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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2000****MEMBERS PRESENT**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Honourable Jane Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

May you have enough love for each other to keep you one, enough happiness to keep you gentle, enough trust to keep you open, enough trials to keep you strong, enough sorrow to keep you happy, enough failure to keep you humble, enough success to keep you eager, enough friends to give you comfort, enough wealth to meet your needs, enough enthusiasm to look forward, enough faith to banish depression, enough determination to make each day better than yesterday, and may the blessing of our God be upon you today and all the days of your life. Amen.

MR. SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Avant de commencer la séance, je veux souhaiter la Bienvenue aux députés qui sont de retour après un long mois de travail.

Good afternoon. Before I begin the orders of the day, I would like to welcome Members back from what was a very busy month for all of us. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new members of our staff that have joined the Legislative Assembly since the last session.

And finally, I bring greetings to all of you and best wishes from Canada's senior Speakers, the Honourable Gib Parent, Speaker of the House of Commons, and the Honourable Gildas Molgat, Speaker of the Senate.

I understand that his Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories is prepared to enter the Chamber and open this session of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Clerk, could you please attend to and escort the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories into the Chamber?

ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS BY COMMISSIONER**COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

(Hon. Dan Marion): Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, ladies and gentlemen, it is a pleasure for me to again join you here today. C'étais un grand plaisir d'être ici aujourd'hui.

First I would like to offer my congratulations to the Premier and Executive Council whom you have chosen to head this Assembly. I am confident that each of you, elected by your peers, is equal to the task of meeting the challenges that lie ahead.

When we last met in this House in January, Members were fresh from a general election. It was a time of great ceremony and excitement as we celebrated the beginnings of a new government.

Since then, Members have gone to work planning for the next four years. You gathered in Fort Providence earlier this month

to discuss your priorities for the life of this 14th Assembly. I am pleased that you renewed the tradition of bringing government closer to the people by holding meetings outside of Yellowknife. On your behalf, I would like to thank the Member for and residents of Fort Providence for their effort to make you feel at home during your stay in their community.

The planning session itself could not have been easy. As we are all aware, the Northwest Territories faces many challenges. But as we look to the future of our new Territory, we must always remember to honour our past and build on its rich tradition.

In that spirit, I will be sending letters of recognition to the elders and participants of the Gwich'in Enrolment Board who recently completed the task of identifying and creating a record of the histories and family trees of the Gwich'in people. Their project will be a legacy for their children and for many generations to come.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Ranger Sergeant Nick Mantla and Ranger Philip Zoe of Wha Ti, who were both recently awarded the Special Service Medal and Ranger Bar from the Governor General of Canada. The award is given to Canadian Rangers who perform special service in the northern regions of Canada.

I would also like to note three Northerners awarded late last year for bravery by Canada's Governor General, Patrick and Roland Kuptana and posthumously, Darryl Gruben, who acted heroically to save a young child from drowning. They join an elite group of special Canadians – and it is with pride that we identify them as fellow Northerners.

Mr. Speaker, death by drowning is an all too common occurrence in the Northwest Territories and for that reason I am honoured to have been appointed Vice Patron of the Royal Life Saving Society. In keeping with themes that I wish to develop in my term as your Commissioner, this society promotes the energy, creativity and intelligence of our young people through their involvement in lifesaving, lifeguarding and leadership education programs and awards.

In closing Mr. Speaker, during this Session, the government will introduce a bill for the consideration of this House entitled Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 3, 1999-2000. The government considers this bill essential to the good conduct of its business and, as such, I recommend its passage.

With that, I wish you all well as you begin the work of leading the Northwest Territories into the 21st century. I now declare open the Second Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Orders of the day. Item 2, opening address. Item 3, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 1-14(2): Sessional Statement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, today the 14th Assembly of the Northwest Territories publicly gets down to work. We have some new Members who will bring enthusiasm. We have many incumbents who will bring experience and knowledge of previous Assemblies. And with your return, Mr. Speaker, a renewed perspective from someone who has been here before and sincerely wanted to return.

Collectively, we have received a new mandate from our constituents. They want open, accountable and effective government from this Assembly and Cabinet. They want to see relations improved between territorial, aboriginal and federal governments. And with division behind us, they want the Northwest Territories to move quickly out of the starting gate with a renewed vision and commitment.

Mr. Speaker, before speaking about the challenges ahead during our upcoming term, and the first decade of the new millennium, we should reflect on the accomplishments of the past.

Many of us started our political careers advancing the cause of aboriginal rights and promoting northern autonomy. Let me briefly review some of these accomplishments from the aboriginal perspective:

- Nationally, the Northwest Territories had a strong role in recognition of aboriginal peoples and aboriginal rights in the constitution;
- Significant progress has been made on the settlement and implementation of Northwest Territories aboriginal land claims;
- Through determination and commitment, recognition of the inherent right of aboriginal self government is now on the Northwest Territories aboriginal rights agenda; and
- Aboriginal peoples and their governments or organizations are now making co-management decisions that affect Northwest Territories land, resources and communities.

Mr. Speaker, northern autonomy has also advanced. For example:

- In the mid-1980's the Assembly and government began to set their priorities without interference from the federal government;
- Responsible government was achieved during the same period when the Commissioner was removed from the day to day operation of the government and the position became largely ceremonial;
- Jurisdictional responsibilities were transferred North in areas such as forestry, the Power Corporation, highways and health and education. Many may eventually be transferred again, or shared, with aboriginal governments; and

- While the federal government continues to control northern resource management, development and revenues, we have exerted our influence to ensure northern interests and benefits are realized.

But we cannot dwell too long on the past, Mr. Speaker, because as much as veteran politicians like to look back and embellish their accomplishments, we must face the challenges of the future and the realities we face today.

Where do we and our constituents want the Northwest Territories to be in 10 years time? From the human perspective, we want a society:

- Where individuals, their families and their communities are healthy;
- Where children and youth can, and are, prepared to take advantage of education and training opportunities to grow and prosper;
- Where our elders and seniors can live comfortably and are respected for their contributions; and
- Where our cultures and languages continue to be the foundations of our society.

From an economic perspective, we want a climate:

- Where northern and aboriginal institutions make the decisions on land, resource management, the environment and development;
- Where Northwest Territories residents and our private sector benefit from resource development;
- Where the Northwest Territories is in a position to use revenues raised in the North to reduce dependence on federal transfers; and
- Where our infrastructure, like highways down the Mackenzie Valley and to Tuktoyaktuk are complete.

From a governance perspective, we want institutions:

- Where aboriginal and territorial governments work effectively in partnership based upon the best programs and services they can provide to their constituents;
- Where Northwest Territories residents form the majority of a public sector workforce with the expertise and commitment necessary to operate in the 21st century;
- Where decisions can be made to advance the Northwest Territories interests at the national and international levels; and
- Where there is a sense of unity and identity that can bring together our institutions and residents for the good of the whole Territory and its residents.

Mr. Speaker, this is the job that lies ahead of us and in ten years we will assess whether we have reached these goals, but for now let us move on to the present and the next four years.

