SPEAKER'S RULING

Colleagues, before we proceed to today's business, I wish to give my ruling on the point of order raised by Mr. Miltenberger on October 28, 2013, with respect to comments made by Mr. Hawkins on his Facebook page after my ruling on October 27th.

Mr. Miltenberger's point was that Mr. Hawkins' comments called into question his apology to the House on October 27th and, therefore, violated rules 23(k) and 23(l). Mr. Miltenberger likened the Facebook comments to a note passed in the House.

Rule 23 applies to debate in the House, not to matters that take place outside. As your Speaker, I have no way of knowing whether posts to Facebook or Twitter or other social media are made within the Chamber or not. The Member could easily have posted the comments from his office or somewhere else in the building.

Mr. Hawkins did apologize in the House for his comments on October 23rd, and withdrew his remarks. I accept the Member on his word and consider that matter settled.

I, therefore, find there is no point of order.

However, I do need to strongly caution Members that statements made outside the House, whether on Facebook or in other media, can amount to a breach of privilege or even contempt of the House.

This is especially so when a Member's comments could be read as challenging a ruling of the Speaker. It's thin ice and I urge Members to stay off of it.

This is not to protect me personally. It is to keep dignity and order in the House, so that we can get our work done.

That leads me to my next point. I want to draw your attention to the amount of time we have spent in this sitting on points of order and privilege. We come from around the NWT and meet here only a few times a year. That time is precious and we need to make the best use of it.

This House is not a theatre meant to entertain the public. That's not our culture here. It's a place where we do important work for the people of the Northwest Territories.

Every day I hear Regular Members asking tough questions and doing their job without going against the rules of debate.

Every day I hear Ministers responding to those tough questions and doing their job without raising a point of order when something is said that could offend them.

So it can be done. If all Members make a sincere effort to uphold the dignity of the House and to thicken their skins, I am sure you will be able to deal with all of the difficult issues before you without any unnecessary drama. We can do this on behalf of our people. Let's get on with it.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 94-17(4):
EDUCATION RENEWAL FRAMEWORK**

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, educational change, without question, is one of the most critical initiatives we must enact in the NWT. The Education Renewal and Innovation Initiative has been underway for approximately a year, and we are seeing some exciting directions emerge for true foundational change.

This work will create a different way of teaching our youth. It will involve partnerships, improved relationships between communities and schools, and a focus on helping our children develop a strong sense of identity. It will support our educators and lifelong learners to renew authentic

learning experiences inside and outside the classroom, and develop effective assessment tools that measure this learning.

This kind of change in education is happening around the world. We are directly involved in many of the key areas of educational change that Alberta is undertaking. We have reviewed NWT student achievement data; benefited from international, national and northern research; and thoroughly engaged with Aboriginal governments, education authorities and councils, and superintendents. We also held sessions with non-governmental organizations, teachers, students, and other GNWT departments.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling the product of all the research and engagement that has been undertaken over the past year. The Education Renewal and Innovation Framework: Directions for Change document has a 10-year horizon and will be supported by a multi-year action plan detailing the direction, actions and timelines, along with costing. ECE will now develop an evaluation framework supporting the renewal work and setting clear targets.

Mr. Speaker, we have not been elected to maintain the status quo. There are inequities in our system. Students in small communities need to have access to quality education as much as those in our larger centres. We are committed to addressing this challenge. Whether students are in Colville Lake, Yellowknife, Inuvik or Jean Marie River, we will develop programming and ways to deliver that programming that allows their teachers to open up a world of learning that leaves them hungry for more.

There are challenges that go beyond the classroom and the school walls that we must address as we develop our initiatives: poverty, addictions, lack of hope, the legacy of residential schools, and attendance. There are other challenges that need to be met primarily through school programming and policies themselves: authentic learning; staff recruitment, training and retention; and training and transitions to jobs. We are already addressing many of these as we renew the education system that will prepare our children for a more prosperous and healthy future. The framework I am tabling later today suggests initiatives and hopeful directions that, if brought to life, will address these challenges.

On July 12, 2013, a speech was delivered to the United Nations by a young Pakistani girl that had been shot by the Taliban for being outspoken about education. Malala Yousafzai delivered a message critical to the principles of education, and one that we are visualizing for the future of our territory. She said, "One child, one teacher, one pen and one book can change the world."

Mr. Speaker, we must have the collective courage to move forward towards that change. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Before we continue, I'd like to welcome back to the House Mr. Jake Ootes and his wife, Marg. It's good to see you back in the House today.

---Applause

The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 95-17(4):
ON-LINE DRIVER AND
MOTOR VEHICLE SERVICES

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, improving the delivery of programs and services, especially to residents of smaller, remote communities, is an important goal for our government. Later this fiscal year the Department of Transportation will be providing residents with the option to access driver and motor vehicle services from the comfort of their homes, workplaces or from anywhere else with an Internet connection. Services will be available from any computer, smartphone or tablet with an Internet connection, and with expanding cellular coverage across the territory, that's just about anywhere.

It has taken over five years of dedicated work to get the Motor Vehicle Information System upgraded to be in a position to provide on-line services while maintaining and protecting the integrity and quality of our programs and information.

Earlier this year the department completed the migration from our 1980s Motor Vehicle Information System to a state-of-the-art system called DRIVES. This work was undertaken by Transportation staff with consultants hired for specialized work. This multi-year project was completed on time and on budget. The project was also completed without any disruptions in service. Mr. Speaker, this was no small feat.

DRIVES now provides enhanced processes to streamline client driver's licence processing. Heightened security and system processes reduce the risk of fraudulent requests associated with identity theft. The new system also includes enhanced medical compliance standards and driver profiles standards. The on-line financial transaction security and encryption is equivalent to that of a bank. Now that the background system is in place, we have been shifting our focus outward to expanding on-line services to our clients.

Included in the first suite of on-line services to be rolled out before Christmas are e-notification reminders. How many of us have forgotten to renew our registration or driver's licence, only to be reminded by a ticket? You will soon be able to register to have reminders come directly to your inbox or to your hand-held device.

Early in the new year you will also be able to renew your vehicle registration, schedule appointments such as driver tests, and obtain your driver record on-line.

These services will be available in every community with an Internet or cellular connection. We expect that this will be greatly appreciated in remote communities where there currently are no issuing sites. These clients will no longer have to wait for services to come to them or travel to a larger centre for service.

We expect that on-line services will also shorten existing wait times for those that choose to continue accessing services in person. At our busiest issuing site, here in Yellowknife, we have recently implemented a number of initiatives including queuing systems, posting wait times on-line and implementing measurable service standards to improve the client experiences. We expect that as much as 50 percent of registration renewals will be processed on-line once it is available. If that is the case, it will result in even shorter wait times to receive service. Clients will be able to get the services they need when it's convenient, without having to wait in a line-up.

In future, we will be proposing to expand on-line services even further, to include driver's licence renewals, address changes and obtaining commercial vehicle permits, to name a few. With technology, there are now endless possibilities for innovative service delivery. I look forward to keeping you updated on our ongoing efforts to improve service delivery and reduce government red tape. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SENATE EXPENSES CONTROVERSY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to follow the lead of my colleague from Hay River North from earlier this week, and speak briefly to the issue we are seeing every day in the media with regard to our country's capital and the elected and appointed leaders there.

As a territory, we have a close working relationship with the Government of Canada through the party and leaders in power. We have most recently had considerable dealings with Canada in pursuing our aspirations for greater self-determination through our Devolution Agreement.

I am saddened as I watch the nightly news as the saga of the Senate expenses continues to play out. It's sad that for a country of Canada's stature and reputation on the world stage that it is threatened to

be tarnished by something that was so avoidable and, I believe, could be resolved without further collateral damage.

It seems that the line between the work of the Senate in dealing with legislation coming forward from the House of Commons, as one of the things they do, has been very blurred with the work of parties that the Senators are appointed by and work with. This confusion has led to a lack of clear delineation of expenses related to Senate work versus party work. A review of the role and responsibilities of Senators seemingly needs to be addressed. The fact that Senators are appointed on a regional basis creates the perception that they need to be from and residing in the province of origin when, in fact, the work before and during the Senate appointment may have required that they actually live some other place. So regional representation is a notion that needs to be more clearly defined.

It would be interesting to find out how many sitting and retired Senators actually took advantage of this capital living allowance improperly, as it seems void of any clear rules. If there had been rules, the claims of the Senators in question should have been caught by administration.

Although these Senators filed expense claims, they didn't have any authority to pay themselves from the budgets of the Senate. They didn't issue the cheques, and for those who did, where was the monitoring scrutiny that one would expect? Mr. Bouchard made reference earlier in the House this week, even in a small jurisdiction like ours, how the rules are set out and how they're followed.

So now we find ourselves in a situation where a succession of serious errors in judgment has occurred and they threaten the stability of the party that governs this country. That's a sad day for Canada, regardless of what political stripe you hold to.

This is an amazing country. We have a democracy, despite some recent challenges, that is really still the envy of many, many countries. The leaders of any of our national parties did not get to that level of leadership without having earned the respect of a lot of Canadians along the way. As a legislator, I have had the privilege to meet many party leaders on trips that they've made to the North, and as a keen follower of politics, even prior to entering public office, I can say without hesitation that each one of them were very impressive Canadians and leaders in their own right.

I'd like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: My wish is that a group of mature, seasoned Senators could take a lesson from what's happened, to agree going forward there

needs to be more clear definition brought to the roles and responsibilities of Senators which activities are eligible for claiming expenses from the Senate and which are not, a revisiting of the rules around primary residence and capital living allowance and a team of administrators of those allowances and indemnities that would not allow Senators to be reimbursed for claims that they are not eligible for.

My wish is also that this could be accomplished before the lives and reputations of any more people are destroyed, that people be held accountable for the funds they received in error and be allowed to move on with the work that they were constitutionally directed to do in the Senate.

This show going on in the House of Commons right now may be wonderful fodder for the media and a lot of fun for some leaders and a lot of posturing for senior politicians, but if there was any chance that people involved could stop for a moment and ask themselves if what they're doing is beneficial to our country and the citizens who elected them, maybe they would work together to find a constructive resolution to a situation so that it never happens again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TEAM NWT PARTICIPATION IN 2013 CANADA SUMMER GAMES

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this summer I had the pleasure of accompanying our Minister, R.C. McLeod, the Minister responsible for sports, to Sherbrooke, Quebec. We were attending the federal/provincial/territorial roundtable discussions on sport and I wanted to say that it was a very enlightening experience and I want to say that the NWT is well-represented at this table and I think it's through the good work of our Minister. Sometimes we forget to say those good things and I want to make sure it goes out publicly.

Before I talk about our other mission that we were there for, which is the Canada Summer Games, I wanted to say that we need to talk about the sponsors of our Team NWT that made it possible for our athletes to actually attend this event. So with my commendable expression, I want to say thank you to NorthwesTel, First Air and Coast Fraser Tower for their stewardship and their ability to help our young athletes. So that's first and foremost.

It was a pleasure that Team NWT had 84 athletes, 23 youth ambassadors, and I can't tell you enough how well our youth ambassadors are received not only from here, from the Northwest Territories, but nationally. They get heartfelt acclaim. We had 12 mission staff there led by Chef de Mission Bill Otmeyer, who likes to be referred to as Billy "O." Billy

did a great job. We also had 16 coaches and managers there. So, all in all, we had a great team.

It's important that we also thank some of our own government stakeholders who were there. These are people who, behind the scenes, spend countless hours and I want to make sure Mr. Ian Legaree gets full credit here for this as well – that's well deserved – and Damon Crossman. He was not only there on behalf of the government, he was actually there as a coach for basketball as well. So hats off to those two people as well.

Of course, I can't mention everyone. There are too many people to mention here today, but you know who you are and pat yourself on the back.

Although Team NWT did not medal at our Canada Summer Games, which is always our target, I'm very comforted knowing that everyone, I think, got a really good, lasting memory and will definitely remember their time there.

I just want to conclude with it's always fun to find a special quote that summarized, I think, the true essence of our Team NWT. This is from Bill Bowerman, who is a 1972 U.S. track and field co-founder of Nike.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. DOLYNNY: Again, with Mr. Bowerman's quote here and he says in his quote: "Victory is in having done your best. If you've done your best, you've won." So I'm proud to say that all NWT athletes were winners, in my eyes. I think we're winners in everybody's eyes in the Northwest Territories. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GREAT SLAVE LAKE COMMERCIAL FISHERY

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to discuss one of the topics near and dear to my heart. In Hay River we are very proud of the commercial fishery on the Great Slave Lake. As many people know, in the summertime most of the production is being done in that season. I'm glad that we've completed that season just recently.

Along the Great Slave Lake we have a two million pound quota that we have the capacity to produce. The sad part is that in past years we've only collected about 300,000 of those pounds. So I'd like to discuss with the Minister and question the Minister today about some of the production and how we're looking to increase that production.

Like I said, I have brought this to this House several times, but I want the Minister of ITI to know that this is very important for the people of Hay River as well

as the people of the Northwest Territories. This is a commodity that we should be using and maximizing and a commodity that we should be very proud of.

Later today I will have questions for the Minister of ITI on this summer's production and what the department is doing to help this industry. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DECENTRALIZATION OF POSITIONS POST-DEVOLUTION

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is true that the theme song for devolution should be "you can't always get what you want," except in this case we can't get what we want or what we need. What we need is more jobs in the smaller communities and the capacity to fill those jobs with local residents. Where there is hope, there is despair. Once people have jobs, they have hope. When people are working they can support their families. They contribute to their communities and look forward to a better future.

I say this to remind the government the devolution promise of more jobs in the communities is critical and the stakes are very high. In this House last week, Premier McLeod indicated that as part of the phase to devolution, something in the neighbourhood of about 90-some positions have been decentralized to the regions and that more decentralization will come with phase three. I'm concerned that most of these jobs are going to the regional centres, or that they will wind up being pulled back to Yellowknife if they can't be filled.

Speaking of regional centres, the work of decentralization will require innovative thinking. I would like to see the government consider establishing Fort Providence as a regional centre. Given its strategic location on the water between Fort Simpson and Yellowknife, it is perfectly situated as a marine hub. In spring the ice does not melt and move out of Great Slave Lake until early June. At Fort Providence the river is free of ice in mid-May, making it ideal for early river transportation activities. If done properly, decentralization can give us opportunities like this to organize government services more effectively.

With respect to decentralization, I'm also concerned that the majority of these jobs require a high level of education with specialized skills that will discourage people in the communities from applying. Getting positions into communities is only part of the equation. Filling those positions with qualified local people is the bigger challenge. Some people seem to equate 10-year positions in the community, for example, with the need for a 10-year process for 10-year families. But for the communities lucky

enough to get 10 new positions, it is my hope those positions will be filled by 10 local residents already living in the community. People who want to work but maybe lack the skills or knowledge to take on new jobs.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. NADLI: To me the biggest challenge will be to assist people living in the communities to qualify and train for those jobs that devolution promises.

I look forward to hearing more about how the government will rise to the challenge through the Regional Recruitment Strategy. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MCLEOD CABINET FAMILY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the spirit of Halloween, I decided to change things up just a little bit and just for today. As such, in the spirit of working together, I did give the Finance Minister a heads-up and I said I'm going to have a little fun with my statement today. Of course, his response was, "At who's cost?", and I assured him no, in all fairness.

There was a television rerun show that I used to watch and I remember it very well from my youth. As such, it has inspired my Member's statement today. Colleagues, all colleagues, I say I know you know the melody, so don't be afraid to jump in and sing along.

They're creepy and they're kooky, their policies are mysterious and spooky, the more you get to know them, they're altogether ookie, the McLeod Cabinet family. Da da dun – don't be afraid, guys – da da dun, da da dun, da da dun, da da dun.

Most days you dread to see them, with their policies you think they're dreamin', and the morality leaves you screaming, the McLeod Cabinet family. Da da dun – come on, colleagues – da da dun, da da dun, da da dun, da da dun.

So get out your decoders, the foolishness we're bound to, dreamlike charms they're selling the McLeod Cabinet family. Da da da dun. Thank you very much, folks.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins.

---Interjection

MR. SPEAKER: You said it, not me. I can't sing. Order! Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
INCLUSIVE SCHOOLING FUNDING FORMULA

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And thank you, Mr. Hawkins, I think. I stand again today to once more voice my concerns about the way the Department of Education, Culture and Employment funds inclusive schooling in our schools. The department directive on inclusive schooling states, "Inclusive schooling is intended to ensure equal access for all students to educational programs offered in regular classroom settings."