What are some of the positive circumstances we face as we get down to work? Here is a short checklist:

- Division and the downsizing that went with it is behind us. Now we can concentrate on developing government to be effective and accountable;
- The development of our diamond industry and renewed interest in our oil and gas potential provide encouraging indicators of future economic activity;
- There is a resurgence of growth in the North's traditional industries such as tourism, forestry and the harvesting of renewable resources. Fur prices are rising;
- With the signing of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline motion, aboriginal organizations have sent a positive signal that they once again want to work collectively;
- A Dogrib land claim and self-government agreement-in-principle has been signed, and progress is also being made on Deh Cho, Akaitcho and South Slave Metis negotiations;
- The federal minister has given some positive signals about working towards devolution of resource management and development powers to the North; and
- Northern aboriginal and territorial leaders agree that we need to work together and there is consensus that this may be done through participation in an intergovernmental forum.

However, these positive indicators cannot mask the stark realities we face and which all Northwest Territories residents and their institutions must address and start addressing quickly.

Very simply, Mr. Speaker, the cost of our social safety net of programs and services is rapidly escalating. Currently, our revenues are stretched to the maximum to meet these costs even as we are increasingly pressed to spend more dollars on other things like improving our housing and transportation infrastructure.

Nor do we have access to other sources of money, like resource revenues, to help cover these increasing costs — some directly related to the resource development taking place up and down the Mackenzie Valley.

We are not unique in our escalating social program costs. Other provinces and territories are facing similar increasing programs and services costs.

Mr. Speaker, we will, with our aboriginal partners, develop a blueprint to help us out of this dilemma. We will meet soon with our partners, the aboriginal governments, to discuss areas of common concern and action and to seek their advice.

However, I believe that this Assembly, our Cabinet and the people of the Northwest Territories can make an early and honest commitment to improving our lifestyle immediately.

We can all agree to the following:

- We must find ways for families to seek a more balanced lifestyle so that our scarce family support services dollars can go towards those with special needs;
- We must reduce alcohol and drug consumption to achieve fewer domestic assaults, less violence, and healthier families, thus providing happier homes and further cost savings; and
- We must reduce tobacco consumption so that our hospitals and health services can focus on other more pressing priorities.

It has been estimated that in tobacco consumption alone, \$31 million per year could be saved if residents of the Northwest Territories stopped smoking. In the Northwest Territories, tobacco is estimated to be the source of nearly 25 percent of all deaths from cancer, circulatory and respiratory diseases and prenatal conditions.

Government cannot legislate a healthy lifestyle. It is a matter of personal choice. Mr. Speaker, if we are to achieve a change as I have outlined then it is up to this Assembly and government to lead by example and to forge new and more effective relationships and partnerships.

This is why we are taking time at this early stage in our mandate to make sure that our agenda is based upon a collective commitment:

- To build a foundation based on stronger individuals, families and communities;
- To ensure that there is a balance between development of our resources and the development of our society and local economy;
- To protect and preserve our northern environment;
- To make sure that we have a sound understanding of our financial situation and make decisions which will not undermine our territorial system of government and evolving self-government institutions;
- To spend less time on studies, reviews and commissions and to start making and implementing decisions; and
- To make sure that governments, at whatever level, are open, accountable and honest to our constituents.

So, Mr. Speaker, where are we at after a little over one month since being sworn into office?

- Caucus has met for four days in Fort Providence and we have started to develop the key features and objectives of an agenda; and

- Our Cabinet has met to consider the outcomes from Fort Providence and to prepare for more meetings with Caucus to finalize our agenda;
- Before this can be done, we need to meet with the northern aboriginal leadership to obtain their input and a commitment to work with us, because we cannot do it alone; and
- We also need to consult with our federal partners, particularly on our short and long term financial needs, because without some new arrangements and more benefits for all northern residents, our ability to make a significant difference over the next four years will be severely limited.

Mr. Speaker, there is no quick fix. We will choose our priorities carefully, and we will work hard to deliver on our commitments.

We will work with our aboriginal partners to find solutions and identify and implement an agenda that reflects our consensus.

And we will develop a way to measure our results in four years to see if our plan has worked. For example, with the help of aboriginal partnerships and a commitment from the people of the Northwest Territories, I expect that our action on the social agenda will result in the following:

- A reduced number of assaults on women in each community;
- A reduced number of offenders and repeat offenders in each community;
- A reduced number of children that must be placed in protective care;
- A reduced number of medivacs due to people hurting people and individuals hurting themselves;
- An increase in the number of healthy school graduates supported by parents and the community;
- An increase in the number of individuals who possess the skills and abilities to take advantage of employment in their communities;
- Elders who are well supported by their community and living independently on their pensions; and
- Most importantly, a solid foundation for future self-government models at the community and regional level.

So too must we develop indicators to allow us to measure and evaluate the results of actions we take on our fiscal and economic agendas. How else can we determine success? How else can we determine whether or not government expenditures are achieving the results we want?

Mr. Speaker, this means that as we finalize the agenda for the 14th Assembly we must make evaluation a part of the document, a part of the plan. In closing, Mr. Speaker, it is important for this Assembly and aboriginal governments and organizations to recognize that we all represent the same people.

For all of us this is our home. Many of us in this Assembly have grown up and gone to school together. Our parents and grandparents worked together to build this Territory. Our families are related through marriage.

Together with others who have moved here, we are raising children who will hopefully stay in the North and make this place an even better place to live. This is one of the benefits of a small population.

We need to demonstrate to our constituents that it is possible to work together on a common vision. Now, more than ever in the past, we need to show our people that their leaders can pull together and truly demonstrate that we serve in the best interests of the people of the new Western Territory. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent, the Member for Frame Lake.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Minister's Statement 1-14(2), titled Sessional Statement, be moved into committee of the whole. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. We have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. The statement is moved to committee of the whole for consideration. Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Support for a Mackenzie Valley Pipeline and Highway

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On January 26th, aboriginal leaders in the Northwest Territories announced that they now support in principle the building of a pipeline that follows the Mackenzie River.

Mr. Speaker, the aboriginal leaders talked of working together to develop a business partnership that would maximize ownership and benefits of a pipeline in the Mackenzie Valley.

In light of this announcement, Mr. Speaker, I believe that this government has a golden opportunity to work with aboriginal governments and the federal government to build a highway down the Mackenzie in conjunction with the construction of a pipeline.

Economic opportunities would also follow a road, Mr. Speaker. Be it resource development or exploration, a road would make it easier and economical for companies to make investments in the North's future and its people.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that the government has a responsibility to the residents of the rural Northwest Territories to ensure they enjoy the same access to the rest of Canada as the residents in our larger communities. There is no reason that this government's highway strategy should not ensure this.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be presenting a petition on behalf of my constituents that asks for the

Mackenzie Highway to be extended to the Beaufort Sea and for the Dempster Highway to connect to Aklavik. In addition to being a cost-saving measure, the combination of the two projects would minimize the impact on the environment.

Mr. Speaker, in order for all residents to participate in a vibrant, integrated economy, all of the land-based communities in the Northwest Territories must be connected by an all-weather road system. A road means lower costs for food and fuel, two of the major expenses for residents in these communities.

Tourism would flourish in the Northwest Territories if we had a road in the Mackenzie Valley that interconnected with the Dempster and ended at the Arctic Coast. No tourist wants to drive 700 or 800 miles to get somewhere and then turn around and go back over the same road they drove two or three days before.