As I pointed out in March of this year, this very preamble highlights what is wrong with how inclusive schooling in the NWT is currently being funded and addressed at the departmental level. Inclusive schooling should not be about ensuring equal access. It should be about ensuring equity for our students, and there's a big difference there, Mr. Speaker.

As a former educator, I hear a lot from other educators, parents, education councils and authorities and board members, who all want the best for the children in their care. But in order for teachers to do that, to properly respond to each individual student's needs, the department has to come up with a funding formula for inclusive schooling that ensures success for NWT students. The department must work with all education councils, authorities and boards to develop that formula, not impose it on them.

I hear from the Yellowknife school boards regularly about their ongoing concerns with how inclusive schooling is funded. I hear over and over how it's not working for them, how Yellowknife students are not receiving equitable access to resources as a result of inequities in the funding formula.

About 18 months ago, Education, Culture and Employment, in its wisdom – I have to say it was poor judgment, in my mind – reduced the inclusive schooling funding by about \$1 million across all NWT school districts. As a result, Yellowknife Education District No. 1, for instance, has had to supplement the cost of their inclusive schooling programs from their budgeted surplus. In school year 2011-12, both Yellowknife Education District No. 1 and Yellowknife Catholic Schools spent approximately \$2.5 million in inclusive schooling over and above the funding provided by Education.

Now, two years later, they have used up their surpluses. It's not available for them to use anymore to sustain those inclusive schooling programs. Next year, if nothing changes, both boards expect to have to either increase taxes or cut programs.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: Some months ago, the Minister promised the department would do a review of the inclusive schooling funding formula, but there is no evidence to date that that has been done. It's time to revisit and redefine the funding formula for inclusive schooling. The entire inclusive schooling directive must also be revisited, revised and redefined. Both of these must be done in consultation with education stakeholders, developed with them, not designed by the department and then presented to stakeholders for comment.

We spend a lot of money on inclusive schooling. We must evaluate how we are spending it, revamp it accordingly, and ensure equitable access to education programs for all students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MENTAL HEALTH ACT
CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm going to speak about an act that was assented to in the Legislative Assembly in June of 1985 and that's the Mental Health Act. In the last 28 years, nothing of significance has been done to this Mental Health Act. There haven't been any major amendments to this act to provide our workers and our stakeholders and those that provide the mental health services in the Northwest Territories to do a better job or else get the services to people that need it. Those 28 years is a long time.

The reason I'm bringing this up today is because on the Department of Health and Social Services website are four discussion papers that are looking at updating this Mental Health Act, which I have taken a strong look into the Mental Health Act and there were a lot of holes in it. It wasn't very strong, and in some cases, it was very confusing to myself and health professionals when we looked at it.

Today I am encouraging all key stakeholders, concerned residents of the Northwest Territories who have family members who might have mental disorders or have people in their communities that they want to take care of, to review these discussion papers that are on the Department of Health and Social Services website, and add their feedback, add any comments that they might have, and provide input into making this Mental Health Act stronger to provide the right services and programs for the people of the Northwest Territories.

When I was looking at some of these other reports, in 2004 there was a Mental Health and Addictions Services Report that clarified that mental illness is a major cost-driver in the Northwest Territories, and

that, in the Northwest Territories at that time, suicide rates were twice the national average. I'm pretty sure nothing has changed in that time. In fact, at the beginning of this 17th Legislative Assembly, when we were going through our orientation and getting our updates from the Department of Health and Social Services, it was mentioned that mental health and addictions is the biggest cost-driver for the Northwest Territories today.

I encourage all residents of the Northwest Territories and key stakeholders in the Northwest Territories who provide mental health and addictions services to review these discussion papers, give us your feedback so we can have a very strong Mental Health Act at the end of this government, moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MAUDE BARLOW, NATIONAL CHAIRPERSON
OF THE COUNCIL OF CANADIANS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last night I attended, as did the Member for Frame Lake, an event sponsored by the local chapter of the Council of Canadians, a national non-profit group supported not by governments or corporations, but by individual citizens in Canada. The event featured a talk by Maude Barlow, national chairperson of the council.

Maude Barlow is an amazing person, the recipient of 11 honorary doctorates and untold awards and recognitions. She recently served as the United Nations first senior advisor on water issues. During this term, in July 2010, through Resolution 64/292, the United Nations General Assembly explicitly recognized the human right to water and sanitation, and acknowledged that clean drinking water and sanitation are essential to the realization of all human rights. This resolution provides an obligation for all countries, including Canada, to ensure these rights are upheld.

Maude has written 17 books and, most recently, one titled, *Blue Future, Protecting Water for People and the Planet Forever*. She always takes the long view.

During her talk, Maude detailed the global water crisis, providing specific examples of issues in Canada as well as around the world. She detailed the shocking consequences of the crisis that is happening today in the global south and what is beginning to happen in the global north.

From there she went on to describe some of the work she does to mobilize communities and coalitions, including her work with indigenous people, to deal with the waste people and removal

of clean water from our homelands around the world. One core observation was her understanding that production of most things, from the shirts we wear to the cars we drive, use and pollute water. For example, extraction of fossil fuels requires massive amounts of water. In the latter case, she also noted that that tragic double loss as we put all our efforts and creative thinking into fracking instead of renewable energy and efficiency.

Finally, Maude brought a message of hope. As revealed in *Blue Future*, she profiled how water and our need for it to teach us how to live together. This compelling woman has spent a lifetime fighting for democracy, healthy families and healthy communities, always with hope and compassion.

I left the event thinking, what a great Canadian. I wish this House could hear the inspirational words of wisdom she so generously shares. Thanks to the local chapter of the council for bringing their leader to town. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
FREQUENCY OF OIL AND GAS SPILLS
IN NORMAN WELLS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We either have the best incident reporting policy in Canada or we have the worst-kept secrets of oil and gas incidents in the Northwest Territories.

According to a recent CBC report, the National Energy Board, Canada's pipeline regulators, showed that more than 70 incidents from spills, leaks and injuries or fires were reported in Norman Wells. That's in six years.

Mr. Speaker, we have a problem. Are our regulatory laws strong enough? I say no, because we need to tighten them up, as per the report that CBC clearly indicated. This has shaken my confidence in our coordinator with our regulatory bodies and our legislation.

When you have Imperial Oil, a big time oil and gas operator in the North, who is one of the biggest violators of these incidents and stating there's no impact to our land, our water or our air, it's like having the fox telling us the chicken coup is fine.

First we had leaks of crude oil of thousands of litres. We had 40 million litres of water used for cooling the operation then released into the Mackenzie River going down to the community of Fort Good Hope with indications of levels of copper in them. We had water contamination of hydrocarbons released back into the water. Again, we have Colville Lake people telling us there's something wrong with the water.

What are the rules? What if we had never heard of these 77 incidents? It frightens me to know that

Imperial Oil can do this and more. What else is it that we don't know about since 1920 when Imperial was operating? I see more fighting. It's what we know.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Now that we know, I'd say we are paid to solve problems. Let's do this together.

I'll have questions for the Minister of ENR at the appropriate time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Hawkins.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 9-17(4):
TABLING OF THE PEMBINA INSTITUTE REPORT
TITLED RESPONSIBLE EXTRACTION:
AN ANALYSIS OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES MINERAL DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY PANEL REPORT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure is pleased to provide its report on the tabling of the Pembina Institute Report titled Responsible Extraction: An Analysis of the Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy Panel Report and commends it to the House.

In conjunction with the release of Pathways to Mineral Development: Report of the Stakeholders Engagement Panel for the NWT Mineral Development Strategy in June 2013, the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure commissioned the Pembina Institute to review the report and related documents, and offer its comments and recommendations on the Government of the Northwest Territories' approach to future mineral development in the North.

The committee commissioned this review out of concern for the perceived industry bias and lack of public involvement in the work of the advisory panel that the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment commissioned in the preparation of the Mineral Development Strategy. The committee wishes to publicly release the Pembina Institute's work, entitled Responsible Extraction: An Analysis of the Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy Panel Report, and offer residents an opportunity to get involved in the creation of responsible public policy for mineral development.

The Pembina Institute's analysis supports some areas of the advisory panel's recommendations, but

strongly recommends a more balanced approach and open public consultation as the government prepares to implement the Mineral Development Strategy. Members of the standing committee invite the public to comment on the Pembina Institute's analysis as well as the Mineral Development Strategy Advisory Panel's report. The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment is ultimately responsible for the direction of the Mineral Development Strategy and has an important role in commenting on this work. The committee members are disappointed that the Minister has, so far, declined to offer a direct response to the Pembina Institute's assessments.

As the Northwest Territories takes on responsibility for land and resources management, Northerners must work together more than ever before. Taxpayers cannot afford to support the exploitation of publicly owned natural resources. The Northwest Territories cannot afford another Colomac or Giant Mine. It is time to develop projects with legacies we can be proud to share.

Mining offers many opportunities, but for the long-term benefit of our people, it must be governed by responsible public interest policy, and supported as one of many vital components of a diversified economy that builds and sustains the Northwest Territories as a whole.

The committee will be formally tabling the Pembina Institute report and welcome public comment in the development of this important policy framework.

That concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure on the tabling of the Pembina Institute Report, titled Responsible Extraction: An Analysis of the Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy Panel.

MOTION TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT COMMITTEE REPORT 9-17(4), CARRIED

Therefore, I move, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta, that Committee Report 9-17(4) be received by the Assembly and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Committee Report 9-17(4) has been received and adopted. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Lafferty.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize some of the people who are here with us today. There are some chairpersons of the school boards. John Stephenson is here with us, chair of YK No. 1. Gayla Meredith, president of NWTTA is here with us as well. I saw Ted Blondin earlier. He might still be in the gallery. He is the chair of the Tlicho Community Services Agency. For the Catholic School Board, Chair Simon Taylor is here with us, and also the superintendent, Claudia Parker, is here with us. I believe there is some staff that came in, as well, from my department: John Stewart along with other partners, Helen Balanoff, Sophie Hall and Laura McNeil. Thanks for being here with us. Mahsi.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize in the visitors gallery Sophie Hall, who has been a tireless worker on behalf of French first language education in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce a member from Range Lake. Mr. Huvenaars is here with us today and was introduced earlier by the Minister. What people don't realize is that Mr. Huvenaars and I go way back. We used to curl together. We weren't very good, but we curled together.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to welcome the chairs of the two Yellowknife school districts who are here, Simon Taylor from Yellowknife Catholic Schools and John Stephenson from YK Education District No. 1. I want to say it was a pleasure to see Mr. Ootes and Ms. Baile here in the House earlier. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. John Stephenson, chair of the YK 1 and resident of Weledeh. Also, Simon Taylor, chair of the Yellowknife Catholic School Board, and some of the staff here today. Also, the residents of Weledeh, Jacob Schubert, one of our Pages today. Thanks to all the Pages for the service they are providing. I believe I heard John Stewart was in the gallery. I can't always see behind me here, but another resident of Weledeh. I understand Roy Erasmus is in the crowd. I'm very happy to see him and any other folks that are returning for our

celebration coming up here tomorrow, particularly of course Jake Ootes and Marg Baile. Thank you.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two Pages from Lutselk'e: Nathan Catholique and Ethan Rambough.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize former Member Jake Ootes and his lovely missus. And also to recognize Roy Erasmus, a former Member also for the Legislative Assembly. It's good to see Jake.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I'd like to welcome back, too, Mr. Roy Erasmus. It's good to see you in the House today. Welcome all members of the City of Yellowknife into the House. Thank you for taking time for our proceedings here today. Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 409-17(4): FREQUENCY OF OIL AND GAS SPILLS IN NORMAN WELLS

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I talked about the incidents that the CBC reported on Norman Wells being the number one community of oil and gas leakage, fire, injuries and pipeline integrity. I want to ask the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources if there is a reporting protocol and why doesn't it include any type of notification to the public on these incidents that CBC had to tell the world on this type of stuff that's dear to our hearts.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. ENR does have a spill line. It's operational 24 hours a day. Plus, as well, we rely, as the Member well knows in his constituency, on reports from folks that are on the land. They have been very, very helpful in spotting leaks, especially on the pipeline. There is that opportunity there. The National Energy Board has responsibility for responding to leaks at production sites and exploration sites, but clearly, when you look at the map across Canada where spills occur, I mean, it's very clear that when there's oil and gas, this type of situation is going to occur, given the volume of material being moved and thousands of kilometres of pipelines and such that are in operation.

MR. YAKELEYA: According to reports from Imperial in 2009, 127,000 litres of water contaminated with hydrocarbons that was used to

force oil up from the underground also poured into the water. Even though we do have a report-a-spill line for all these types of incidents, with the Minister of the Environment, what are the consequences to ensure for these illegal releases of contaminated water in the river?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There are licences at play, there are remediation costs, and there's a review to make sure that this issue is cleared up, the culpability is determined, and that the proper steps are taken to clean it up and make sure that we try to avoid those things in the future.

MR. YAKELEYA: With the increase of oil and gas in our region and the development that's going to certainly increase if the proven resources are there in the Sahtu, what type of level of increases of spills could we expect, based on the performance of the pipelines and the companies and the reports that we're just finding out now from the CBC report? I'd ask the Minister.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I want to make it clear that we'll want to look at the numbers clearly. If you use a global number of spills, some of them are going to be very small; some of them will be larger, as the Member has indicated. We have to set up the processes as we take over. We want to make sure that we have the capacity to monitor, to do a better job, to work with the industry, to work with the National Energy Board to bring a better focus to bear, but there is a reality that if you have this type of activity with that type of material being moved, and given the fact that they've been in operation for decades, some spills will happen. The issue is going to be to make sure we catch them quickly, that they're small, and that, in fact, we aim for zero spills, as difficult as that may be.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the National Energy Board and the Government of the Northwest Territories are certainly going to enter into a partnership where we will become the employer and the National Energy Board will become the employee on April 1, 2014. I want to ask the Minister: Would he set up a meeting with the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, the GNWT, the National Energy Board – because they'll be our new regulators – and Imperial Oil to look at this report here and look at, going forward, where do we need to work together to put a zero effect of oil spills, pipeline corrosion, any type of incident, that would assure our people this work can be done in a safe manner?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As we move towards devolution and as we move towards the Government of the Northwest Territories setting up its northern-based regulatory regime, we will very certainly be meeting with industry, with the regulators, with the land and water boards, with the

folks in the regions, in the Sahtu and other regions, and offshore as well, and absolutely, the issue of this type of damning report will be looked at carefully. We're going to want to make sure that we'll be able to provide comfort and certainty to Northerners that due process and due diligence and rigor has been applied to this issue, and as the Member said, the ideal would be to have no spill and what do we have to do to get there.

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

QUESTION 410-17(4):
INDUSTRY CONTRIBUTIONS TO
WINTER ROADS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Transportation. I recognize that the Minister is quite new to this position, and I'd like to start by offering my congratulations, and I hope he's ready to get on with things in his new role. My questions are on the issue of public highways and what happens when resource exploitation puts extra pressure on them. My constituents on the Ingraham Trail are concerned that the secondary winter road to the diamond mines may not be built this year. They are concerned that this will cause an increase in truck traffic on the Ingraham Trail that will damage the highway that has just recently been repaired.

I'm wondering: Does the Minister agree that the lack of a secondary winter road to the diamond mines will cause increased highway maintenance costs for the GNWT through damage to that highway?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A joint venture group has been building the secondary winter road on the Ingraham Trail to handle the increased traffic. However, the department understands that they will not be constructing that road, or unlikely that they will be constructing that road. The department's first priority is safety and we will be looking at stepping up some of the highway patrols there and putting some people on there for security for 24 hours a day during the winter road season. However, the road is being rebuilt and I'm not sure that the increased traffic is going to do damage to the main road to Tibbett.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for that response. I'm glad to hear he's all over the safety issue. That's number one, of course, and that happens with this increased traffic now on the Ingraham Trail.

I'm sad to hear confirmation that the secondary road will not be built and I hope the Minister will look into working with industry to see if he can get them to put it in. We do a number of things,

because, I mean, it's clear that this damage does happen with truck traffic. Any resident out there and the Department of Highways can tell you. We do things in a number of different ways up here. The winter road to the diamond mines is paid for by the mines, while the Ingraham Trail is paid for by the GNWT, the Mackenzie bridge, a combination of trucking tolls and government funding.

Can the Minister explain his understanding of how this should work? Should industry pay for what industry uses or should the public pay for everything? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Although I haven't gotten into the details, how I think it should work is if industry is bringing a lot of resources into the Territories, then the government should be there to support industry to allow industry easy access to resources so they're able to pay for the resources that are taken off the land. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. On our trip to North Dakota, we saw that fracking requires a huge number of trucks; so many trucks that they were wearing 10-inch-deep ruts in the asphalt and causing the state to go to concrete road construction at substantial cost. Now this government is promoting fracking for the Sahtu.

How does the Minister plan to ensure the public roads we have already built are not destroyed and the public is not paying for roads and repairs that should be paid for by the extraction industry? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. The Department of Transportation has certain load limits and certain speed limits on roads when there is hauling going on and so on. Those are designed to ensure that the roads do not fall apart and deteriorate quicker than is normally expected. So with the speed limits, the amount of weight that is carried on the tires that the truck is using and so on is all calculated so that the roads last a certain period of time. With those calculations, the Department of Transportation is not concerned that this piece of infrastructure will deteriorate any faster than what we anticipate. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can confirm that residents, based on 15 years of real experience, are very concerned. I hope the Minister also becomes concerned about this.

Could the Minister please explain how that same philosophy that industry should contribute to the cost of roads they are using and degrading, how has that been applied in the case of the new Inuvik to Tuk all-weather road? How will industry contribute? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. From what I understand, the Inuvik-Tuk highway is funded heavily by the federal government. The intention there is not solely for the extraction of materials. That highway is not going to be in and specifically designed for the resource developers to use. It is there to put a highway in to the Arctic Ocean.

So for sure resource developers will be using it, but it's funded... Again, the majority of that road is funded by the federal government. They put the money in there. That's why the road is being built, but it's not really tied into the resource extraction in that area. Thank you.

QUESTION 411-17(4):
INCLUSIVE SCHOOLING
FUNDING FORMULA

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my statement and I have some questions today for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

I spoke to a review of inclusive schooling, which we had been advised by the Minister was being done. I'd like to first of all ask the Minister for an update on that inclusive schooling review. Has it been done and when will it be made public? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This whole inclusive schooling has been a topic of discussion within our department and with our regional partners, local partners, educational, NWTTA and other partners that are involved. We've done the review through the program review office because we have to do our review via the office of the Auditor General as well.

So some of the recommendations came out that we knew we were working within our department and working with the school boards. So, through the Education Renewal, it's been highlighted as part of the initiatives that we need to roll that into our Education Renewal. We are working closely with the education authorities, education school boards, because this will have a positive impact in the communities and schools. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister and I absolutely agree with the Minister that this needs to be looked at, but we were told that this was going to be looked at some months ago. The fact that it's rolled into the Education Renewal Initiative confuses me and makes me somewhat apprehensive. The Minister is tabling that Education Renewal Initiative document this afternoon. So I don't understand how we can roll the inclusive schooling evaluation into a document that's about to be tabled. Can the Minister explain that? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. Currently we deliver inclusive schooling through the school boards and through their formula funding, upwards of \$26 million above and beyond what's legislated.

So it is \$7 million beyond what we're legislated. The school board is at the discretion of using those funds as well.

So we work closely with the school boards on identifying, and there's also a ministerial directive on inclusive schooling to make sure the money is well expended in those areas. When I refer to the education renewal, education renewal is very broad, changing the whole educational system. The inclusive schooling will be captured as part of the renewal process. If we're going to change our Education Act, it will be part of the process as well. Again, reiterating the legislation that's before us through this Assembly and we'll continue to push that forward within our initiatives. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: I'm still confused and I'd have to say, and I spoke in my statement and I need to tell the Minister this is not working. From the perspective of school boards here in Yellowknife, but also other school boards in the territory, the Inclusive Schooling Program funding that they're getting is not working.

I want to know from the Minister will he commit to doing a study of inclusive schooling funding and a study of the Inclusive Schooling Directive and make some revisions? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. Those are some of the areas that we are currently collecting data, the stats from the school boards. We need to identify what's working and what's not working. I fully agree with the Member that we need to re-evaluate inclusive schooling within our school system. This is an area where my department is working very closely with the school boards and we need to fix that issue, some of the areas that need enhancement. So those are key areas we are looking for. Mahsi.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to say to the Minister I heard the same words from the Minister about, well, we need to do this and we're going to do this. I heard that many months ago. So I'm not very pleased that we are going to be "starting over again from zero."

I'd like to ask the Minister how he is going to ensure that the money that is required for specific students gets to those students that need it most? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. We're not starting from scratch. We've collected information and we are moving forward on this. It's an education renewal. We'll certainly capture that as well. But at the same time, we are collecting that information. We always use the best practices as well from across and so forth.

This particular inclusive schooling has garnered a lot of attention within our department and we will continue to improve in those areas. Again, we have to work with our partners, the school boards, the DEAs and DEC's. Mahsi.

QUESTION 412-17(4):
YELLOWKNIFE POWER RATES

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few days ago I was questioning Minister Miltenberger regarding the power rates in the Northwest Territories, more specifically the power rates here in Yellowknife. His assessment is we're doing things, we're moving forward, there are challenges, et cetera, but he's always willing to hear a good suggestion.

So the Government of the Northwest Territories engineers or manipulates, or call it as you will, 40 percent of the power rates for residents of the Northwest Territories. Yellowknife is not on that list of 40 percent of the Northwest Territories that they are, again, engineering or manipulating power rates. As such, I would like the Minister to explain what all the Yellowknifers perceive as an anti-Yellowknife approach.

What is he doing for Yellowknife? Why is it good enough for almost everybody else but not for this city and their residents? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no bias in the system. The whole intent was to create a system that was more even and less complex, hence the thermal rates and the Yellowknife rates. One of the big factors in Yellowknife and Hay River, plus a couple of small communities, is there is another power distributor, NUL. While we provide and sell power at wholesale rates, the provider in these communities adds their own costs on top of that, which is why there is such a distinct difference, for example, between Hay River and Fort Smith, why there is such a distinct difference between the power rates charged where the Power Corp does a service and where NUL does. There is no bias in the system and we try to be even handed and fair as possible. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, the average working family, or I should say the everyday working family does not believe the Minister in that regard, because if you lower the cost in every community, generally speaking of course, but you do nothing for the largest populated community, that does seem to be perceived as bias.

What is the Minister willing to do to help strike away some of that perceived bias but with this suggestion? What is stopping this government from doing an analysis in a comparative sense lowering

the cost of electricity in Yellowknife in a similar fashion as he has engineered the power rates outside of Yellowknife? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: In point of fact, yes, we have pegged the residential rates in the thermal communities to the Yellowknife rate. So I'm not sure what the issue of bias would be when we are using Yellowknife as a benchmark. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister knows very well that power rates are based on what it costs to deliver power. In these communities, that's why some of them unfairly, of course I recognize the problem associated why some of the power rates are outrageously high, but yes, they pegged them to the Yellowknife costs, but yet all they did was keep and maintain the Yellowknife cost as it ever increases but we lowered everyone, so we in de facto subsidize everyone at the Yellowknife rate, but he's done nothing for 40 percent of the population, so there lies the question.

What is he willing as the Minister of the NWT Power Corporation that follow with all the money, all the technology and all the staff to come up with solutions, not us simple MLAs that just working a day job every day trying to do our best. What is he, with all the resources in his hands, willing to do for customers that represent 40 percent of this territory? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, it's a good thing that the Member in fact has a day job, because if he had to sing for his supper, it would be a long time between meals.

---Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: Order! Order!

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: In fact, the thermal communities' residential rates are pegged to the Yellowknife rate. There are no other subsidies in the hydro rate zone. I would be happy to have a more detailed discussion. If there is some work we can do and reviews of rates and information we can provide to the Member that would answer some of his questions and show him that there is no bias, I would be happy to have those discussions with him. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will fully agree with the first part of his statement about the singing and going hungry, but I do not agree with the second part. The last part, I will take him up on his offer of sitting down and talking to me.

Quite frankly, I'm asking the Minister to do an evaluation of what it would cost to bring the Yellowknife rates down to what is considered normal and comparable. We have subsidized and engineered the power rates in all the communities.

Yet, at the end of the day, we don't seem to do anything for the largest community that is trying to get people here. They are leaving because of the cost.

Would the Minister be able to do an evaluation of that? Let's compare it to the Fort Smith region, which has some of the lowest power costs in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I just would need some clarity from the Member on what he means by normal and comparable. If he wants to compare it to the Fort Smith rates, we'd be happy to lay out the price breakdown. I will indicate clearly right now one of the big costs that Yellowknife has, that Hay River has and Fort Smith doesn't have, is the franchise arrangements and costs that flow from that arrangement that communities make on their own call, because of their franchise fee, and we can show and we will be happy to lay that out for the Member to the cent, to the kilowatt hour and have a discussion if that would address some of his questions. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 413-17(4):
DECENTRALIZATION OF POSITIONS
POST-DEVOLUTION

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Premier about decentralization. First I just wanted to highlight the NWT. Of course, we have one major city here in the NWT. We have about five or seven regional centres and the rest are communities. Right now devolution has been regarded as the biggest achievement thus far. We're seeing some discussion in terms of devolution, so there has been a lot of heavy lifting. At the same time, we are burdened with heavy responsibilities. I'm going to ask the questions, but I don't know if I should expect a shuffle or a dance, but I will try.

Of the 90 positions already decentralized, how many are targeted for communities outside of regional centres? Mahsi.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe any are targeted. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Thank you. That's disappointing. Can this government help a community like Fort Providence and recognize it as a regional centre so the community is able to benefit from decentralization? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: It's more than just asking to become a regional centre. It has to make sense, it has to be feasible and there has to be a good reason for doing so. We have five regional centres

that have been established strictly for administrative purposes. In the past, we've looked at establishing regional centres to coincide with land claim agreements, but we found that not to be feasible at this point in time. In order to establish Fort Providence as a regional centre, we would have to have some rationale for doing so and also primarily how much it would cost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: I do appreciate the Premier being straightforward in terms of perhaps relaying or at least lessening the hopes and aspirations of small communities, basically saying that cost is a big factor at this point.

When can small communities realistically expect the benefits of decentralization? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Member will be very pleased to know that this government has a plan and a vision for the future and part of that plan is decentralization of positions from the larger centres to the smaller communities. We will be having a housing capital plan so that we will build up to 100 housing units in the small communities. We also have a plan where we will establish offices so that we can decentralize positions to the communities. We have set up ourselves so that we can develop that plan and that vision over the next two years of this government, where we will identify those positions and divisions that will be decentralized. We will be able to tell each and every one of the Members which positions and when we expect them to be decentralized. Everybody will have a plan. Everybody will be happy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final question is: Would there be any positions decentralized to Fort Providence? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: There's no song and dancing here. There will be positions that will be identified. As we develop our plan, we will identify those positions that will be decentralized. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 414-17(4):

MENTAL HEALTH ACT CONSULTATIONS

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are going to be on the Mental Health Act. I welcome the Minister and the department in the work moving forward. On the Department of Health's website, there are four discussion papers and the government is asking for feedback by December 10th.

After the feedback has been given to the department, what is the timeline to get an LP,

legislative proposal, to this government for review? Does he have a timeline getting the LP to this government, so we can move forward on this act? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for his question and I also thank the Member for encouraging residents of the Northwest Territories to get involved and bring their thoughts and concerns about the Mental Health Act to the department. This is a significant act. It's a very old act, as the Member has identified, and it's going to take a bit of time to work through the whole process and make the changes necessary. But without input from committee and without input from residents of the Northwest Territories, it is impossible. So we need the time, Mr. Speaker.

I will commit today to have the LP and act come to committee and follow the normal process by fall next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOSES: We've got about six weeks, I'd say, less than six weeks to get feedback on these discussion papers on a very important act that's going to affect all residents of the Northwest Territories.

If the Minister and his department don't receive sufficient feedback in that amount of time, December 10th, would the Minister be willing to extend the deadline to access feedback on the discussion papers? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: This is the first round of collecting information after the discussion items and discussion papers have gone out. After that, there will obviously be some initial work on some drafting and working on the legislative proposal. From that point, we will be seeking input from stakeholders from across the Northwest Territories and move forward to the point where we're closer to being ready to go forward with an LP and discussion with committee. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOSES: Outside of the Northwest Territories, I know other jurisdictions across Canada have some very stringent, very strong mental health legislation.

Is the Minister willing to look at other jurisdictions across Canada to mirror some of that legislation and things that could work in those jurisdictions that can also work here in the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: In the reworking of this act, we will absolutely look at legislation from other jurisdictions. I will not commit to something that I have not read, but if there is something identified in other jurisdictions that consultants

show will work in the Northwest Territories, we're certainly willing to look at it. At the same time, the government has already done a significant amount of work on this over the years. There's been report after report after report on mental health and addictions and other issues. We've got the information and it's time to actually start doing something.

As I've indicated, we will come forward with the Mental Health Act, barring any unforeseen circumstances or barriers, within the life of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did take a look at those discussion papers going forward on this Mental Health Act. I know Members on this side of the House have asked for a wellness court to be brought forth in this government.

Would the Minister be looking at possibly incorporating some type of wellness court provision within this legislation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We've already committed to move forward with a wellness court here in the Northwest Territories. We hope to have the beginning aspects of it by April 1, 2014. Having said that, I'm not sure we actually need to incorporate it into legislation. It may be something that we may benefit from doing, but it would be impossible for me to say at this time without us finishing our analysis. So I will certainly have the departments, both Justice and Health and Social Services, look at it to see if it's appropriate.

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

QUESTION 415-17(4):

GREAT SLAVE LAKE COMMERCIAL FISHERY

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement, I have some questions for the Minister of ITI. Can the Minister provide the production numbers for this year's summer production on the Great Slave Lake commercial fishery?

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past 20 years, the amount of fish taken from Great Slave Lake would amount to about 2.2 million pounds. In the last number of years... I think the Member asked for last year, the total exported from the NWT in thousands of pounds was 1,038, so that would be 103,000 pounds.

MR. BOUCHARD: As I indicated in my Member's statement, I believe that this is an important asset for the Northwest Territories, and a commodity. I'm

just wondering what the department has done to invest in the NWT commercial fishery to assist those people in the industry.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: On an annual basis, we have a program that supports fishers here in the NWT. It amounts to about \$225,000 a year, broken down into a number of program initiatives. But this summer I appeared before a parliamentary committee on fisheries, and basically spelled out to them the importance of the fishery on Great Slave Lake here in the Northwest Territories. I gave them some historical perspective on the fishery, where we wanted to see it go and how important it was for us to reinvigorate the fishery on Great Slave Lake.

Through the work of the Economic Opportunities Strategy that we've just tabled in the House this week, it squarely pointed to the fact that we need to do more with the commercial fishery here in the Northwest Territories. I have committed to putting a lot of effort into reinvigorating the fishery on Great Slave Lake. We need to find some funding. There are a couple of key areas: We need a new processing facility in Hay River. We also need to put some money into an aging fleet that's out on the lake. Thirdly, we need to find some more people that are interested in getting into the business of fishing on Great Slave Lake.

It's a great resource. It's underutilized. We also need to find a way to get that product here in a domestic capacity, into stores and onto people's kitchen tables here in the Northwest Territories.

MR. BOUCHARD: The Minister indicated he has been working and talking to people in Ottawa. I'm just wondering what he's been doing as far as with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and their monopoly that they have on the operations, and have there been any discussions about opening up the borders and opening up marketing opportunities for the fishers that are producing.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We have had discussions with FFMC as recently as earlier this year, and we see the relationship with that organization as being the key to getting a new fish processing facility into Hay River. We believe that working with them, there has been a changing of heart with the fishermen in Hay River. They've wanted in, they've wanted out, they're back in. We do believe that there is some utility in us maintaining that relationship with that organization.