I look forward to the Minister's response to this petition and will be following up on this matter in question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement On Negotiations for Diavik Project Approval

MR. BRADEN: Thank you and good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement today is about resource development in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, negotiations are continuing to find a way for the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to grant approval on the construction of the Diavik diamond project. I acknowledge that much work and effort has been underway to bring these negotiations to a successful conclusion. I am optimistic that these negotiations can be successful. I look forward to seeing the project move ahead. I believe that all the environmental and monitoring issues can be addressed to the satisfaction of the parties.

Mr. Speaker, this process raises many broader questions about how mining and other resource projects are treated and dealt with in the Northwest Territories. I can only hope that all parties are learning from this process.

We need to direct our energies to further streamline the system to provide more clarity and certainty. This will require improved coordination of the authority and responsibilities of all the parties. The ground rules need to be clear at the beginning. Mr. Speaker, we can do a better job. It is vital, at a time when the people of the Northwest Territories need more jobs, business opportunities, and revenues to run our programs and services, that we send the right signals to our people and to those looking at further developments north of 60. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today, I will be asking a question of the government on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Member's Statement On Student Financial Assistance

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I have waited some ten years to stand up here today in this House and talk about student financial assistance, so I am going to take that opportunity here today.

-- Applause

Thank you. Had I known that I would be here today, I guess I would have taken better notes, but I think I have a pretty good memory, so I hope my colleagues will indulge me.

I think the reality of student financial assistance in the Northwest Territories today is that we have some good news and we have some bad news. The good news is that ten years ago, when I first set out on my way to attend university in the south, I think you almost needed a degree to figure out how to apply for student financial assistance. A lot has changed. The administration has worked hard to streamline the process for students, and I think they have done a good job. We are almost there. We still have some things to change and some things to improve, but we are getting better.

The bad news though, Mr. Speaker, is that ten years ago, when I set out to university, the rates for student financial assistance were exactly the same as they are today. In the meanwhile though, we have seen tuition at southern institutions double and even triple. I think we can all see the rates are no longer acceptable. If you were to poll students who were leaving university ten years ago and asked them how many of them were leaving for financial reasons, it would have been a small proportion. But judging from the number of letters and calls I have received on this, I think that proportion is rapidly rising.

Today, I would like to take this opportunity to insist that this government do something about student financial assistance that will result in us putting more money in the pockets of students, and I would like to insist that we need to do that quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Member for Range Lake, Miss Lee.

Member's Statement On Hazardous Highway No. 3 Conditions

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to speak on the concerns this afternoon that I have about the state of Highway No. 3 between Rae Edzo and Yellowknife. I wish to also advise you, Mr. Speaker, that these are concerns I share with a number of other Members in this House from Yellowknife, as well as North Slave and Deh Cho.

Mr. Speaker, the reportings in the media this morning are yet another heap on the mounting evidence that the current state of this stretch of highway is simply hazardous to our health, our environment, and our economy. A man is in the local hospital as we speak due to the injuries he suffered from an accident on this road. The tractor trailer he was driving, fully loaded with diesel fuel, rolled several times because he was unable to negotiate one of the many treacherous corners on that road, not to mention the very narrow shoulders.

Mr. Speaker, this road is a fatality waiting to happen, and this government has to do more to address this danger. How many more injuries and fatalities do we need to see before something is done about it? How much more fuel do we need to pour onto the road and even the surrounding lakes before we see the reconstruction of this road?

The road also is endangering our economic activities, Mr. Speaker. We are already well aware that it is a highly negative factor for the tourism industry, but we are suffering from more immediate economic impacts of these road conditions.

I also learned this morning that the Department of Transportation is systematically delaying the traffic heading to the mines by restricting the traffic. This is because oversized trucks cannot travel during busy morning and evening hours and also during the day on the weekends.

Mr. Speaker, this is another obstacle to the resource industry, which is already operating under a tight winter road schedule. I appreciate the need to control the traffic of these oversized trucks, but it is clear that this is one more indication of the additional demands being placed on this very fragile road system.

Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is this. We need this road reconstructed now, not five years from now, and certainly not ten years from now. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude this statement.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? We have no nays. Ms. Lee, you may continue.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We need to have this road reconstructed now, not five years from now, and certainly not 10 years from now. We need to have this road contributing to our health, to our environment, and our economy, not endangering them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement On Getting Down to the Business of Open Government

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the horizon is starting to peer over the 14th term of the Legislative Assembly and we must get down to business. Our residents need to know if there are going to be any major changes. For example, what will the Northwest Territories look like or be after the term of the 14th Assembly?

Since December 6th, the people of the Northwest Territories have waited, first to hear who was elected to Cabinet and then to see what priorities we would set for our residents and ourselves. Mr. Speaker, it is important, more than that, it is imperative that we inform the people of the Northwest Territories as to what they can expect from their government. For example, many non-government organizations that provide services to the public on our behalf are already putting their budgets together for the upcoming year. People need to know if there is going to be more or less money for housing or social programs. Contractors will need to know if they can begin preparing for the upcoming building season.

Mr. Speaker, the news may not be good, but it is needed so that our residents can prepare themselves or adjust to what will be the realities of what we are faced with. I do not believe that we can afford to put off telling people what we are faced with as Members of the 14th Assembly. In fact it is our responsibility to inform our residents of what the future may hold. I say this,

Mr. Speaker, not to create fear in the public but to allow more information to be brought into the public domain.

I believe that by being up front and open, we will show the people of our Territory that we have indeed started out on a path to a more open and honest government. At the appropriate time, I will question the Minister responsible for Finance. In closing, Mr. Speaker, as I did in the tradition of the 13th Assembly, I would like to send greetings back to my wife and children. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement On Setting Budget Priorities

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since we were first elected on December 6th, we have all agreed on at least one thing; and that is the importance of revenue-sharing with our aboriginal partners and negotiations with the federal government.

This is an important but long-term goal. We are faced with immediate issues. In five weeks it is the end of the fiscal year, which means we are going to have to have an interim supplementary bill. That has to be an immediate priority.

This is more, Mr. Speaker, than a temporary measure. The steps we take and the targets we set are going to guide us as the 14th Assembly for at least half of the fiscal year before us. We know very clearly with the deficit that this is not a status quo budget.

As my colleague from Inuvik Boot Lakes said, we have to start letting the people know with bread and butter issues, what is going to be happening. Warm and fuzzy is good but bread and butter, jobs, houses, security, possible layoffs - people want to know this.

During my election, I committed very strongly to supporting programs and services at the community level and I intend to maintain that stance. I think we all want to protect the programs and services in our communities.

In the case of a community like Fort Smith, we have made the shift from a regional centre to a program centre where we deliver programs and services to a wide range of people. It is very clear to us that we have to look at our administration. We have to look at restructuring our government to get as many resources to the program areas and as close to the people as possible, which means to the community level.

I believe that this is an experience and a commitment that just about all Members here have spoken to. I also know that, based on my experience and from what I have heard from others and from my constituents, that there are areas of savings that this government can recognize and realize. I intend to focus on those in the coming weeks and months. I would encourage all other MLAs and constituents of mine and any other northern constituents that have ideas of how we, as a government, can, in fact, deal with our deficit and maintain program and service levels in our communities to come forward. The people are waiting, Mr. Speaker. It is time for us

to deal with not only the longer term but the bread and butter issues that are before us today. Thank you.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement On Addictions Counselling Services

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to take the opportunity to bring forward an issue that is of great concern to my riding, the North Slave, and the Territories as a whole. That issue is addictions. The issue is not new yet the way we address it as a government needs to reflect that we are listening to our people and that we are prepared to deal with it.