But, again, I think that's good on the export side, but we've got a domestic market here in the Northwest Territories that, again, I think we really need to find a way to get fish from Great Slave Lake into stores around the Northwest Territories. With a new processing facility to be built in Hay River – and we're going to try to find the funding to allow us to do that – I think we can certainly have the best of both worlds and be exporting fish from

the Northwest Territories and supplying the domestic market here at home.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated the production numbers, and those numbers are quite a bit lower than we actually have the capacity to have as a sustainable quota. We have two million pounds, I think, per year where we can actually sustain that product, that volume every year for years to come. The indications are that we're well below that quota, and what is the department doing to get more fishers into the industry, get the productivity of the current fishers up and increased, we know that that group of people is not getting any younger. How is the department encouraging investment in that industry?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: It's been a difficult task because of fuel prices and the price of fuel for fisherman to get out on the lake. Also, with the increase of the Canadian dollar against the American dollar, it's had a big impact on what prices are paid for that fish. But, again, I'll point out the fact that we do have a support to fishermen program here in the Northwest Territories. It's \$225,000. There's a Fish Harvesters Support Program, a Commercial Fish Harvesters Support Program, Fish Harvesters Expansion Program, a Fish Harvesters New Entrance Support Program, and also some core funding that we've also provided to fishermen. We are very much interested in supporting the commercial fishery on Great Slave Lake. We will continue to do, and as we move forward with the Economic Opportunities Strategy, our intent is to really put some effort and try to find some money to reinvigorate the fishery on Great Slave Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

QUESTION 416-17(4):

RESIDENT HUNTER TAG ALLOCATIONS

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two hundred and thirty two days ago and about 16 minutes ago, I brought questions to this House regarding caribou management. With the imminent passing of the Wildlife Act before us, there are still questions that remain regarding the number of caribou tags for resident and commercial outfitters, and it needs clarity here in the House.

My questions today would be for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. If the Minister can give us maybe a brief update on what is the status right now with the resident hunter tag allocation for this upcoming season.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Within the week we expect to be in a position to announce definitely, in relation to the Beverly and Ahlak herd off to the east. The Bluenose-East herd, the numbers are just being collated and there's work being done with the department and with the co-management board looking at the numbers and looking at how the numbers break out in terms of cow-calf recruitment and calf survival and the overall numbers. That work will be finalized, hopefully, within the week, but if not, shortly thereafter. As soon as those are concluded, I will be in a position to make a public announcement, but the intent still is, the numbers are there to warrant it, and we are looking to move if those numbers warrant on a tag per resident, I will be able to announce that this winter.

MR. DOLYUNNY: I'm looking forward to seeing that information. If the Minister can give us maybe another brief update on what's happening with the commercial outfitter tag allocation for the upcoming season.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There is no commercial outfitter tag allocation. There is none currently, and given the herd numbers, there is no plan at this point to reinstitute those commercial tags for some time. The commitment on the Bathurst herd is going to be the next full count will be done in 2015-16, so it will be at least until 2016 before we're in any position to look at the clear numbers of the state of the Bathurst herd to see what type of harvest may be possible.

MR. DOLYUNNY: It sounds, to my ears, that we're going to be waiting another year or two here before we can do something for our commercial outfitters. They've been hanging on a wire for way too long here and I think we've got to help them out, but of course, I understand species management is paramount.

As I said 232 days ago, and I'm just going to repeat the same question: What is the formal format to allow resident hunters and commercial hunters to have a meaningful input in all upcoming management board discussions in caribou management or in our limit in harvest in the future? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. We have a commitment to an ongoing role here in the Wildlife Act that will engage what is now currently called the Stakeholders Wildlife Act Advisory Group to make sure that we have that ongoing potential opportunity for input. As well, we will work on an ongoing basis with ENR to get feedback from outfitters. In the North Slave there are no settled claims. We're trying to work out a process on a going-forward basis with the Wek'eezhii, which has

a settled claim, but there's none in the North Slave with the Akaitcho. The Northwest Territories Metis, as well, have some claims up here in terms of land and access.

So we're in the process of once again working out an interim arrangement with all of the parties to ensure we can manage the Bathurst herd most appropriately. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister for clarifying that. We've been aware for some time now that the Bluenose-East has been at record levels for at least four years now.

So with that information, can the Minister indicate how many times he's met with the commercial harvesters and talked with them about the potential harvest? Earlier it sounded like we're not going to be doing this for a number of years, but has the Minister sat down with these organizations and clearly mapped out the plan of action for their survival? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. That flexibility and opportunity has been significantly impaired since we are currently involved in litigation and I'm being sued by the outfitters. So there's a lawsuit underway which limits ability for that type of interaction. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 417-17(4):
HIGH COST OF POWER
IN LARGER CENTRES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard my colleague from Yellowknife Centre talking about the cost of power in Yellowknife, feeling that Yellowknife residents are being singled out in some way and not getting the same kind of subsidy as other communities in the Northwest Territories.

Without the benefit of unedited Hansard, I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, did the Minister say that the high cost of power in Hay River and Yellowknife had something to do with the franchises operated by Northland Utilities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we provide the information to the Member, I'll be happy to share the cost breakdowns by community, what they sell the power for, what residents pay for in the hydro communities. I can lay out, as well, for thermal communities, but the

residential rate is pegged to the Yellowknife rate. There is a cost difference based on who the distributor, who the provider of power is.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I'd like to ask the Minister if he's aware of an institution called the Public Utilities Board and that in fact the provision of all power, electricity in the Northwest Territories is a highly regulated utility where, whether it's Northland Utilities or the Power Corporation, they make application to the PUB under a general rate application process and the rates that they charge are regulated. It's based on rate of return, the cost of doing business and this is an organization that's appointed and overseen by this government.

So I'd like to ask the Minister that while he is comparing the price in the hydro communities where NUL holds the franchise, would he also like to look at some of the smaller diesel communities where NUL delivers the utility, as well, compare those communities of the same size where the service is delivered by NTPC? Could he provide that to the House? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. Yes, we will provide the complete package for the Members. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you. I'd like to ask Minister Miltenberger if he is challenging the decision-making process provided by the Public Utilities Board of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Not at all, Mr. Speaker.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the disadvantage of not having unedited Hansard before me, I will review Hansard and if in fact Mr. Miltenberger did make a statement in the House today which is incorrect, I will be asking him to withdraw tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 418-17(4):
EXPANDING E-LEARNING TECHNOLOGY

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today we heard the Minister of Education talk about an Education Renewal Framework. He mentions that we need to improve the relationship between communities and schools, as well as that students in small communities need to have access to quality education as much as those in our larger centres.

My question today is regarding how we can do that through innovation. So I'd like to ask the Minister with the great e-learning program that's happening in Inuvik right now with the communities of

Tuktoyaktuk and Fort McPherson, is there any other communities slated on the list or on the budget for maybe this school year or next school year? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Again, I'm just congratulating the Beaufort-Delta for their e-learning. It's been very successful to date even though it's a short timeframe that they've initiated the project. Now, we must congratulate them as well. This particular e-learning is new to us even though we've used it in other jurisdictions and with best practices from other countries as well.

In the process of the business planning cycle, we work closely with the school boards and they identify their budget for the whole year. As part of that could be the e-learning that the Beaufort-Delta can establish as part of their goals and objectives. So we as a department will be working closely with the Beaufort-Delta because we want to use that model in other jurisdictions and in other communities because it's been successful. We want our students to stay in the communities. So I believe this is one area we are embarking on and it's going to be a very exciting time for us. Mahsi.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. The Beaufort-Delta Inuvik region is very unique in a sense that we have a high cost of living and travelling to any of the communities, the budget that the district education authority has gets spent really fast, because if they go to Sachs Harbour or Paulatuk, they're using up a lot of their budget. So when we've got great programs like e-learning, but the cost of travel going to the communities is very high, we want to ask the Minister if he'd be willing to increase a budget or look at the way they divvy up the dollars for education authorities and look at giving an increase to the education authorities so that they can run a successful program like this, but also do their visits to the communities. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. Through various school boards, they deliver their own projects outside of their business planning budget that they usually receive. Again, thanking them for being innovative and creative. We are working closely with that. There are different projects on the go. E-learning is just one example. There are other school boards that are doing quite well in other projects, as well, that we are closely monitoring. Again, this will be a part of their business planning cycle. If there's going to be an increase in funding, then that will be considered through the process itself. So at the end of the day, we will be going through this with our department and all of the school boards with all these different initiatives such as e-learning, a prime example. Mahsi.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. This program itself is very unique and the Inuvik Education Authority has taken this on themselves, have run with it and they've shown success. They've given us

presentations on high success rates within the school system, an increase in their school averages, academic averages. If the Inuvik Education Authority is spending their money on this successful program when they could be using it other ways that other educational authorities are using their dollars, would the department be looking to fund this as a different project rather than having the Inuvik Education Authority use their dollars on this unique program that's making waves in the small communities? Would the department look at funding it as a project on its own out of Inuvik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the projects that we are seriously looking at. We have done pilot projects in the past. We continue to do so. This could be part of the project that has been delivered through the Beaufort-Delta and along with other communities, so we could deliver that in the mains. Again, we need to sit down and work with the Beaufort-Delta and other school boards, if we can deliver a similar model, and as part of the business planning cycle as well. Mahsi.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a very unique project. The staff have said to me, speaking with some of the staff and people who have known the program, they do need more dollars to run this program successfully, even in the two communities they're working with now.

Would the Minister also, doing this model, look at southern institutions that might be able to offer programs from the South through Inuvik to the communities? It's very unique. It's a great opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member that we are unique. We are very much different than other jurisdictions. I did receive a letter from the chair of the Beaufort-Delta. We are seriously looking at this particular project. If it's going to be funded from the department with the school board, those are just some of the recommendations brought to my attention, so I need to work with that. It wasn't too long ago that we received the letter, but I will keep the Member posted as we move forward on these particular projects. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 419-17(4):
RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT CENTRE
FOR ADDICTIONS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the new Minister of Health and Social Services, with my congratulations, and it

follows up on my Member's statement on the need for a treatment centre or not within the Northwest Territories.

Does the Minister agree that the need for a drug and alcohol treatment centre in the NWT, which means the allocation of substantial funding and efforts, versus focusing on other programs and accessing southern institutions, remains unclear and needs attention and focus to be resolved? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, there is no question that dealing with mental health and addictions in the Northwest Territories is a priority of this government as well as Members. There are many ways to provide services. It may be a treatment centre; it may be on-the-land programming. This is a discussion that we need to continue to have with committee and I'm willing to continue to have with committee. We do have a Shared Path Towards Wellness, the 2012-2015 report on mental health and addictions. This is an action plan and we all need to work together. I hear the Member's point, but I'm not sure the government committee need new bricks and mortar as the direction to go. There are lots of buildings around which we may be able to utilize for treatment centres but there is also on-the-land programming, so there are multiple approaches we need to consider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Minister. That is exactly my point. We have not resolved this question for decades. We halfway supported our institutions. We have allowed them to fail because we haven't had the commitment to either make them work or focus somewhere else. Currently, it's totally buried in the fine print of the strategy.

Will he bring the focus needed to resolve this question? Bring it to the House and let us know the timeline and how he is going to go about this. I would like to hear him commit to that during this session. The day has come. Mahsi.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I listened intently yesterday during the mental health and addictions theme day and I heard the Member talking. I also heard all of the Members talking. What I will commit to right now is that I will sit down with committee. We will talk about these issues. The reviews and the research have been done; it's time for action. I agree, and I will work with committee to move forward on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for that commitment. Thanks to the Minister. Unfortunately, and I agree with most of what he said, but towards the end, we have not done the research. That is what I'm

saying. Let's do the research. Let's commit ourselves fully. Do the research. What are the programs? What are the success rates of the different models? What is our situation? How would it work, jibe with on-the-land programs and so on? Let's put the effort and the commitment to resolve this once and for all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I heard the Member say that we need a thorough and informed debate to examine the pros and cons leading to a clear evidence-based decision and a commitment to act. I also heard Members say we are plagued with study after study after study. I've heard other Members say we have talked about the reports that have been shelved. I heard another Member say study after study after study keeps telling us the same thing. I also heard that we have to think outside the box and that we have to work together.

I and my colleagues are here to work with Members on that side of the House to find real solutions and we're willing to think outside the box. We don't need more studies. The research is done. Let's get something done. We need to work with the Members and we will work with the Members to solve these solutions.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Minister has captured it here. There is a lot of confusion, which is what I said. There is a lot of opposing information. That's exactly what I'm looking for, is a timeline. Right now, as I said, this is buried in the fine print of the so-called action plan. I'm looking for a commitment to get this done within all the details that the Minister has mentioned, various programs that are out there, the conflicting information. We need leadership to penetrate this haze and come up with a clear, informed decision. That is what I'm asking for. Mahsi.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I'm pretty sure that's what I just said as well. As far as a timeline, I'm not going to stand here on my first day and give you a timeline. I'm going to work with the Members. We are going to work on a timeline. We are going to come forward with action in the life of this Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Moses.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 153-17(4):
LETTER DATED OCTOBER 30, 2013,
FROM INUVIALUIT REGIONAL CORPORATION
REGARDING BILL 3: WILDLIFE ACT
AMENDMENTS

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter that was distributed to all Members of the Legislative Assembly on October 30, 2013. It's a letter from the Inuvialuit regarding their concerns with respect to Bill 3 amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 154-17(4):
PEMBINA INSTITUTE REPORT TITLED
"RESPONSIBLE EXTRACTION: AN ANALYSIS OF
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES MINERAL
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY PANEL REPORT"

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to the committee report I gave earlier today, I wish to table the Pembina Report, titled Responsible Extraction: An Analysis of the Northwest Territories Mineral Development Strategy Panel Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 155-17(4):
EDUCATION RENEWAL AND
INNOVATION FRAMEWORK:
DIRECTIONS FOR CHANGE

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled Education Renewal Innovation Framework: Directions for Change, 2013. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Notices of Motion for
First Reading of Bills**

BILL 30:
APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, November 4, 2013, I will move that Bill 30, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 17, motions. Mr. Bromley.

Motions

MOTION 26-17(4):
UNIVERSAL AFFORDABLE DAYCARE,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS one of the goals of the 17th Assembly is "healthy, educated people free from poverty;"

AND WHEREAS one of the priorities of the 17th Assembly is "supporting child care programs to help parents become or stay employed;"

AND WHEREAS the "\$7 per day" daycare program in Quebec has been shown to decrease poverty by cutting in half the number of single parents on welfare and increasing their after-tax income by 81 percent in the first decade;

AND WHEREAS the child poverty rate in Quebec is now half of what it was before the "\$7 per day" daycare program was started;

AND WHEREAS the universal daycare programs in Scandinavia have been shown to decrease poverty;

AND WHEREAS the "\$7 per day" daycare program in Quebec has been shown to improve the life chances of women and the poor and to build a better quality labour force;

AND WHEREAS the "\$7 per day" daycare program in Quebec increased the number of women in the workplace by 22 percent;

AND WHEREAS focusing on early childhood development and education from infancy to three years old has been shown to greatly increase a child's chances of success in school and later in life;

AND WHEREAS the daycare programs in Quebec and Scandinavia are run by people who are trained in early childhood development and education;

AND WHEREAS poverty rates in the NWT are unacceptably high, with more than one-third of single-parent families living below the poverty line;

AND WHEREAS the current daycare system in the NWT does not provide enough spaces and is not affordable;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that within the next 12 months the Government of the Northwest Territories conduct a feasibility study on putting in place universal, affordable child daycare run by people trained in early childhood development and education, similar to the systems in Quebec and Scandinavia;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response to this motion within 120 days.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to bring this motion forward with my colleague Mr. Yakeleya.

We've all heard now about the recent assessment of the Quebec model of daycare, the benefits it has enabled and the positive return on the investments financially, socially and economically. We also know this system is not really universal and is not perfect, yet it's been a hugely positive factor in the social and economic progress of this jurisdiction.

The Scandinavian examples, when you examine them, speak clearly of the success these longer and comprehensive programs have enjoyed.

Here in the NWT, Education, Culture and Employment does have a program, called Income Assistance Child Care Benefits, but hardly anybody uses it. The issue is not lack of demand. The issue is very few people are eligible and the system sets up too many barriers.

The income support title of the program sums up the problem. Child care benefits are viewed like a welfare program that is just for people who are unable to help themselves. We don't handle everything like that. Health care is available for everyone and so is education. Can you imagine applying for income support before taking your kids to see a nurse or to school? Daycare is a supporting component of a modern health system and a modern education system, so we should handle it the same way. Daycare should be available for everyone and affordable for everyone, no questions asked.

Just over a year ago we improved our current system by bumping up our subsidy a bit and trying to make the application for such support a little less onerous and demeaning. I appreciated that effort, but it falls far short of the child care program with providers trained in early childhood development and education that is needed and is being called for here.

One of the ongoing issues is, of course, the debilitating costs of child care, often several hundred or even thousands of dollars per month. ECE support is slow, meaning the opportunity for jobs or education could pass you by while you try to seek it. It is not consistent because child care is typically paid monthly, but if your child is sick or away for some days, you still pay the costs for those days but ECE subsidies are deducted for that time.