Last week, the honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Jane Groenewegen, released The Final Report of the Minister's Forum on Health and Social Services. It was accurately subtitled, "Let's Get On With It." I do not think there were any surprises in this report. It stated that substance abuse in the Northwest Territories needs to be dealt with more effectively. I would like to thank Mrs. Groenewegen for releasing this report and for her written commitment and assurance that she is willing to work with me and the Dogrib Community Services Board to support the work underway within my constituency to address the issue of addictions.

I would also like to thank the Dogrib Community Services Board for their work in developing the Dogrib Addictions Strategy. Their work began in 1998 and they have created two documents.

"Stories From Our Youth" is a collection of 200 stories by children within the Dogrib communities of Rae Lakes, Rae, Wha Ti and Snare Lakes, about how community addictions have affected their lives.

Another document they produced is "For The Sake Of Our Children," which includes a vision statement of what people hope to achieve in the Dogrib communities - a world where addictions do not rule their lives and trouble their communities. They see families that are strong and healthy, where people respect and support one another. Elders are listened to. Parents are aware of their responsibility to guide their children. Children listen to the counsel that is provided by their parents and their elders. They see people who speak their language, northern customs and traditions, are proud of their culture and heritage and who are guided by the Dogrib beliefs and spirituality. This vision can become a reality and the first step is to effectively address the issue of addictions within the Dogrib communities.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge Bobby Dryneck, a constituent who took the initiative to go door to door in Rae, collecting signatures in support of treatment for alcohol and drug addictions.

Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling this petition. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask for unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be tabling this petition at the appropriate time. It contains 600 signatures reflecting the concerns of the people within my constituency in regards to addictions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Members' statements. The Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On Telecommunications Competition

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, every day Northerners see ads on television offering long distance rates as low as 10 or 15 cents a minute, some offering programs for \$20 a month as the maximum amount people pay for phone calls.

As technology advances, Northerners expect comparable service at comparable rates. Many of my constituents, particularly those who run businesses, tell me they want to see competition for long distance service because they believe that will bring down the price they pay.

Mr. Speaker, NorthwesTel has proposed that competition be introduced in the North in January of 2001. They have also proposed that because the North is a high cost serving area, that they must have access to an operating subsidy to survive in the face of competition. The CRTC has scheduled a regional consultation on this matter for June 12 in Whitehorse, with ties by video conference to other centres like Fort Nelson, Yellowknife, and Iqaluit. Public hearings on the proposal are scheduled to start on June 13 in Whitehorse.

Mr. Speaker, it is unacceptable that the regulator, the CRTC, is only travelling to one centre for these important hearings. Residents of this Territory should also have an opportunity to express their views to the commission face to face.

Mr. Speaker, in previous public hearings, the Government of the Northwest Territories has generally been supportive of NorthwesTel applications. I hope that our government is planning to file an intervention with the CRTC on this important issue, as well.

But, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the government will also be meeting with NorthwesTel before they file this application to ensure they discuss with NorthwesTel the numbers of positions in the Northwest Territories. Given our fiscal situation and the importance of per capita funding in this Territory when it comes to our grant from Canada, I think it is essential we also demand NorthwesTel have an equitable distribution of positions in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, our government must also contact the CRTC to insist that at least some of the hearings be held in the Northwest Territories and not just in the Yukon Territory. Mr. Speaker, later today, I will be addressing questions to the Minister responsible on this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 4, Members' statements. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honour to recognize a former Member of this

Legislature, Mr. Pete Fraser, accompanied by his wife. Mr. Fraser was a very outspoken Member on dealing with seniors' issues.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Allen.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the presence of my executive assistant, Tom Williams' mother, Agnes and sister, Susan, who are here to watch the afternoon's proceedings. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my deep pleasure to recognize one of the great headline grabbers of the North, my mother, Mrs. Esther Braden. I would also like to recognize Ms. Barb Hood, Executive Director of the Northwest Territories Seniors' Society.

--Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Welcome to the gallery, Mrs. Braden. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of people I would like to recognize. The first I would like to recognize is my wonderful supporter, Marg Baile, who is in the gallery with us today. I would also like to recognize a number of business people from Yellowknife, Mr. Jim Petersen, Mr. Tom Hoefler, Gord Stewart and David Connelly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Chair would like to recognize a long-term resident and school teacher from the Northwest Territories, Mr. Ed Jeske. And, of course, all the visitors in the gallery, you do not go unrecognized and welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

-- Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 1-14(2): NWT Highway Strategy

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation. In my Member's statement, I spoke of the possibility of the construction of a road down the Mackenzie River to connect with the Dempster Highway, also suggesting we also look at communities such as Aklavik and connecting them to the Dempster Highway. Ensuring that this government realizes that in order for us to meet our economic potential, we have to develop the infrastructure of the North which includes the Mackenzie Highway to the Beaufort Sea and our ability to connect our smaller communities to access to southern Canada.

Can the Minister tell me what stage is the discussion in regarding the highway strategy? Has he met with his counterparts with the federal government or had talks with the aboriginal groups? Also, has he looked at the possibility of combining the possibility of a pipeline with the highway construction in the Mackenzie Highway? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Return to Question 1-14(2): NWT Highway Strategy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NWT Highways Strategy is at the stage right now where we are just completing the studies. At this time, we have been sending out summaries of the studies to stakeholders, including the federal government. We are putting together a plan as to where we would go with this, based on the Northwest Territories economic development strategy, as well. So, we are kind of combining both studies together and having both strategies working in cooperation with each other, Mr. Speaker. At this point in time, we have not really put together any firm plan as to which section of the highway we would proceed with. All this is going to be included, to some degree, in the business plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 1-14(2): NWT Highway Strategy

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know there have been preliminary surveys done, especially in the extension of the highway from the Dempster to Tuktoyaktuk, but can the Minister tell me if there has been any similar work done to look at the possibility of connecting the community of Aklavik to the Dempster Highway?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 1-14(2): NWT Highway Strategy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, there was some consultations with the community of Aklavik and there was some consideration given to an extension or an access road from Aklavik to the Dempster Highway. However, the department did not undertake any intensive studies on the project. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 1-14(2): NWT Highway Strategy

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me if there is any possibility of meeting with the community of Aklavik, along with the Department of Transportation to see how that community can develop their needs in regarding the possibility of the highway and build that into the highway strategy?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 1-14(2): NWT Highway Strategy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I could pass that on to the department, who will consider

whether we can include some kind of a program with Aklavik to undertake further studies on that particular project.

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

Supplementary to Question 1-14(2): NWT Highway Strategy

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we all know, time usually flies in this Legislature. In four years, it comes and goes pretty quick. So, I would like to ask the Minister, can he commit to meeting with the community of Aklavik within the next couple of months?