Under our current policies, there is a highly variable level of care that children receive. ECE support is for child care business or institutions that typically do not have a required standard of professional training for their providers. Recently I heard the case of a father with several children who said he sent his infant to a child care facility in town here where the staff, a young woman, said she had to

have the baby take a "time out" period because the baby squealed whenever he was excited about something and needed to learn not to do that. The young care provider said to the father, "Can you imagine having to put up with that squealing all day?" The father wondered: Is this okay, and is this acceptable treatment of my child?

The NWT clearly needs a skilled labour that affordable child care can create while we spend millions on income support without really reducing the need for it. Experts agree, and evidence shows, that high quality child care with trained providers would help mothers pursue careers, ease family stress, reduce poverty and improve success in school. Benefits that today remain unattainable for most.

Speaking of the lack of child care, Susan Prentice, a child care researcher at the University of Manitoba, says, "The kind of strain and stress and worry and cost, with all its personal and social consequences, is enormous in this country and largely invisible to policymakers. It's tragic for children and families and it spills over into our economy and our civic life together."

A young parent recently said, "Thank goodness I was living in Alberta to pursue my post-secondary education because they provided child care subsidies, one of the reasons I did not return to the North until my children were of school age." The bottom line, continuing the quote, "If you want to retain population, there must be some sort of benefit other than northern living allowance to keep us here."

Another resident, Chelsea McNaughton, gave the following report, "I never fully understood how terrible the child care subsidy in the NWT was until I moved to Alberta. I even remember writing two different MLAs while I was a single parent and working full time." And she went on to say, basically she didn't receive any joy on that front. She goes on, "In Alberta, you are automatically accepted for three months while they process your application, so you can start working or going to school immediately. I think it's important to give a shout out to social programs when they actually work."

Mr. Speaker, we will hear about the great things that ECE is planning and the enhanced support of the current child care subsidy, but here are people for whom it isn't working. The Anti-Poverty Strategy folks, early childhood development experts, people pushing these strategies all call for some form of public child care available at reasonable cost and provided by trained workers, noting the benefits pay for the cost of the program and then some.

We are talking here about the most precious components of our lives, Mr. Speaker, our children. This motion calls on the government to take a serious and close look at the experience out there and do the feasibility work for a workable model of

public and affordable child care in the Northwest Territories. I look forward to the comments on the motion. I will be calling for a recorded vote and opportunity to summarize at the end. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the seconder of the motion, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to thank Mr. Bromley for bringing this motion forward and also the Members for considering it. I would like to say that I support this motion because it makes sense. The issue of affordable daycares in the Northwest Territories has been an issue for some time. There are daycares here in Yellowknife where a mother who is single or married, a mother has to pay \$43 a day to put their child in a private daycare centre, if the mother or the parents need to go to work to support their family. A licenced daycare, Mr. Speaker, is between \$40 and \$41 a day.

In some of our smaller communities, we don't even have daycare centres. In my community in the Sahtu, we had an employment rate of 44 percent in 2009 in Tulita. Deline had a 42 percent employment rate in 2009. The average income in Deline is \$33,000 for a family. Fort Good Hope has a 44 percent employment rate. In Fort Good Hope 27 percent are single parents. In Deline they have 35 percent single parents. In Tulita there are 32 percent single parents, and 42 percent of them working. When I broke it down a little further in the stats from the territorial government, there are more mothers working in the small communities than the fathers. More mothers that are working means that they have children, single parents, they need a place where they can bring their child to. While they're well trained...like Mr. Bromley said, well-trained staff with a good income and some spaces in the community to support the families, support the young mothers.

I support this concept of doing a feasibility study and report back to us, work with us across here, over here from our own constituencies, and see if a \$7 universal, affordable daycare can work in your community. There are a lot of people in the communities who have done a lot of good work to get daycare programs in their communities. They've fundraised, they've lobbied and they sold cookies. They did whatever they had to do to get the funding, and good for them.

This report is telling us to look at a feasibility study. The results have been proven. They've shown that in Quebec and Scandinavian countries that this type of project, this type of initiative does show the benefits and the results of government putting in funding for a public-supported program that is reaping good benefits especially in our small communities where there are lots of single parents. This will help them. If there are high unemployment rates in the communities, mothers who are wanting

to go to school or seeking employment or seeking to go back to school, they have a place where there is a secure place that they can bring their children and they can contribute to the community.

In closing, I want to urge the Members and Cabinet to look at this. I know Mr. Bromley said the Minister has done some work along with Cabinet in regard to helping the mothers and helping the young families who are going to school, who are going to work, and there is some movement into this initiative. This one here tells you to look at the feasibility, look at this concept. It's been proven in Quebec and Scandinavian countries, that this is something possible, and if we did it, this is what I'd like to focus our priorities on within the next couple of years of this government: To look at where this type of project will help the mothers with affordable daycare in all our communities, and the government can play a big role in the success. And you know? We'll all be heroes for all the people that we're going to help in our communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank Mr. Bromley for bringing this motion here today, and I'd like to thank the seconder, Mr. Yakeleya, for allowing debate. Thank you very much.

I think everyone had a chance to read the Globe and Mail article, and I think that talked about that \$7-a-day daycare program in Quebec. I can tell you, it did generate a lot of, I guess, good conversation, even with my spouse. We went back and forth and said what if. What if, back then when our kids were younger, we could have had daycare for \$7 a day. And I'll tell you, it was interesting conversation. We looked back at how many thousands of dollars we spent in daycare, if we could find daycare. That was the question. There was no daycare 20-some years ago. I'm starting to date myself here, but it's unfortunate that's the case. I for one am very, very curious as to where this motion will take us. Really, what it does is take us on a road of let's just look at it. Let's just do a study. I know I'm not a big fan of studies, but this study I'm going to let slide and say I like this study because it opens up a whole new realm of looking at things.

We do some great things here in our government – we all know that – and I think we've got to pay some credence to some of the great stuff that we do. I don't want to overcloud that issue, but we need to take a look at what this study means financially. That's where I'm really coming from with the support of this. We've got to take a look at what will it cost us, because the models that we're comparing are large markets. Quebec, Scandinavian countries, those are fairly large, I guess, population bases. We've got a small

population base. I really want to see what this study will do to shed a light on what does it mean for us in the Northwest Territories, and for that, I will be supporting that motion to see what the financial implications will be.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to support this motion. I fully support the concept behind universal, affordable daycare. Mr. Bromley spoke to many of the positives that have come from universal, affordable daycare in other jurisdictions, and the research, in my mind, proves the value of an early childhood daycare program. Just reading from the whereases, it decreases poverty, it increases after-tax income, decreases the child poverty rate, it builds a better-quality labour force, it increases the number of women in the workplace. All those things are things that would benefit us in the NWT, and we know that the need is great for the benefits that I've just quoted. We also know the need is great for daycare spaces. We have definitely not enough in Yellowknife. There are very few of our other communities who have daycares to begin with, never mind enough spaces when they do have one.

Members have often spoken about early childhood development, and we're in the process of revising the Early Childhood Development Framework. We have put quite a bit of focus on early childhood and on our children from zero to five. It's really important, in my mind, that we have trained educators working with our children, particularly from zero to three, but from zero to five as well. It's been proven that if you put the money and the effort and the good quality child development in children from zero to three, it pays huge dividends later on in life, particularly in school, but also in their life as they grow up to be adults.

Quebec's experiment has been proven to be successful. They've got a few difficulties and they're not insurmountable, but it is an extremely successful program. And I want to say that it costs a lot of money. I think Quebec's cost is something like \$2.2 billion on an annual basis. Ours wouldn't be anywhere near there, I'm sure. We are a much smaller population. But I do want to say that the Quebec experiment proves that for every dollar that they spend, they get back a dollar and five, so it's a money-making operation.

If we don't go study this and implement this particular program, we could continue on with what we're doing, and we are putting some money into early childhood development programs, but I feel that they are not necessarily coordinated. We have two departments working on it and they are working together. I give them credit for that. But I don't think we have an across-the-board consideration and focus on early childhood development that early

affordable daycare would give us. Some of the programs that do have daycare are of perhaps an unknown quality. We do have licenced daycare but we also have home daycares and, yes, they're regulated but are they going to have the trained people looking after our children from zero to five that we want and that we need?

Mr. Bromley has spoken to the issue of our need for workers, and I totally agree. We are going to need, particularly in areas where development is going to be occurring, and the Sahtu is one area for sure where we're going to be needing more workers. This program will put more females into the workforce, more mothers into the workforce, and it will provide us with more skilled workers. We want to keep that work in the North. At the moment, we have to go out to get many of our skilled workers. This kind of a program will free up people who can work and we will be able to keep that work and those dollars in the North.

We know that the Quebec model works and we know that we are a different jurisdiction. We're much smaller, as Mr. Dolynny said. We have a different culture here. Therefore, the need for a study. We cannot take the model of Quebec or the model of Scandinavia and implement it right here. We need to look at what will work here. I know it will work. It's just how we're going to implement it.

One last thing I want to mention, I don't think anyone has mentioned this before, but one of the things that we are constantly hearing is that our population in the NWT is decreasing. One of the benefits of this program in Quebec is that their birthrate has increased. The Finance Minister is always looking for more revenue. That's one way we can get it and an extra \$25,000 from the feds for every new child that we birth.

So in closing, I support the motion. I think it's time for us to look at this, I know the need is there, we have a successful model to work from. We need to just, as you would say, get er' done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I can go along with looking into this, but it sounds like a very, very costly thing and there are, maybe call me old-fashioned, but there's a few words that are being used here by my colleagues that, kind of, you need trained educators to look after our babies from zero to three. I just have a mental picture of somebody going from the daycare to the hospital and taking the baby out of the nursery and taking it over to the daycare. I don't know. What about moms or what about parents and dads and moms that want to stay home and look after their kids? When you start our kids off at school at five years old and now we want pre-kindergarten and all-day kindergarten and then you're in school and then you go from school to

university and you go from university to work and then life's hard and then you die.

AN HON. MEMBER: Whoa!

---Laughter

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: If we want to start at zero, you want to be starting off in school and trained and educated at zero. Anyway, I don't know. I can go along, for the interest of political expediency and for some of the good arguments, like Ms. Bisaro does raise a good argument. I probably have a son and a daughter-in-law that would have had more kids, but daycare is expensive and they both have careers and they both work. They probably would have had two or three more if... I shouldn't be speaking like that, sorry. Very self-serving from a grandmother's point of view, but perhaps there are families that would consider having a larger family if there was universal daycare available. That argument I can agree with, but there were other things that were said. The anecdotal story about the child squealing and that somehow having universal daycare is going to put these angelic workers into these programs, I don't know.

I don't agree with everything that's been said here, but I will support the motion on the understanding that we are only looking at this because I think the cost, we're going to find out, is extremely prohibitive. When we talk about the communities where they have low unemployment rates and everybody needs to go to school or go get a job, let me suggest that in some of those communities the economy is not there presently to be having people take their children to \$7 a day daycare because there aren't jobs in those communities. So are you going to have people drop their kids off for \$7 a day and go home and do something else? Do you have to work to take advantage of this program? I don't know; there are a lot of questions. I hope the study isn't really, really expensive because, to be honest with you, I think the answer we're going to get will show that it's cost prohibitive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This government's been doing some really proactive work in this field with early childhood development and looking at the investment that we have been putting forth over the last couple of years. We're working on this Early Childhood Development Framework, which will be kind of a framework that will outline where we're going with investing in the development of our infants, prenatal to three or four years old and getting ready for school. But this motion that's before us here will not only allow for affordable daycare, but it will also increase the amount of people that we'll get back into our workforce, our residents of the North that are

currently stay-at-home moms, stay-at-home dads. They have the opportunity now to have affordable daycare, but also get into the workforce.

So it's a win-win situation, from what I see, and it's about putting the pieces together. We've got the framework coming and we need those centres available for people in the Northwest Territories. It's about putting those pieces together so that our government, our territory can be self-sustaining in the future and that our residents don't leave and that they stay here in the North and that we attract more people from the South who want to come up here and work in our economy, but also want to have families and have daycares to support these families.

So I'm glad that Mr. Bromley and Mr. Yakeleya brought this motion forward and I do look forward to seeing what the outcome of this is, and I will be voting in favour of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity to speak to this motion. I want to acknowledge Mr. Bromley and Mr. Yakeleya for bringing this initiative forward. In my time as a legislator and certainly in my short life of being a parent these last almost 12 years, I've never heard anyone say my goodness, child care is so cheap I'll take two.

Quite frankly, child care seems to be one of the most amazing cost burdens on a young family, and as said by other speakers here today, it seems to be easily one of the immediate deterrents as to why they don't expand their family. The cost of child care is insurmountable for most. We hear the problems about one has to stay home, because if they have more than two, then going to work is just a waste of time, or maybe it's the mental health break that a particular parent needs from staying home to take care of all those kids. I hear that often that people are working just for child care fees and that is just ridiculous.

If we wanted to do something immediately for the working poor, those people who go to work every day, this could be something and it could be something immediately. I often hear about more tax deductions and more tax breaks, but when you look at something like a \$7 daycare opportunity versus a tax break, I'm not against tax breaks, but the problem with that reality is you have to actually be making money in order to get money back. That's one of the biggest challenges about tax breaks. So I always consider them a bit of a misnomer or red herring when it comes to solving cost and poverty problems. Tax breaks only help the rich, not the working poor.

As stated so eloquently in the motion and further reiterated by Member Bromley, the \$7 per day program would help child poverty rates. As said by all, it would get more people in the workforce. It would give them the opportunity to get out and be involved and it would certainly raise the stature and health, as we've all talked about the working poor.

There was a time when we talked about free education and it was such a crazy thought back then. Education, it wasn't that long ago it was for the rich, the elites, the affluent. Then it became open for the public. It wasn't that long ago the similar arguments were made for health care; it was for the rich, the important, the affluent. Now things like that have become stalwart principles of who Canadians are. How long do we need to continue to have the argument that the most important bundles in our life, our children, should not deserve the same type of philosophy? I think we're now coming to the point of Canadian values that could be representative in a way like Quebec has been leading on that these values should be representative of who we are to demonstrate how important our children are by doing this. This not only helps our children, supports our children, but it also supports the working families that struggle each and every day to go to work to help feed these families, help take care of these families.

In a civil society as ours, the one that we strive each and every day to improve upon, a relentless struggle such as this, to me I think this is a wonderful value that we would add to our chests, as Canadians say. You know, we care about health care, we care about education and we care about children. We've heard repeatedly about how this will empower women. I think that anything that helps in that direction is a serious step that should never be held back.

This motion goes much further than just \$7 a day. It helps a community, this helps the people and this will help the territory. I envy the province of Quebec. I also admire them for their boldness of trying something different.

Mrs. Groenewegen has talked about some of the challenges and I will acknowledge that she's probably on the right track in the sense of there are concerns to be balanced out. I don't necessarily agree with her, but I do welcome it because those challenges need to be sought out and considered, balanced and weighed. At the end of the day, we will choose the path forward.

The problem with this motion is not on this side of the House. The Members at large are asking for this, even conditional support from Members. It's the direction that we're looking for that the other side that we empower with the cash to hear the voices of the many. More than 50 percent of this Legislature, I'm hopeful, will vote in favour of this motion. I'm hopeful this will have positive change,

lasting change on young minds, young people and certainly working families.

So if it's not crystal clear by now, I will be voting in favour of this so we, too, will celebrate the joys and the empowerment a \$7 daycare fee a day that Quebec enjoys, our northern people and our hardworking families deserve too. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be voting in favour of this motion heavy-heartedly, because I understand that we want to investigate this, I understand that Quebec has a program in place that is innovative, but I have sat in this House and given the Minister of Finance difficulty that since division our budget has doubled and that we are looking at additional costs on top of that. Fiscally responsible we need to be here as well.

I am supporting this motion to investigate the possibilities of this. My colleagues have made good points to support it. I do have lots of concerns on the costs that are going to be associated to it. It's a social state that we're getting into, so how much more are we going to do?

Other colleagues have argued the other side of it, that how much more are we going to do for children and families and stuff like that to help raise their children? Somewhere there has to be some responsibility on both parties.