HON. TONY WHITFORD: The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 1-14(2): NWT Highway Strategy

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure the department can find the time to go to Aklavik and meet with the Aklavik residents on the project in the next couple of months. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Oral questions. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 2-14(2): Child Welfare Review

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister responsible for Health. It is regarding the Child and Family Services Program Review that has been underway for years. The Minister has indicated they have brought in another southern contractor to try to do a considerable amount of work in two months. Given the Members', as I clearly recollect, vigorous opposition to the Med-Emerg Report, the Ministers' Forum on Education, the Ministers' Forum on Health, could the Minister indicate what kind of northern experience the Child Welfare League of Canada has in being able to, in two months time, blanket the Northwest Territories to answer all the comprehensive questions, conditions and terms outlined in the terms of reference? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 2-14(2): Child Welfare Review

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the review the Member speaks of is a review that was undertaken by the Child Welfare League of Canada. This is a nationally recognized organization for child welfare. Recently, within the last couple of years, we have had it changed to the Child Welfare Act. The department, I am sure along with the Minister of the day, felt that it would be worthwhile to have a review of the child welfare practices and policies of this government. Having said that, I cannot speak too extensively to the credentials of the Child Welfare League, but I do have an information sheet here for all Members outlining the cost of the review, the communities that were visited, and also the groups that were consulted with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 2-14(2): Child Welfare Review

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister possibly talk to the issue of the time frames? When you look at the terms of reference, this was started in December over Christmas and was supposed to be completed by the end of January. They were supposed to hit about eight communities, talk to dozens and dozens of people, including professional stakeholders and community leaders.

The issues of their northern credibility and experiences factors into this, and I know the Minister said she cannot speak to that, but to me it is a critical issue. Can they be expected to, in fact coming from the south as the contractors for the Med-Emerg report were criticized for being southerners and be able to do this kind of comprehensive, detailed work in a unique jurisdiction? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 2-14(2): Child Welfare Review

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indeed, the Member is right. This is a unique jurisdiction. However, the issues related to child welfare are issues which are faced by every other part of Canada. I would safely say that the Child Welfare League of Canada is an organization which is dedicated specifically to undertaking system-wide reviews of child welfare practices to ensure consistent standards of performance and outcomes and that best practices are achieved. I would say that this organization would be experts in this field. With respect to the time frame in which they operated, I can see they have certainly interviewed and spoken with a very broad cross-section of Northerners. We certainly look forward to hearing the results of the review. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 2-14(2): Child Welfare Review

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is interesting to note that the Minister is clearly of the opinion that northern experience and knowledge of the North is not a critical factor when examining children and the services that we provide to children in the North. Could the Minister, for the record, tell us on this information sheet that we have yet to see, what this contract costs? Was it put out to tender? Or was it just sole-sourced? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 2-14(2): Child Welfare Review

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the cost of the review is \$110,000. I do not have the information as to how the contract was let, or whether or not it was a sole-source contract. I do not want to make an assumption on that, so I will get that information for the Member and get back to him. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 2-14(2): Child Welfare Review

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister also indicate, since this Child and Family Services Review has been going on for years, what is the total cost of the review? Not just this high-priced one-month, two-month contractor from the south, but what was the overall cost of the review undertaken by the department? When do we get to finally see this document we have been waiting so long for? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. There were two questions there. The Minister can decide which one she wants to answer.

Further Return to Question 2-14(2): Child Welfare Review

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will choose to answer the one on the overall cost. Given the level of detail the Member is asking for, I of course cannot provide that answer, but will undertake to speak with the department and find out what the overall cost was. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Question 3-14(2): GNWT Financial Position

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I made reference to getting more information out to the public regarding the situation we find ourselves in as the 14th Assembly. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Finance, if the fiscal situation has changed since the beginning of the election. For example, Mr. Speaker, it was said that we were 18 months away from hitting our credit limit or debt wall, as it has become known. I would like to know from the Minister responsible for Finance if that situation has changed. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Minister responsible for Finance, the Honourable Joe Handley.

Return to Question 3-14(2): GNWT Financial Position

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, to my knowledge, that situation has not changed. We still are in the same situation we were a month ago. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 3-14(2): GNWT Financial Position

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us if in fact the time line has shrunk? The 18 months was given prior to the election, so has that come down as well? Are we in the range of 14 months, 12 months, 10 months? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 3-14(2): GNWT Financial Position

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the situation has not changed. We are still in a situation where we have to manage

our resources very well. It is true that if everything else continues, if we continue spending as we have, the projection is the same. If we do not have any new revenues, then we will have a difficult situation to face some months from now. I cannot confirm that it will be 18 months or whenever. Mr. Speaker, we are optimistic that over the next few weeks and months, that plans and options we are working on will give us some direction that will lead us out of this situation. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 3-14(2): GNWT Financial Position

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, knowing that we are optimistic on a number of fronts to try and correct the current situation we find ourselves in, and knowing that we are quite a ways behind what is a normal budgeting cycle, has there been work undergoing that would ensure we do not hit our debt wall in this upcoming fiscal year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 3-14(2): GNWT Financial Position

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I can assure you that the Department of Finance is working on a number of options for us. We have given assurance that we will not hit that wall. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Yellowknife Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 4-14(2): CRTC Public Hearing Intervention

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services which is, I believe, the department responsible for telecommunications. Could the Minister tell me if the government has developed or is developing an intervention for the public hearing process announced by the CRTC to consider long distance competition in the North?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, the Honourable Vince Steen.

Return to Question 4-14(2): CRTC Public Hearing Intervention

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the present time, the department is working on a submission that we will make to the CRTC in Whitehorse. Either myself as the Minister responsible or possibly the Premier will make a presentation at that time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 6, oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 4-14(2): CRTC Public Hearing Intervention

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister advise whether the government will demand the CRTC hold some part of those hearings in the Northwest Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Minister responsible for Public Works, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 4-14(2): CRTC Public Hearing Intervention

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that we raised this issue at all. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 4-14(2): CRTC Public Hearing Intervention

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Minister said he is not aware of it, I hope the Minister will look into this situation. I would like to ask the Minister to commit to seeking a way in which to ask the CRTC to hold some of those hearings in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. I am not sure if that was a question or a bit of a comment, but the Minister can answer if he wishes.

Further Return Question 4-14(2): CRTC Public Hearing Intervention

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member has a very good point, and the department will bring that to the attention of the CRTC and Northwestel as well. No doubt it will be suggested that there should be some hearing held in this Territory. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Oral questions, Mr. Dent, your final supplementary.

Supplementary to Question 4-14(2): CRTC Public Hearing Intervention

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my statement, given our fiscal situation and the impact per capita funding has in our grant, will the Minister meet with NorthwesTel to seek a commitment within a reasonable time for an equitable share of positions in the Northwest Territories, particularly senior management positions?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Minister responsible for Public Works, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 4-14(2): CRTC Public Hearing Intervention

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will commit to that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 5-14(2): Funding for Addictions Services

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister for Health and Social Services regarding addiction funding. I received a letter from the Minister this morning stating that funding is available to clients with different needs to access other types of addiction treatment in the south, that being people who cannot receive

the treatment they require in the North. I would appreciate clarification about what kind of funding is available for people to attend treatment in the south.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen.

Return to Question 5-14(2): Funding for Addictions Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Member for North Slave for his correspondence and for the interest that he has shown in this issue of addictions. It is definitely recognized by this government that addictions pose a very critical challenge to our people, and being responsible now for the Department of Health and Social Services, we want to look at every way possible we can to address the need of people with addictions.

We have treatment facilities available here in the Northwest Territories. Sometimes our people require referrals to specialized institutions where clients may have more than one addiction or may have special needs for services which are not available in the Northwest Territories. In that case, referrals are made to institutions in the south.

I do not know exactly what kinds of dollars are available, but I do know a sizeable amount of money from the boards and from the department are spent on referrals to these institutions. What specific dollars are available to the health boards for these referrals, I could not respond to. I would certainly get the information for the Member and provide it to him. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 5-14(2): Funding for Addictions Services

MR. LAFFERTY: In The Final Report of the Ministers' Forum on Health and Social Services, it was pointed out that treatment far from home is less effective than the healing of whole families in the community. One of the goals identified by the Dogrib Addiction Strategy is to have people who speak their language, people who know their customs and traditions, people who are proud of their culture and heritage, people who are guided by their Dogrib beliefs and spirituality.

This strategy states that every individual and every family in the Dogrib communities have been and are affected by addiction problems. I am sure you can appreciate the importance of having treatment provided which best meets the needs of the clients. Can the Minister indicate whether she is receptive to establishing a treatment centre in the North Slave?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Just to remind the Members the preamble to the question should come first, and then supplementaries are just to the point of the question. The question is directed to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 5-14(2): Funding for Addictions Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do recognize what the Member is saying. We do

need to have treatment that does not create barriers to our residents, whether it is a culture or language barrier. We need to have treatment that is tailored to the needs of our people.

With regard to that, the department has undertaken an alternative programming initiative, and this planning process has been underway since April 1, 1999, and it is to develop comprehensive program options for children, youth, and families, as well as gender-sensitive healing and recovery programs.

In February 2000, the Initiative Steering Committee presented programming recommendations to the board, CEO's, and department senior management. The Member's question was is the Minister receptive to an addictions centre for the North Slave? I would like to say that I have received an invitation from the Dogrib people to attend and discuss this matter further with them, and I will be more than happy to do that. Also, I note that Anna Beals, the director of the Community Programs Dogrib Community Services Board is a member of the Alternative Programming Initiatives Steering Committee, and hopefully will have valuable input on that committee as we look at programming alternatives. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 6-14(2): Addressing NWT Resource Development

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Further to my Member's statement on the Diavik project and resource development in the North, my question is for Mr. Handley, the Minister assigned to represent the GNWT on the Diavik project. The difficulties experienced with permitting have sent a confusing and a conflicting message about the development climate in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. I feel the issue, for the long term, is one of confidence and communication. Can the Minister advise what the government plans to do to deal with the broader message, and it is a message, I think, of lack of confidence so widely expressed about the development climate in the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The question is to the Minister responsible for Finance, the Honourable Joe Handley.

Further Return to Question 6-14(2): Addressing NWT Resource Development

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Northwest Territories, we are blessed with tremendous resources and, I think, a fantastic environment. We have to protect that. At the same time, we also need to maintain an investment climate that is going to give us the economic activities that we need in order to overcome the difficulties we face right now.

On the Diavik project, our government has participated totally and completely all the way through the comprehensive study review process. We have taken the lead on the socio-economic agreement, which was settled. We have participated in the environmental agreement negotiations, which are ongoing. We are attending the Prospectors Development Association Meeting in Toronto next week where the Deputy Premier will make a presentation with regard to our investment climate. I

will be attending an International Ministers of Mines Meeting with the same message.

We are continuing with a lot of the messages that are aimed at ensuring we have a good investment climate and have the confidence of people around the world. And I believe we still do, in spite of these tough points. I think we are still a good place internationally to have money invested.

In terms of control over it, Mr. Speaker, I think it is much better to govern ourselves than to be governed by somebody else. I think when we see our northern governments in charge, responsible and accountable for development, then you will see development happening at a pace and in a way that Northerners want it to happen. I believe as we make steps in devolution, then we should be able to make a lot of headway on improving our image around the world as a good place to invest. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Braden, supplementary.

Supplementary to Question 6-14(2): Addressing NWT Resource Development

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister raised a very critical point, I think, in this situation, and that is our long-term goal to see the control of resources brought home here to the North. The role then, of the federal government and getting their ear on this desire and indeed this right that we have is important. What assurance can the Minister give us that Ottawa is any more serious this time about bringing control of northern resources into northern hands? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister responsible for Finance, the Honourable Joe Handley.

Further Return to Question 6-14(2): Addressing NWT Resource Development

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the best assurance I can give is to simply repeat or remind the Members of the commitments that the Minister of DIAND made when he was here. He spoke very forcefully about his belief in devolution and his commitment to get on with that process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 7-14(2): Ratio of Pupils to Teachers

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, and it is regarding the pupil-to-teacher ratio. Could the Minister indicate what the pupil-to-teacher ratio is and what positions are factored in when calculating the pupil-to-teacher ratio? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister responsible for Education, the Honourable Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 7-14(2): Ratio of Pupils to Teachers

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the pupil-to-teacher ratio refers to the funding that is provided to the

District Education Councils, and it is based on a formula that is provided, and includes the teachers, the principals, and vice principals. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Oral questions, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 7-14(2): Ratio of Pupils to Teachers

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether in fact that criteria was the same one used in the negotiation of the MOU at the NWTTA when they looked at class sizes? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 7-14(2): Ratio of Pupils to Teachers

HON. JAKE OOTES: I believe so, Mr. Speaker. I would have to double check that, and I can get back to the Member on that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Oral questions. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 7-14(2): Ratio of Pupils to Teachers

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister also indicate whether the figures he has given us today, in terms of pupil-to-teacher ratio, are the same ones we use when we send in our numbers to central bodies and other jurisdictions when they are doing surveys regionally or nationally in regards to educational indicators? Is the class size 18.3 to one? Is that what we use when we send out what our class average pupil-to-teacher ratio is to other jurisdictions when we compare notes? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Minister responsible for Education, the Honourable Jake Ootes.

Further Return to Question 7-14(2): Ratio of Pupils to Teachers

HON. JAKE OOTES: I believe so, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The Chair recognizes the Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 8-14(2): NWT Child and Family Services

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. It is regarding the contract that was let for \$110,000 to look at the area of children and family review. One of the big problems that I see with a lot of these reviews is we do not really get a real concept of the problems that we face in our smaller communities.

One of the big problems that is in our small communities is that we do not have a lot of the service providers in our communities, especially dealing with family counselling services, legal services, alcohol and drug dollars to deal with the problems that a lot of these problems originate from.

With that, I would like to ask the Minister what exactly has this committee done to ensure that they will hear from the smaller communities in the Northwest Territories so they can state the problems they see regarding children's services and family services that this government is supposed to be providing?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen.

Return to Question 8-14(2): NWT Child and Family Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the Member's question, the communities that were visited by the Child Welfare League of Canada were four larger communities and four of the smaller communities. Let me give you a list of the communities: Fort Resolution; Fort Simpson; Fort Smith; Hay River; Inuvik; Rae Edzo; Tulita; and Yellowknife. Those were the eight communities that were visited.

As a result of our Caucus considerations and discussions in Fort Providence, the department has arranged for the contractor to be in Yellowknife until Saturday. I would really encourage Members to take advantage of this opportunity to make an appointment, or if we could get together as a group of MLAs, since it seems our time is very pressed right now. If we can get together as a group and take advantage of this opportunity to share some of our perspectives, having heard concerns raised in our communities. Certainly, the group of MLAs here does represent a cross-section of small communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Oral questions. Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 8-14(2): NWT Child and Family Services

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will this individual or individuals look at the lack of program services delivered in a lot of our communities? I feel that feeds the problems we see with family services and with family crisis in our communities. There is no real group that you can reach out to help you in times of family break-ups or family violence, as a lot of it is alcohol related. I think they have to seriously look at that, because it is one of the biggest problems we have in our communities. Again, I would like to ask the Minister, are they going to look at the problem areas and recommend solutions to this government to find ways of resolving these problems?