I thought I would just express those concerns about the financial costs associated with it. We often just say, from this side, well, let's look at the costs and the other side should be implementing what we want to do, but we also ask for them all the time to be fiscally responsible, look at the budget. We are challenged to find other funds to do other projects that we want to do, so we have to look at that responsibility as well. But I think we should be investigating the possibility of it. Mr. Hawkins talked about education and I think that's a good point. It wasn't free before. There are some good points and we can look at the investigation once the study is completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. To the motion. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be supporting this motion, but I would just like to say a few things. I know from the standpoint in the smaller communities, this is going to be very difficult as the cost of living in the smaller communities is quite extreme. To operate a facility like this is in the neighbourhood of \$6,000 to \$10,000. With anywhere from five to 10 children attending these, it's just not feasible. But if it is possible, and I think that is what this study will indicate, I am in support of it. I think that my constituents will benefit from it and also many of the

residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be supporting this motion. I would like to thank my colleagues for leading the initiative and the development of this draft. What I would like to at least point out is that if cost is a factor, one group that we keep out of the loop at times is the federal government. If I can recall, the federal government has obligations to ensure that there are equitable programs and services delivered for the citizens of the NWT. I hope that Cabinet at some point remembers that and carries that message to Ottawa. Mahsi.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Members for speaking to this point on the motion that was brought forward. I would like to thank the Member, Mr. Bromley, for his continuous support and also the Regular Members as well.

Early childhood learning and provision of quality child care in the NWT, of course, has been at the forefront of our goals and objectives. Healthy, educated people free from poverty is one of the goals of this Assembly and it starts in a child. We have to recognize achieving our goals for our people depends on a strong economy. I've heard that from some of the Members here. That helps create a fiscal capacity that we need to provide programs and services that people rely on.

We can't invest money that we don't have. The overall pot will shrink if we don't also take steps to create a strong, diversified economy. This is also a priority identified by this Assembly. This government fully understands that healthy, well-adjusted children become fully functioning and contributing adults, and the experience of a child's early years affects their entire life. We know that. Through our work in early childhood over the five years, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment alone has invested just under \$33.5 million in our young children with the introduction of the Early Childhood Development Framework. Those investments will continue.

Our investment must be strategic, well thought out, bearing in mind our fiscal realities, and we believe – and this has been affirmed by Members of this House many times – that money invested in the early years is money well spent. I share Mr. Bromley's interest, and Members' as well, to provide quality child care, but before jumping into universal child care as a fix, I would like to share some of the key facts for the Members.

Like Quebec and other provincial and territorial jurisdictions, the GNWT does not build and run child care facilities. Instead our government subsidizes licenced daycare operations, regulates them and, where required, subsidizes low-income parents who act as daycare providers by the private sector.

The Income Assistance program, as Member Bromley alluded to, provides financial support towards the cost of child care for low-income NWT families who are either working or enrolled in school in the NWT. We provide subsidies for licenced child care operators, which creates incentives to run such facilities. We also develop regulations and monitor facilities to ensure that child care facilities are safe and help our children learn and grow in a positive environment.

The reality is, however, that many of our communities do not have child care centres that we can subsidize, as Member Blake alluded to. Eleven communities in the NWT currently have no licenced child care facility. Meaning that at \$7 per day, as in Quebec, this will not work for them in the small communities. It should also come as no surprise to these 11 communities, our small communities where no licenced daycares currently exist. The approach taken by Quebec and Scandinavia doesn't easily translate to the NWT realities. Using Quebec's approach would potentially exclude one-third of our small communities that have no licenced child care program and where a private sector market for daycare will struggle to emerge.

It is our obligation to find affordable solutions that work for all of our communities. That is why my department has been working on a multi-pronged approach that is flexible enough to meet the unique needs and desires of parents in the small and large communities.

Education, Culture and Employment, along with the Department of Health and Social Services, has done considerable work to study concrete actions that support the Early Childhood Development Framework, as Member Moses identified, as well, with a view of providing access to quality child care as well as empowering parents and caregivers to have tools to be supportive parents. For example, we are looking at ways to empower parents who want to stay at home and take care of their children. Daycare isn't for everyone, and we must respect that as well. We are also looking at ways to ensure that child care facilities are staffed by qualified workers who earn a reasonable wage. Research also tells us that in many of our communities, schools are not being used at the fullest capacity, having a 60 percent average occupancy rate of the schools in the NWT. This reality becomes an opportunity for use of facilities to meet the community daycare child care needs in all of our communities.

At the end of the day, there is no silver bullet or one-size-fits-all solution for improving child development in the Northwest Territories. What might work in Yellowknife is not automatically appropriate for regional centres or smaller communities. We will continue to implement a flexible, multi-pronged approach to help meet the needs of child care of all NWT communities, families and parents.

Since the motion is direction to the government, Cabinet will abstain from voting. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. To the motion. I will allow the mover of the motion to have closing remarks. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to start by thanking all of my colleagues who have spoken to this motion. I think everybody was detecting the possible gain that could be made with this program, even those that were most concerned about the bottom line, so I appreciate their support and the concerns expressed, many of which I agreed with, with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

Mr. Yakeleya mentioned it's something like over \$40 per day per child daycare costs. I assumed \$40 a day and did a quick calculation: For two children at \$1,800 per month; three children, \$2,640 per month, so we know it's something about that. These are entirely prohibitive for, I would say, most people in the Northwest Territories.

Child care providers, it's a bit of a roll of the dice on the quality and the training that the providers have. What we're looking for here is looking into a system that provides a known quantity there. We want people that are early childhood education workers, early childhood development professionals to be working in those child care facilities.

The current system is loaded, as we know, with barriers. It's not affordable. It's poorly accessible, albeit the Minister is doing what he can to build up the program and getting support from us in the meantime. But the bottom line here is we don't have the child care spaces. We need them, and we need them to be affordable. Many benefits were mentioned and dwelt upon, the improved labour force and so on. The birthrate is something that I hadn't mentioned, and I knew that would catch the interest of the Finance Minister and the Premier. Apparently, that is a phenomenon that does happen. Mr. Hawkins mentioned that he would expect this to happen with this sort of support, and of course, I know this House is interested in that.

I appreciate Mrs. Groenewegen stepping out here. I believe her comment was, "I can go along with this, I guess," so that's stepping out for Mrs. Groenewegen. I appreciate that. But the dilemma she posed, what about the moms and dads that should be staying home and looking after these

kids. Well, that could be, and I think that is absolutely the first priority, and what we want is a system that would encourage that and support that as a first priority to the degree that it's possible. I think we are having some mechanisms in place in our workplace now that supports that sort of thing. That is the first priority.

Unfortunately, 38 percent of the people in poverty in the Northwest Territories are single parents with children and they don't have that option. There are many other exceptions and that's what we're talking about here. It could be a key underpinning to both our Anti-Poverty Strategy and our early childhood development programs. That has been mentioned. It will attract people and keep people here. Again I'm sure the Minister of Finance and the Premier will be very interested in that aspect of the program.

The benefits begin accruing quickly, very quickly, because it frees up parents to go out and get work or the education that they need. The most important bundles in our life, as I believe Mr. Hawkins mentioned, need to be reflected in our policies and programs. That's what we're talking about and that's, I think, why it has the fundamental support across the House here is that true statement that I think we can all subscribe to.

There was heavy-hearted support because we need to be fiscally responsible. Again, I don't think there's a person in the House that disagrees with that. We do need to be fiscally responsible, and I am asking that we do the full cost accounting. In the assessment work that's been done on these programs, in every case it has indicated benefits based on financial aspects, economic aspects and social aspects. Somebody mentioned the federal government. I think Mr. Nadli mentioned the need for federal government participation. In fact, the Quebec model shows that without putting a dime into the program, the federal government was gaining 44 cents per dollar expended by the Quebec government because of the increased economic activity that was enabled by a comprehensive, affordable child care program. Pretty darn substantial.

That assessment needs to be done. I agree with Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Bouchard and others that have mentioned that. That's what we're on about here. We want it looked at critically but with a full cost accounting approach to meet many of the needs of this House and, again, to complement the various strategies that we have and are being put in place. As we know, those that are pursuing so hard the early childhood development and anti-poverty programs, all of them will tell you this would be a core underpinning to those programs and strategies.

Again, thank you very much for this opportunity, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Member has asked for a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

RECORDED VOTE

HONOURARY TABLE OFFICER (Mr. Tony Whitford): Mr. Bromley, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Blake, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Moses.

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

HONOURARY TABLE OFFICER (Mr. Tony Whitford): Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, colleagues. All those in favour, 10; all those opposed, zero; abstentions, seven. The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

First Reading of Bills

BILL 28:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2013-2014

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 28 has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 29:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2013-2014

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 29, Supplementary Appropriation (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 29 has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 30,

Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015.

---Consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 30:
APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 30, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 30 has had first reading.

---Carried

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

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 27:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
REVOLVING FUNDS ACT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Revolving Funds Act to increase the Fur Marketing Service Revolving Fund.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Bill 27 has had second reading. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 28:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2013-2014

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the fiscal year 2013-2014. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014 has had second reading.

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 29:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2013-2014

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 29, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Bill 29, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014 has had second reading.

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 30:
APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 30, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make infrastructure expenditures for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Bill 30, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015 has had second reading.

Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act; Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act; Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act; Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act; Committee Report 8-17(4), Report on the Review of Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act; Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission, Final Report, May 2013; and Tabled Document 107-17(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2014-2015, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair. By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 1-17(4), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider business before the House.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of the committee? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We would like to consider Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, then Bill 22, Bill 26 and Bill 27, if we have time. Sorry, and Committee Report 8-17(4).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. We'll commence after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Before the break the committee indicated that we were going to start with Bill 12. I'd like to ask Minister Jackson Lafferty at this time if he would like to deliver his opening remarks. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. I am pleased to be here today to speak about Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act.

I'd like to thank standing committee for their thoughtful and important work on the bill. In particular, I congratulate the committee on going into the schools and speaking with the students and providing us with their feedback.

This is important information which will shape the action plans as we move forward.

Bill 12 speaks to the Motion passed by the Legislative Assembly on February 16, 2012,

recommending “the Government establish a territory-wide campaign to denounce bullying, including cyber-bullying, and to provide information and resources for schools, parents, victims and bystanders, and that the government review anti-bullying legislation measures being undertaken in other jurisdictions and bring forward a bill for consideration by this Assembly within 18 months.”

This bill supports and strengthens clauses already contained in the Education Act requiring school staff, teachers, principals and education boards to take action if they become aware that students are being mistreated or threatened. It defines bullying, including cyber-bullying, and provides for the creation of a territorial school code of conduct and the creation of safe school plans.

The safety and security of our students is always at the forefront of our actions and this bill underscores that tenet.

I would be pleased to answer any questions committee members may have. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I'd like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, please.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

For the record, Mr. Lafferty, if you could introduce your witness.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. I have with me Ian Rennie, legislative counsel, Department of Justice.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Before we go to general comments, I'd like to ask the chair of the standing committee that reviewed this bill if he would like to please provide committee's remarks. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs has completed its review of Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act. Public hearings were held in Yellowknife on September 23 and 25, 2013, and Norman Wells on September 25 and 26, 2013.

For the first time in committee history, public hearings were held in various high schools. The committee thanks the many students and teachers who helped to facilitate the meetings and provide valuable input.

The committee thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill. The bill is a reasonable first step in NWT's efforts to prevent bullying. It amends the

Education Act to establish a definition of bullying, including cyber-bullying. It provides for the establishment of a territorial school code of conduct and a corresponding safe schools plan for each district education authority.

The committee received substantial input from the public, both written and in person. This, combined with the committee's work, resulted in three proposed amendments to this bill. First, to strengthen the definition of bullying; second, to strengthen the definition of cyber-bullying; and third, to clarify that a principal may establish school rules in the school for which he or she is responsible. The Minister concurred with these amendments during the committee's clause-by-clause review on October 24, 2013. The committee's report on the bill includes over a dozen recommended actions, all based on what the committee heard during the review. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 12 as amended and reprinted to the Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes the committee's opening comments on Bill 12. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Moses. We will now go to general comments. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to thank all involved for bringing this legislation forward. This really addresses a very serious issue that at its most serious, of course, can lead to severe consequences, most extreme would be suicide. It's a national concern, but it is a concern, as well, in every community.

What is the role of schools and our educational system dealing with bullying is the question, given that they have considerable responsibilities already for educating our youth. I know there has been considerable discussion on that and I appreciate that.

Schools and the education system need to be part of our program, of our suite of programs to deal with bullying. I think it's appropriate to bring legislation like this forward to help. But I also feel, fundamentally, that really dealing with bullying starts at home and with the parents and is largely, and always will be really, a responsibility of the parents, and school programs will be supplemental to that.

I do recall some lessons when I was a young sprout, which I was once, and participated with a bunch of others in teasing a hockey kid that had white skates, which I shared with committee. The next morning, to my chagrin, I found my hockey skates had been painted white. I had to wear them to three hockey games before I could go back to

the usual skates. Again, very effective measures can be in place at home, and should be. It is an important responsibility of parents.

The school needs some guidance on how to deal with bullying and I would say that this legislation provides a start. I emphasize that it is just a start. I am not aware of dollars going into this, but it is an important first step on a complicated issue. We know bullying is common in our schools, as I mentioned. I believe the national figures are greater than 70 percent of kids have experienced bullying. Simply defining it, in a way, has been challenging. This legislation makes a stab at that including cyber-bullying. It also provides measures, as the Minister mentioned, like code of conduct, safe school plans and other measures. I think it does bring a bit of focus on dealing with the root cause, which is what is needed, not just disciplining with respect to bullying.

Again, I will leave it at that. I am supportive of this legislation and look forward to hearing any other comments on this and perspectives and will stay tuned on this issue. I think it is a first step. Ultimately, perhaps, resources might be needed, but I support where we are going right now. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. General comments. Next I have Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to echo what we've heard a bit here as well. I would like to thank the schools, the teachers, the school administration, parents and the various stakeholders that we had a chance to talk to throughout the Northwest Territories.

Committee found out, as soon as we embarked on this journey, that bullying was more of a personal issue than we anticipated. While we listened and heard many stories and great ideas, in some sense it was a bit of a healing method in itself for some. To that, I want to thank those who opened up to some very deep, buried scars that had been with people for many years. So I think in itself it was a healing journey for committee.

To start off, I just want to take a moment to review the motion that I was able to bring into the House with support from my colleagues that was passed unanimously on February 16, 2012. Although I wish to commend the department for capturing most of it in their attempt to cover most of this bill, there are areas within this motion that I found that were not addressed to its fullest in the draft of the bill. I will just quote here, and it was one of the "and whereas."

And whereas, the Members of Legislative Assembly which denounce all bullying behaviour in our schools and our society at large.

It's determined that society at large seems to be not captured as well within the bill. I understand that we

have to start somewhere and that the Education Act was used as a means to commence this product that, as we heard, bullying is a societal issue, and that was loud and clear in our journey.

The other aspect to this was that it recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories establish a territory-wide campaign to denounce bullying, including cyber-bullying, and to provide information and resources for schools, parents, victims and bystanders. Now, there are implied responses within this bill we would assume through territorial code of conduct or through safe schools plan, but nothing explicit. As a result, I would love to see more that answers to that question. I am earmarking that for the department and hopefully they are listening and that, with time, more of a campaign, a more prescriptive campaign of bullying would be coming.

My first reaction when I got this bill was interesting because, as you are well aware, I went public early on and this is one of the first topics as a newly elected Member that I was going to bring forward even as a private member's bill. I put a lot of effort and research into this before it even became a motion of the House. So I waited 18 months feverishly to find out the reaction. I have to say my first reaction was that this bill was somewhat playing around the edges of bullying. I think I may have said that publicly as well. I always ask myself, when I look at a bill of this magnitude, does it really tip the scales to help the victim. Even after going through everything we did with this bill, I am still not sure if it does. I think we provide some definitions, we provide some framework, but are we tipping the scales to support victims?

One of the other things of my reaction was the 20-day suspension that, as I said earlier, I treat that type of terminology more as a holiday. I can tell you that some of my early diagnoses were echoed by many stakeholders as we talked throughout the communities. Not that it was comforting to hear, but it was nice to see, as a Member, my barometer was working just fine.

Of course, many were hoping for a bill somewhat to the likes of what we have seen in Nova Scotia. We know it's a far cry from that. We want to make sure that the department, whether it's Education or Justice, need to continue to strive for stronger aspects of this bill, whether it's protection orders, torte laws, and hopefully we can get some assurances from the House that something can be done in the near future.