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

Further Return to Question 8-14(2): NWT Child and Family Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the mandate of this particular group was very specific. Undertaking a system-wide review of Northwest Territories child welfare practices to ensure consistent standards of performance and outcomes and best practices. So this was a very specific review. I think that some of the other issues that the Member is speaking of are issues that need to be addressed by this government, by regional community health boards, by NGO's, and agencies operating at the community level. Certainly, it is going to be a priority of this government to

address the availability of services in the communities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 8-14(2): NWT Child and Family Services

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister table the terms and conditions of this contract in this House?

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

Further Return to Question 8-14(2): NWT Child and Family Services

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be pleased to do that. I do not have it with me today, but I will arrange to have it available to be tabled tomorrow. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madame Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Question 9-14(2): Status of Working Together Program

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. I am aware of a program this government has and this department carries out called the Working Together Program, which I believe had a budget of a million dollars last year. This program helps employers hire summer students when they arrive home from university. I am wondering if that program is ongoing and will again be in place this summer? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Jake Ootes.

Return to Question 9-14(2): Status of Working Together Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That program has been in existence for the last two to three years, and it has been quite successful. It has apparently hired students and youth in the neighborhood of four to five hundred students a year. It has been very successful for both students and employers, giving an incentive for students to get experience and for employers to get assistance during summer periods. The funding for that ends as of March 31, 2000. It will be a consideration of the business plans and the budget process whether this program will continue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 9-14(2): Status of Working Together Program

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister what our government intends to do when university students arrive home this summer looking for work if, in fact, the funding is not continued?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Jake Ootes.

Further Return to Question 9-14(2): Status of Working Together Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: It is a projection, I suppose, Mr. Speaker, of what we are going to do. At this point, all that I can tell you is that the funding has terminated as of this year and there has to be consideration made yet whether this program can continue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 9-14(2): Status of Working Together Program

MR. BELL: Thank you. When will that consideration be made?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 9-14(2): Status of Working Together Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is part of the budgetary process and that is ongoing at the moment. I cannot give the Member a definitive answer as to an exact date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 9-14(2): Status of Working Together Program

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will it be before students arrive home this summer?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 9-14(2): Status of Working Together Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, the budgetary process for this particular year may be fairly lengthy, so I cannot, at this point, commit that we will have an answer to this until the budget is considered by the House.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Question 10-14(2): Timing for the 2000-2001 Budget

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following on my earlier question to the Minister responsible for Finance regarding concerns of the Northwest Territories with the situation we find ourselves in, I also refer to the fact that we are considerably behind in a normal budget process. Can the Minister inform us what the time line is to have the first budget in place for the 14th Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Minister responsible for Finance, the Honourable Joe Handley.

Return to Question 10-14(2): Timing for the 2000-2001 Budget

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The plan is to have interim appropriation in place about or before the end of March and the year 2000-2001 budget in place by the end of June. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 10-14(2): Timing for the 2000-2001 Budget

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us if letters have gone to the departments regarding that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Minister responsible for Finance, the Honourable Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 10-14(2): Timing for the 2000-2001 Budget

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the letters for the business plans went out February 18. This is for the business plans for the years 2000-2003, so it is a three year process.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary Question 10-14(2): Timing for the 2000-2001 Budget

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us if a direction has been given regarding the first budget for the 14th Assembly to the departments?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Minister responsible for Finance, the Honourable Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 10-14(2): Timing for the 2000-2001 Budget

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Direction has been given on preparation of the business plan for the three-year period. The direction with regard to preparation of main estimates for the year 2000-2001 budget has not been given yet. We are awaiting further clarification of priorities and directions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 10-14(2): Timing for the 2000-2001 Budget

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us what date the final direction will be given, considering the lateness of the process to date? Thank you.

Further Return to Question 10-14(2): Timing for the 2000-2001 Budget

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Minister responsible for Finance, the Honourable Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have the paper in front of me right now. I can provide that information to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 11-14(2): GNWT Procurement Policies

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, during the last government, the 13th Assembly, there was a policy of the government that if requests for proposals or tenders were advertised first in the northern press to allow northern firms to bid on those and that southern advertising would only take place if a good proposal could not be received from a northern firm. I would like to ask the Minister if the Department of Health and Social Services is following that policy in this government?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen.

Return to Question 11-14(2): GNWT Procurement Policies

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Department of Health and Social Services follows the same procurement guidelines and policies that are set out for any of the departments of this government. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 11-14(2): GNWT Procurement Policies

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the Minister could tell me that if funded agencies such as the boards are also required to follow those same guidelines?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 11-14(2): GNWT Procurement Policies

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my understanding that boards funded by this government, in the case of health and social services boards, would be required to follow the same procurement policies as government departments.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Second supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 11-14(2): GNWT Procurement Policies

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of a circumstance where an advertisement may have been placed in a southern newspaper very shortly after one was placed in a northern newspaper, for a request for proposal. Will the Minister commit to making sure that funded agencies are aware of the policy that all contracts must be advertised in the North and only if an acceptable contract cannot be let to a northern firm that they will then be advertised in the south?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 11-14(2): GNWT Procurement Policies

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to ensure that boards funded by this government under the Department of Health and Social Services are made aware and, perhaps, reminded of the policies for contracting of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Oral questions. The Chair recognizes the Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 12-14 (2): Plans for Student Employment

MR. MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to briefly follow up on the issues and concerns raised by my colleague, Mr. Bell, to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. Given the fact that this is a sensitive program, are there any contingency plans currently being developed by the department, given the much delayed budgeting process, so that some fall back will be in place for students that will soon be getting off the plane for work? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Jake Ootes.

Return to Question 12-14 (2): Plans for Student Employment

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned earlier, this has been a very successful program that has positioned about 1500 people over the years that it has been in place. It has been accepted very well by both the students and employers. A review was recently done on this to assess the success of the program and it revealed that it was extremely well accepted. At the moment, we have not finalized any plans with regards to the future of this program and it is part of the difficulty of getting a budgetary process going. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 12-14 (2): Plans for Student Employment

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Am I to understand that in fact nothing is being done? That students can come home expecting the well is dry, the cupboard is bare and they are going to be at the mercies of whatever they are going to stumble across in terms of employment? That we will stand up and say it is in the budgetary process and that we will let you know by June and maybe September? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 12-14 (2): Plans for Student Employment

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have mentioned, a program review was done on it and it was found to be very successful. Plans have not yet been formulated to address the issue of how to fund a new program. The program was sun-setted this year, as the Member may know. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 12-14 (2): Plans for Student Employment

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like a eulogy for a good program. The question to the Minister, which has not been answered, is has there been anything done or is anything going to be done for students? Are they going to at least be notified that they should not count on the territorial government looking to support employment and education for graduate and post-secondary students? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 12-14 (2): Plans for Student Employment

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I plan to see if I can co-ordinate the efforts with other government departments to identify opportunities for students and youth for the coming summer. We will also continue to co-ordinate our territorial initiatives with those of the federal government, so that we can maximize the benefits and youths. We are looking for an opportunity to support student and youth initiatives through the business planning process. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 12-14 (2): Plans for Student Employment

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we hear talk of governments coordinating and doing all this coordinating together, it means that the staff will be busy, but it means that there will be no resources for the students. Is the Minister going to vigorously pursue funding before the business plan is through its process? Or is he going to stand up and tell students that for this employment year over the summer, there are no funds and if we have none by September, that is unfortunate? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 12-14 (2): Plans for Student Employment

HON. JAKE OOTES: As I mentioned Mr. Speaker, I plan to co-ordinate my efforts with the other departments to see where we can identify possible areas. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three written questions. The first one is to the Premier. It is regarding Nunavut contracts.