I just want to take a moment to review some of what we've heard from stakeholders. Some of this stuff was captured in committee's report, but I want to make sure some of the things that were not captured that we can share today here. As I said earlier, bullying was a societal issue. We heard that time and time again, so I can't stress that enough.

The issue of mandatory counselling was viewed upon differently throughout the Northwest Territories, yet the overall feeling is that it would do good, so there was support for that. Many wanted to make sure the definition was easy to understand and to remove all the guesswork both for bullying and cyber-bullying. I believe, as we heard from our chair, that was captured with the amendments, and thank you, Minister, for agreeing.

From the kids' perspective, they said snitches get it worse. That was a unanimous theme and yet this bill somehow doesn't protect the people who come forward. I think that's something that I'm hoping through the safe schools or territorial code we have to keep that in mind.

We heard again that parents need to play a bigger role here. This came out everywhere, yet the bill does not factor this nor is it implied with it in the code of conduct. Some places we heard that fines or financial penalties would not be out of line, and hitting the issue of bullying at the expense of a pocketbook seemed to be well received by some respondents, and I wanted to make sure that made the public as well.

We heard different ways of restorative justice, especially from students. Again, we hope that gets filtered down to the department. However, I want to shed some light that aside from trying to find the root cause of bullying, which I'm very supportive of, I believe there was equal weight given to the punitive aspect of one's actions. Community service was such an option, as was a sentencing circle, and I would be remiss if I didn't mention that many times clear consequences and process must be known and practiced.

It was also mentioned that all the legislation should depict the maximum consequences. Schools should still have some flexibility and some type of tied judgment model or process.

Ironically, in small pockets of the Northwest Territories there appears to be gender-based bullying, which was a surprise, I think, for some Members here, especially amongst girls. The ideas of a girls talking circle seemed to be well received as an option for redirection, and again I'm hoping the department is capturing that.

I guess from the teachers' perspective, they were wondering how protected were they as teachers. It came up many times in our deliberations, because many teachers and ex-teachers did participate in the stakeholders meeting. Again, the other concern that teachers had was how much time will this take out of my day already. So, clearly, committee heard concerns from teachers being bullied as well. Again, they're really concerned what tools they'll have at their disposal. We've heard in many circumstances that most schools only have a 0.5 position for councillors. Again, I think we need to take a look at that model.

It is also clear that the department has to really strive to work positively with the NWTTA, all school board authorities and teachers to balance teacher workload and the options to deal with bullying. Many schools already have been addressing the issue of bullying. In fact, just recently Range Lake North School, in my riding, just had a great day dedicated to this topic, yet we've seen other schools with little programs. So my hope is that with this bill we don't eliminate the great programs that were working well in regions, but we need to enhance or standardize those best practice errors that we are seeing.

The issue of a territorial confidential help line came up a number of times, and we think committee captured this in the recommendation; however, I would challenge the department to review this one with the help of technology. That is with almost 70 percent of our territory with 3GB and soon to be almost 100 percent, with the proper app technology, we could, in essence, use smart technology to modernize our unique messaging to our students. Let's face it, the days of calling in to a switchboard is about as old-fashioned as they come. So I'm sure the department will find the right way to bridge mechanisms and bring the message home to the students in a way that they'll receive it.

In conclusion, I think these are great first steps that the department has brought forward. I know there's been a lot of time and energy from many people who brought this draft forward. On an equal footnote, there's been a lot of equal work done by the committee, from Clerk's staff to bring that report forward. As you heard from our chair, this is the first time I think in legislative history in the Northwest Territories we took a bill on the road to the schools and had the schools' and the kids' input on effects. I think that should echo loud and clear, the fact that the committee did a very thorough analysis in preparation for today. I want to commend the Standing Committee on Social Programs for thinking outside the box, and I hope that's the tone for future bills to come.

Madam Chair, we know this is not the end; this is the beginning to bullying and denouncing of bullying. I'm strongly looking forward to seeing future amendments or future legislation to help stop and curb one of our worst traits as a human being. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. General comments. Next I have Ms. Bisaro. Oh, I'm sorry. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Madam Chair, with your permission, I'd like to ask one of the witnesses to join me at this table.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Minister Lafferty, for the record, could you please introduce the additional witness at your table.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. Thank you for allowing that. This is Sam Shannon, our ECE legislative policy advisor.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Next for general comments I have Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. At the outset, I want to thank the Legislative Assembly for giving me the opportunity on this committee to travel and to look into this particular bill and this issue. It was certainly an issue that provided us with a lot of input and a created a lot of thinking amongst committee, both individual and us as a group. I want to thank the Ledge staff for the work that they did setting up our travel, setting up our meetings and so on, and looking after us as we travelled. And I would like to thank all the presenters that we heard from. They were many. I particularly want to thank the students. It's been mentioned before, but it was novel that we heard from students, and our public hearings there were a little bit less formal, a bit like pulling teeth sometimes to get the kids started, but once they got going we got some really interesting perspectives from the students. It was a new process and it was an experiment. I think that's been mentioned already. But I think it's something that certainly the various committees should think about doing again. It certainly gave us a different perspective on the issue.

I don't think it's any secret, and certainly I expressed right from the time that the amendments were brought forward that I don't feel... I did feel and I still feel that any legislation that was brought forward – and I said this at the time – to address bullying should be more comprehensive than what we have before us, and that was my major disappointment. I think Mr. Dolynny suggested that, as well, that there's not much in these amendments to address bullying. It's been said that it's a societal issue. I absolutely agree. It is an issue that goes well beyond schools. We can't deal with bullying and/or cyber-bullying within the four walls or the six or eight walls of the school, however many they have these days. We can't deal with bullying within the walls of the school. You know, then the kids leave and, basically, how do you monitor that once they've left the school? That's my concern with this legislation, with these amendments, that it doesn't deal with the whole issue, it doesn't deal with the community and the issue of bullying within the community. That's my concern there.

However, I am glad that we have got something here. As much as I wish it were a lot larger and more comprehensive, I'm glad that we do have

something. I think, though, and I'm going to say this more than once, but these amendments, this bill should be considered as no more than a start to address bullying and to try to deal with bullying in our society.

A big focus of the bill is establishing a territorial code of conduct and a safe schools policy, both of which I agree with, but both of which were not available when we went and did our consultation on the bill. They're still not available even at this point. And we heard from quite a few people who said, well, I can't really comment on the bill because I haven't seen the code of conduct. It's referenced a number of times in the amendments, but I have no idea, basically, what it contains and what it means. I haven't seen a safe schools policy so I don't really know what that is, so it's very difficult for me to comment on the bill. We heard that from a number of people. Probably more so from trustees of boards and, you know, sort of people at a higher level, at a superintendent or a board level, but it certainly was mentioned a number of times.

I have this question for the Minister. At some point these two documents are going to be developed and my question to the Minister is: How will the stakeholders be involved in the development of these two documents? There was a recommendation in our report from the committee that says – if I can find it – “the code of conduct in the safe schools guidelines and regulations should be provided to Standing Committee on Social Programs and other education stakeholders for review and feedback in advance of their enactment.” I feel very strongly that this is a very core piece of these amendments that are going to be used to address bullying through discipline and so on. We've consulted on the act. We now need to consult on the code of conduct and on the safe schools policy. It needs to be a broad, across-the-board consultation.

I've also said before that this legislation cannot be considered the end point. It's not going to work if we just put these amendments in place and don't do anything else. We've heard from quite a few people in the presentations that these amendments must be backed up by a number of other things, and one of them is to address root causes of bullying. Bullying is a way of somebody acting out and they are acting out for a reason and we need to treat the reason. That's what I'm calling root causes. If we don't provide programs or we don't provide staff within the school who can deal with the root causes of the bullying, disciplining is not going to be the answer and it's not going to make it go away.

Mr. Dolynny mentioned the public awareness and education campaign that's referenced in the motion that was passed by this side of the House. That needs to be put in place as well. It needs to be part

and parcel of these amendments to the Education Act.

There needs to be increased support either for the boards and/or schools, and when I say increased support, I'm talking about financial support so they can hire more staff and human support. They need more teachers in the school or counsellors within the school, either one or both, in order to deal with bullying. Teachers have extremely full days already and we're now requiring that they take a portion of their day whenever bullying occurs to deal with it. That means they are then drawn away from whatever they're doing in their classroom or whatever they are doing at that point in time in school.

So we can't expect this to be lumped on top of teachers' duties already and say here you go, here's something else to do. We heard that, I think fairly loudly, from a number of teachers.

The other thing that I think is absolutely required, and this, again, is referenced in the recommendations from the committee, is we need broader anti-bullying legislation. As I said, this is a start, but we need to, as a government... It needs to be a separate bill because it has to work across our society, but there needs to be broader legislation which deals with bullying in the workplace, deals with bullying in the community, any place other than the schools, which isn't now covered.

I think that's about it, Madam Chair. I just want to reiterate again, as I said before, I think this is a first step and I appreciate the fact that this first step is being taken. I have to put my faith in the department and the government that they see the other things that are necessary to support these particular amendments, and I have to put my faith in the department and the government that they will take the necessary steps to make sure that these amendments work, and they don't just sit isolated and not do the job that is intended. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. General comments. Next I have Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Madam Chair. First off, I just want to say that I was very honoured to be on this tour with committee, and the hard work that the Social Programs committee put forth and the staff that travelled with us, as well, to these communities. They did a really great job, as well as the department staff who came on this tour with us. So it was a lot of hard work and I listened to a lot of community members, educators, as well as youth, which was very unique and I was very glad to hear the students speaking up on such legislation.

I'd like to thank Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Yakeleya and Ms. Bisaro for bringing forward their motions to support federal cyber-bullying as well as getting this

legislation to the point now and the hard work that's gone into it. I was very honoured and pleased to have that as our first real bill as committee to take on the road and have such a positive outcome. It was tough, listening to some of the stories. It did open up some personal stories from some of the residents and students. It is great that now, as legislators, we can do something to affect the outcome or even detour bullying happening in the communities and schools, and having this in the schools is a good first step. However, taking it bigger into the workforce and into society and how we can make that step work for us and for the residents of the Northwest Territories is our next step after this one.

What we did here was the cyber-bullying... I thought I was up to date on a lot of things that were happening in the cyber world, but some of these youth brought to our attention some websites that are just anonymous and it was just unreal what we heard from some of these students and what was going on in the communities, but that also kind of filtered out into the hallways and playgrounds of the schools.

We heard a lot of great ideas and one thing that was taken into account was lack of counsellors in some of the schools and that does need to be addressed when we put this legislation through. I like the idea that it's unique in the sense that each authority will work on developing their own safe school policies and when we do put our territorial code of conduct together, it is one that will allow some flexibility with the schools but also be there strong in the sense that we prevent bullying, Madam Chair.

I just want to say thanks to the committee. It was a long process. There was a lot of discussion behind doors leading up to the motion, after the motion, right to the end, and we did our report and brought it back into the House. I thank the Minister and his staff for all the work they've done as well.

Not much more to say, Madam Chair. We did introduce the report into the House. We read it last week. I just want to thank committee for all their hard work. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Any further general comments? I have no one else on my list. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. I do want to say thanks to the students in Yellowknife and Norman Wells, and the Diamond Jenness students. I didn't go to the one in Hay River, but I understand that they had some good discussions. It's the first time that we've taken this piece of legislation to the ones that we are mostly gearing this to that affects them, the students, and to the students for being brave enough to allow us into their schools and speak to us. I haven't seen this ever in my life growing up and going to school in

Inuvik. I never saw legislators come into our school at Samuel Hearne High and talk to us. This is pretty cool. Going into the schools, Madam Chair, I realized how old I am. Sometimes I think we are still in high school. It brings a lot of memories back to us, getting together with friends.

I want to say thank you to the committee and to the students for this opportunity, and certainly the parents for sending us notes or talking to us when we're in the communities. We certainly had that in Norman Wells. They thought that was right on that we were going into the school to get feedback and talk to the kids, even though they were shy, but they certainly told us. That's something that is bothering society.

My colleague Daryl Dolynny says it's a society issue, something such as this word we call "bullying" that's happening. I think there was a different name for it when we grew up in our time.

Our parents or grandparents usually got a good old willow out and straightened us out pretty fast. We didn't really have time to hurt other kids. We had to work because our lifestyle was different. We had to either haul wood or pack water up the hill or feed dogs or clean the house. We had a lot of work to do and look after little brothers and sisters. We had a lot of things to do. The school of hard knocks was pretty enforced and implemented. So we had some things we had to pay attention to or otherwise mom and dad would come down on us on how we should behave as brothers and sisters or even within the schools.

I certainly want to say to Mr. Minister that we have to give hope to those children and parents. We need to support teachers who are going to be in this environment mostly. I'm not too sure what the graduate teachers that are coming out of university to expect this, the life in the classroom. I'm not too sure if they're trained for that or if they know about that, or how much they know about the culture and psychological issues of addictions and impacts of the grading process and all these wonderful things, and they're aspiring to be a good teacher on top of that. They have to deal with that. We have to really help the teachers when they come into this environment. We're putting this legislation in force so that little Johnny can come to school and not be so concerned about something that is happening to him, like being pushed around. We have to really help the parents. It has happened even in our own homes. It's not out there. The legislation is about us, about legislators and how the students spoke to us about this, because they're carried on in life.

I look forward to looking at one day erasing this word, when we put the word "respect" back in there. We need to erase that from our vocabulary and put the word "respect" and "goodness," have a strong teaching in a learning environment, give some leeway and flexibility. Like I said, when we were

young, there were nine of us in my family and mom ruled. If you did something wrong, like I said, the willow came out. But you know what, Madam Chair? I never did that again. It was good. That's what we need. I know it's a different lifestyle today. I may sound rough, but it certainly saves a lot of headaches. My mom didn't sit me down and say, well, quiet time, how did you feel then? No, it was wham, wham. That's it. We'll talk about this later when you think about what you've done. That's counselling. The counselling was done by what she thought was good for us. We need to think that again, because we are helping the students. We are helping by it's not okay to do this to other students or other people. It's not okay to be this kind of person. You're going to have a hard life when you grow up. That's really hard, especially when it comes close to your own home. That is very difficult.

I like this legislation. I think that it still needs to be fleshed out and there are some really good, dynamite teachers working in our system. Sometimes we just like, come on guys. I think they went to university to become a good teacher. I'm not too sure if they went to university to become rich. There are lots of entrepreneurialships they can get into. They have good minds, so they have a really honourable profession and career and they believe that. They went to university to get their degree so that they can pass on something. Someone inspired them to be a teacher. And you know what? You can become a good teacher and you can also make good money. That's the payoff, the discipline. This legislation is a bigger picture. Like someone said, it's a societal issue. We're just focusing on the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. We need to really help the students who are willing to help us, and they are.

This legislation is good legislation. I do hope that, with your staff, you do look at it very, very seriously and look at it as to one day maybe there will be a territorial code. I always thought about this and had some good discussions with my significant other on a territorial code, even for something that is as radical as a dress code for our students that brings pride and you don't have to worry about expensive brands of clothes or whatever. Just like us. We come in here; we have a code. Why not have that in the schools? That will save a lot of parents a lot of money to not have to buy expensive runners or jeans or pants, and have the schools in our communities celebrate that in our regions and in our schools. It works wonders when we are together as a team. That may be helping out in some of the incentives to this thing here about bullying. I don't know, but I'm willing to do anything.

I would like to say, once again, thank you to the school here, Sir John Franklin, Diamond Jenness School in Hay River and the Mackenzie Mountain School in Norman Wells for allowing us, as

legislators, to come in and listen to them on this legislation. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Next for general comments I have Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Madam Chair, I would like to thank the Minister for bringing forward the amendments and obviously the department for all their hard work on this endeavour. I also would like to thank the standing committee, who had an opportunity to come to Hay River. I know they took extra special effort to make sure they got to Hay River and I appreciate that. I think the students in Hay River appreciated giving them their two cents as well as the general public.

Most of my colleagues expressed some of the issues and concerns that came out of what I saw in Hay River, was that the changes and the amendments towards bullying is just the beginning, that bullying is not just in the schools for students and general public, bullying is throughout the general public and out there. These are the beginning steps. I think we had support. Definitely when they came to Hay River they had support, but they indicated that this is just the beginning. These students are seeing bullying out in the community as well as the general public sees bullying out in the general community, so they wanted to see it go to another level somewhere down the road.

The other area was stress and we had a lot of educators that were in Hay River at the general meeting. They had indicated that, yes, this was something that they knew needed to be implemented, but the difficulty is how it was going to be implemented. There are no additional dollars currently being implemented for it and they're under the gun. The educators, especially that were giving feedback in Hay River, said we're stressed to the limits of our capacity now for energy, for finances, so they were wondering who is going to implement all of these regulations and how the anti-bullying is going to be implemented in the schools.

I know that Diamond Jenness spoke of their system that was in place right now. They indicated that they have a procedure, they have a process, but if these amendments were implemented, what impact did that have on what they were going to have to do in the future. I mean, that's just some feedback that I see in Hay River. I thought I'd pass on the words, and like I said, some of the former Members that have spoken, especially some of the committee members who are up to speed on other regions, but I think a lot of the same issues were expressed. Again, I'd like to thank them for coming to the committee, because I think they did give lots of feedback and interaction with the community.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Any further general comments. Does the committee agree that there are no further

general comments? Clause by clause, review the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. I'd like to thank the Members for their hindsight of all the discussion that's been taking place, even the three communities that we've talked about and even beyond that. Even thanking the students that have been actively engaged. It does take courage for these students to stand up and speak their mind, so I'd like to thank them for that as well.

I totally agree with the Members when they say this is the first step, an NWT safe schools plan. We also need partnerships, building on our success, the program that is being delivered. I agree with all those, and the code of conduct that is in play. It has been raised that it's a societal issue. It is a society issue, bullying. In my role as the Education Minister, I'm responsible for the schools. Members indicated that this is the first step. We will do what we can with the school boards, DEAs and DEC's to make this a very successful project in their schools.

We're fully aware of the societal issue, so I will be working closely with the Justice department. They do work closely with federal legislation, as well, on the cyber-bullying and other legislation that is out there. This is an area that we will continue to push further to deal with the societal issue.

We've heard a few recommendations in areas such as mandatory counselling, restorative justice or a sentencing circle. Just some of the key areas that have been highlighted, and those are the discussions that we will be having with the DEAs and DEC's, along with the NWTTA, and several of the interdepartmental discussions that we'll be having.

Another area that, again, we talked about is involving stakeholders. We have done that in January 2013. TCSA and all DEC's and DEAs have been involved. We formed a group at that time. NWTTA is part of that, Justice, Health and Social Services, MACA, NWT Human Rights Commission. That has been established. Just recently, in May 2013, we introduced amendments to the Education Act and also completed the territorial safe schools action plan. This is the hard work of the members, and also all the DEAs and DEC's. All the partners that I've identified, I'd like to thank them for that as well.

The education awareness, it is an area that will be a prime focus, especially for the students. We want to utilize their expertise. The students will be developing videos, the media, education awareness to showcase to the community, to their schools and to the regions that they cannot accept bullying

anymore. It's not allowed in their schools, in their communities in the Northwest Territories. So those students will be innovative in crafting up those videos.

Mr. Chair, again, I agree with the Members about providing support for teachers so they can be prepared to deal with these bullying issues. We will be providing resources, training for these teachers and other professions so they can be prepared to deal with that. One of the areas is elders in school. Member Yakeleya referred to having respect put back into school again. So this is an area where we think elders can provide a lot of respect, so that's what we initiated and it's in schools right now.

I agree; we need to help the students. Mr. Chair, those are some of the key areas that the Members have identified and we definitely will be moving forward on this with the school boards and all the partners identified. We will keep Members up to speed as we move forward on the progression plans. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. With that, are we prepared to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 11 inclusive approved

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that Bill 12 is ready for third reading as amended?

---Bill 12 as amended approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Bill 12 is now ready for third reading. Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Committee Report 8-17(4), Report on the Review of Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. That concludes consideration of Committee Report 8-17(4). I would like to thank the Minister today and thank the witnesses for joining us here this evening. Thank you.

Does committee wish to begin review of Bill 22?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. With that, we'll go to the Board of Management representative here to introduce it, Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On behalf of the Board of Management of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to present Bill 22,

Territorial Emblems and Honours Act. This bill will establish an Order of the Northwest Territories to honour current and former residents of the Northwest Territories for outstanding service and achievements.

The bill also formally recognizes the official emblems of the Northwest Territories. Those include the armorial bearings, the shield of arms, the flag, the tartan, the mountain aven, the gyrfalcon, the Arctic grayling, the tamarack, the mineral emblem, which is gold, and the gemstone emblem, which is diamond.

The Flag Act and Floral Emblem Act are repealed, as their provisions are included in Bill 22.

Mr. Chair, I welcome any questions and comments Members may have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Bouchard, do you have any witnesses you'd like to bring into the House?

MR. BOUCHARD: Pardon?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Do you have any witnesses? Committee agree? Please escort the witnesses into the House.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have Mr. Ian Rennie, legislative drafter, to my right; and to my left, Ms. Collette Langlois, Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Mr. Rennie, Ms. Langlois, welcome to the House. General comments, Bill 22. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My comments are brief. I just want to say that I'm very pleased to see that this bill has reached this stage, and I would like to give credit to a constituent of Frame Lake, Mr. Jeff Corradetti, whose idea it was to push this forward. He pushed me, I pushed the Board of Management, and here we are. I'm really pleased that we have this bill here and that we will be putting in place an NWT award. I've forgotten the term, an Order of the NWT. Thank you very much, Mr. Bromley.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro, for that pushy comment. Any other general comments? Is committee prepared to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act, Clause 1.

---Clause 1 through 33 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 22 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 22 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Bill 22 is now ready for third reading. I'd like to thank Mr. Bouchard and our witnesses here for this evening. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

Is committee agreed to proceed with Bill 26?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. With that, we'll go with the Board of Management representative here, Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On behalf of the Board of Management of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to present Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. This bill amends the act to modify the allowance and expense entitlements of Members of the Legislative Assembly. The main changes are:

- a new option for out of town Members to move their families to Yellowknife and still receive a capital accommodation allowance if they keep their home in their constituency;
- it will no longer be assumed that Ministers live in Yellowknife;
- clarifying the travel benefit that was intended to allow out of town Members to go home or bring someone in every second weekend during long sittings or meeting periods.

There are a number of housekeeping amendments in addition to these changes. I welcome any questions and comments Members may have

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Blake, do you have any witnesses you'd like to bring into the House?

MR. BLAKE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Mr. Blake, if you would be kind enough to introduce your witnesses to the Chamber this evening.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my right, I have Ms. Kelly McLaughlin, director of the legislation division; and Ms. Colette Langlois, Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Ms. Langlois and Ms. McLaughlin, welcome to the Chamber this evening. With this, we are on Bill 26 and we are going to open it up to general

comments. General comments, Bill 26. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Just for clarification, Mr. Blake and the Board of Management, I just want to ask for the definition of home. There are some people who have homes in their communities. Some are leasing it; some are renting it. Some don't have homes. Some, of course, have their own homes. Is there just a definition for myself?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Chair. For the definition, I'd like to ask Ms. Kelly McLaughlin to answer that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Blake. Ms. McLaughlin.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The home in this context, I believe, would take the regular meaning of the place where the person resides day to day, and the word home is used in the context of the definition "principal residence," so it's the usual place where the Member makes his or her home at the time of his or her election as a Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. McLaughlin. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: That's fine. That's good. No more questions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. General comments, Bill 26. Is committee prepared to do clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Clause 1.

---Clause 1 through 16 inclusive approved.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): The bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that Bill 26 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 26 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Bill 26 is now ready for third reading. I'd like to thank Ms. McLaughlin and Ms. Langlois for joining us this evening, and thank you Mr. Blake. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

Is committee prepared to do Bill 27?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. With that, we'll go with the sponsor of the bill, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I am pleased to present Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act.

The reason for this amendment is to increase the Fur Marketing Service Revolving Fund from \$900,000 to \$1.5 million.

The Government of the Northwest Territories supports the fur industry in the Northwest Territories through this fund and the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Price Program.

It often takes a month to six weeks for the fur to be sold at auction after trappers deliver furs to the GNWT under the program. The advance payments made to the trappers from the fund allow them to continue trapping in the interim period.

Due to the increased popularity and steady growth in the NWT fur industry, it is anticipated that the current authorized limit of \$900,000 will be reached by February 2014 and that the full increase in the authorized limit will be needed in the near future. Fur sales for the 2012-2013 fur-trapping season were the highest amount recorded in the last 30 years.

Failure to increase the limit will result in the GNWT not being able to make the advance payments for fur to trappers.

This amendment is designed to address the issue and support the traditional economy of the NWT. This increase in the fund will ensure uninterrupted program support to hunters and trappers so that they gain maximum benefits from strong market conditions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Minister Ramsay, do you have witnesses you'd like to bring into the House?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister Ramsay, if you could introduce your witnesses to the House, please.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce the guests I have with me here. We've got Nancy Magrum to my left, director of shared services, finance and administration; and to my right is Mr. Thomas Druyan, legislative counsel. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Ramsay. Mr. Druyan, Ms. Magrum, welcome to the House. Committee, we are on Bill 27 and I will open up to general comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Is committee prepared to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 and 2 approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree that Bill 27 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 27 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you. Bill 27 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, witnesses, Ms. Magrum, Mr. Druyan, for joining us this evening and thank you, Minister Ramsay. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses out of the House. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I will rise to report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act; Committee Report 8-17(4), Report on the Review of Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act; Bill 22, Territorial Emblem and Honours Act; Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act; and Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act, and would like to report progress and that Committee Report-17(4) is concluded and Bills 12, 22, 26 and 27 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Do I have a seconder? Mr. Bouchard.

---Carried

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

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 3: WILDLIFE ACT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 3, Wildlife Act, be read for the third time. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not normal that I would speak on third reading, but I just wanted to take a moment to reflect on the vote we're about to take in this House on an issue that has been a goal of Assemblies back as far as the 12th Assembly and we should appreciate the significance of this bill and what it has done for us. It has helped us create processes working with Aboriginal governments that exist nowhere else and in which we can draft legislation together. It has helped set a really strong foundation for devolution and it has brought our Wildlife Act, as old and archaic as it is, into the 21st Century.

It will be, Mr. Speaker, the biggest single bill that we're going to pass in the life of the 17th Assembly. We should appreciate that fact.

I thanked most of the folks that needed thanking yesterday, and today I just want to note for the record that while they support the bill, the Inuvialuit and Sahtu have put written concerns about a specific clause, 98.1. I want to restate our commitment as a government that we will work with them through the regulation developing process to resolve the concerns tied to 98.1.

Mr. Speaker, given the significance and singular importance of this bill, the likes of which politically none of us will see again probably in our political lives, I would like to ask, for posterity, for a recorded vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Member is seeking a recorded vote. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to make a very brief comment. This bill represents a big effort to date, as the Minister has said, but still leaves the public hanging on a number of issues that should properly be dealt with in the legislation.

It's an important improvement over past efforts and I congratulate the Minister on that. Unfortunately, it is not an impressive piece of legislation, other than its length and its propensity for unnecessary and confusing detail. While I wish I could support it, I cannot in good conscience endorse it. Fundamentally, the bill is unnecessarily divisive and fails to provide the mechanism to get all voices heard under one roof and provide public and transparency in decision-making on wildlife management.

Should the bill pass today, the Minister will need to work equally hard, perhaps harder, to ensure comprehensive and fair process and input for all people in the development of the regulations. I would expect our committee to play a role here as well. Mahsi.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Northwest Territories is home to half the population of the Dene and Inuvialuit, called Denendeh, the territory of Treaties 8 and 11 of 1899 and 1921, which were viewed as historical treaties by Canada unless you have a negotiated final agreement.

The Dehcho and Tlicho are regarded as unsettled areas in negotiations with Canada and the GNWT. For that same manner, the Metis are also negotiating. Regions that have settled land claims are regarded as modern treaties. Treaties between First Nations and Canada are protected under Section 356 of the Constitution, which states, "Treaties and Aboriginal rights are hereby recognized and affirmed." I understand the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which has expounded on multiculturalism and inclusion.

I also understand that there are concerns about proposed wildlife and this divisive nature. There is a view of the historical treaties, that treaties between First Nations and governments are based on peace and friendship. This is highly held by the elders of Denendeh. In this context, the Government of Canada has a duty to consult and accommodate First Nations and, above all, work in honour of the Crown.

There is a relationship between Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories through the Northwest Territories Act. There is also a relationship between Canada and First Nations through land claims and historical treaties. At this point, as we go down the path of devolution in terms of implementing a land and resource regime, I have questions, likely along with other First Nations. How would the GNWT assume in terms of treaty obligations from the federal government? However, I agree with the spirit and intent of the proposed Wildlife Act. Bill 3 is intended to set up a wildlife management regime. From that standpoint, as a Member of the Economic Development and Infrastructure committee reviewing the Wildlife Act, and exercising due diligence and seeking clarity in the interest of wildlife management and also conservation, above all in the manner of stewardship of the land including wildlife.

Wildlife management in terms of this tool that is before us could be said as blind to rights. From a very specific scientific standpoint, perhaps it could be a linear perspective, but it is not. With this in mind, this is the view that I have in terms of the important consideration of the Wildlife Act.

As MLA, I have an unsettled region that is still negotiating with Canada. The Dehcho First Nations have expressed concerns and made written submissions during the review process. In particular, I referenced the consultation provisions

and also the progress of their land use planning process, which has been ongoing for some time.

I understand that some of my constituents have concerns regarding GHL, general hunting licence, where it could be construed as whether you have to have a GHL to prove your treaty and Aboriginal rights. The residency clause in terms of allowing people the right to hunt, a lot of the constituents that I talked to would like to remain at two years. Some even take the view that two years is not enough. As a committee of EDI, Economic Development and Infrastructure, I was involved in the second reading that referred this act to the committee. We had hearings, we had the review and now we are reporting to this House.

I have, in consideration of this Wildlife Act, raised the fundamental issues on treaty and Aboriginal rights as a leader. I have reassurance in Section 172. I understand that the Dehcho First Nations are negotiating with the Government of Canada and the GNWT. At some point, my hope is that there will be a conclusion to those discussions and at that time the Minister will sit down with those regions including Dehcho and Akaitcho in terms of exchanging notes of the conformity of that clause. I understand that this Wildlife Act will not come into effect for a year and that regulations still need to be detailed out and that perhaps provisions could be tweaked, deleted or modified, and once it's legislated, it will be reviewed every five years.

I understand that negotiations on wildlife management are being negotiated at different tables in the spirit of co-management. Dehcho First Nations have been involved with negotiations for some time. My hope is that, at some point, through the support of this government and the federal government, there will be a conclusion, but yet the positions of the Dehcho perhaps are fundamentally challenging in terms of trying to determine the jurisdictions of salvaging the ownership of the asserted traditional lands.

I am hoping that we don't go down the path of, perhaps, legal challenges, but it is the prerogative of groups. My worry is that it could be a legal challenge and it could trigger a stop, a halting of negotiations while the rule law reviews provisions. However, I see this is another level of conservation. In the Deh Cho, we have mechanisms in place including land withdrawal, interim land use plan and also put a great deal of effort in terms of ensuring that we have part regimes and structures in terms of how co-management should work.

Today I continue to remind this government and the federal government that I support the efforts towards finalizing the Dehcho process. I want to make sure that we all help out to accomplish at least that goal in the land use plan. I would like to say something in my language too. [English translation not provided.]

As we experience increased natural resource development, we have to put in place land management regimes to ensure the sustainability of our land and wildlife. Today I see that we are at that point. Mahsi.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please rise.

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Moses, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Blake, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): (inaudible)...Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley.

MR. SPEAKER: All those abstaining, please stand. In favour, 14; opposed, three; abstentions, zero. Bill 3 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Yakeleya.

BILL 24: AN ACT TO AMEND THE LIQUOR ACT

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 24, Act to Amend the Liquor Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I ask for a recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Member is seeking a recorded vote on Bill 24. All those in favour, please rise.

RECORDED VOTE

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

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Bouchard.

MR. SPEAKER: All those abstaining, please rise.

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

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour, nine; opposed, one; abstaining, seven. Motion is carried. Bill 24 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 28:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2013-2014

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 29:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 3, 2013-2014

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 29, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 29, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2013-2014, has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 30:
APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 30, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 30, Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2014-2015, has had third reading.

---Carried

Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Friday, November 1, 2013, 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
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
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 70-17(4), Electoral Boundaries Commission, Final Report, May 2013
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act
 - Bill 22, Territorial Emblems and Honours Act
 - Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act
 - Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
23. Prorogation

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, November 1st, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:12 p.m.