Written Question 1-14(2): Nunavut Contracts

For each government department, board and agency, the Premier is requested to provide information identifying all the contracts with the Nunavut government, including the contracted services that are not being charged for the contract, the number of full time equivalent positions involved in the contract delivery, the end date for the contract, and any plans to negotiate an extension.

Written Question 2-14(2): Energy Costs

Also to the Premier, Mr. Speaker, in regards to energy costs. I am asking for the fiscal years of 1997/1998, 1998/1999, 1999/2000 to date that the Premier provide the total cost for all government departments, boards and agencies including housing authorities, education boards and health and social services boards for all the fuel, electricity and other energy costs.

Written Question 3-14(2): Capital Costs

To the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, in regards to capital costs for the fiscal years 1997/1998, 1998/1999, 1999/2000 to date, the Minister responsible for Public Works and Services is requested to identify all capital projects over \$5,000 managed by the Department of Public Works and Services on behalf of the government. In addition, from each project the Minister is asked to indicate the client department, the initial project estimate budget and the actual costs to date, any projected additional costs to complete the project and the primary contractor. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Petitions. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 8: PETITIONS

Petition 1-14(2): Extensions of Mackenzie and Dempster Highways

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of the extension of the Mackenzie Highway to the Beaufort Sea and an extension of the Dempster Highway to Aklavik.

Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 170 signatures and Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request the Government of the Northwest Territories to submit and solicit the Government of Canada to budget for the extension of the Mackenzie Highway to the Beaufort Sea and consider the extension of the Dempster Highway to Aklavik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 8, petitions. The Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Petition 2-14(2): Improved Alcohol and Drug Services in the North Slave Region

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of improved alcohol and drug counselling services in the North Slave region. Mr. Speaker the petition contains 610 signatures of North Slave residents. Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that increased alcohol and drug counselling services are needed in the communities of the North Slave region. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 8, petitions. Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. Item 10, tabling of documents. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 1-14(2): Excerpt from National Post Website Article on Education Indicators in Canada

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table two pages of an article called Educational Indicators in Canada. I pulled it off of the web today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 10, tabling of documents. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Tabled Document 2-14(2): Letters from Fort McPherson

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Jake Ootes. It contains six letters from the Chief Julia School in Fort McPherson.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Krutko. Item 10, tabling of documents. Before we go to the next item, the House will take a short adjournment. Fifteen minutes.

--Break

MR. SPEAKER: Members, welcome back. When we recessed, we were on item 10, tabling of documents. Are there any other documents from the Members? I have three documents to table.

Tabled Document 3-14(2): Report of the Auditor General for the Years 1997 and 1998

In accordance with the provisions of section 32 (2) of the Northwest Territories Act, I wish to table The Report of the Auditor General to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly on Other Matters for the Years 1997 and 1998.

Tabled Document 4-14(2): Pension Administration Report – Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, March 31, 1999

The second document is the Pension Administration Report. In accordance with the provisions of section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table the Pension Administration Report to March 31, 1999.

Tabled Document 5-14(2): Financial Statement for the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Fund, Year Ended March 31, 1999

In accordance with the provisions of section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act, I wish to table The Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 1999.

Item 11, notices of motion. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lakes, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 1-14(2): Rule Amendments for the Standing Committees of the House

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, 2000, I will move the following motion. Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended by rescinding Rule 85 and substituting the following:

85 (1) At its first sitting after a general election, the Assembly shall appoint a Striking Committee of three Members to report and recommend, with all convenient speed, Members to comprise the following Standing Committees of the Assembly:

On Accountability and Oversight;
On Governance and Economic Development;
On Rules and Procedures;
On Social Programs;

And any other standing and special committees as directed by the Assembly.

(2) The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight shall:

- (a) Review issues that have government-wide implications;
- (b) Conduct the overview of the budget and fiscal framework;
- (c) Consider the budgets and financial management of the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and any other boards or agencies that are outside the responsibility of any Standing Committee, including the Office of the Legislative Assembly;
- (d) Examine the reports on the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories and Report of the Auditor General;
- (e) Review government reports on financial and performance results and program and policy evaluations to ensure anticipated outcomes are being achieved and accountability is maximized;
- (f) Coordinate House business, scheduling and planning in cooperation with the appropriate Cabinet representatives;
- (g) Consider any other matter referred by the House.

(3) The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development shall consider the following matters with respect to the Department of the Executive, including the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Financial Management Board Secretariat and the Departments of Finance, Public Works and Services, Municipal and Community Affairs, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and Transportation:

- (a) Review legislative and policy proposals, multi year business plans and budgets, bills and boards and agencies, including the Status of Women Council and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, the Business Credit Corporation and the Public Utilities Board;
- (b) Review departmental performance, including that of boards and agencies; and
- (c) Consider any other matter referred by the House.

(4) The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures shall inquire into such matters as may be referred to it by the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker, or the Board of Management.

(5) The Standing Committee on Social Programs shall consider the following matter with respect to the Departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation:

- (a) Review legislative and policy proposals, multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies including programs for seniors and youth;
- (b) Review departmental performance including that of boards and agencies; and
- (c) Consider any other matter referred by the House.

And further that Rule 86 be amended by striking out "Management and Services Board in accordance with section 35(1)" after "shall appoint a", and substituting "Board of Management in accordance with section 36".

And furthermore, that Rule 87(1) be amended by striking out "five" after "not more than" and substituting "six"; by striking out "Government Operations" after "Standing Committee on" and substituting "Accountability and Oversight" and by striking out "seven" after "shall consist of" and substituting "eleven".

And furthermore, that Rule 87(2) be amended by striking out Government Operations after "Standing Committee on" and substituting "Accountability and Oversight."

And furthermore, that Rule 89 be amended by striking out "Management and Services Board" after "Committees and the" and substituting "Board of Management".

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 11, notices of motion. The Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Motion 2-14(2): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight

MR. NITAH: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday February 24, 2000, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the Member for Range Lake that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight:

1. Mr. Bell, Member for Yellowknife South
2. Mr. Braden, Member for Great Slave
3. Mr. Delorey, Member for Hay River North
4. Mr. Dent, Member for Frame Lake
5. Mr. Krutko, Member for Mackenzie Delta
6. Mr. Lafferty, Member for North Slave
7. Ms. Lee, Member for Range Lake
8. Mr. McLeod, Member for Deh Cho
9. Mr. Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha
10. Mr. Roland, Member for Inuvik Boot Lakes
11. Mr. Nitah, Member for Tu Nedhe

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Item 11, notices of motion, Mr. Dent.

Motion 3-14(2): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, 2000, I will move the following motion. Now therefore I move, seconded by the Member for Thebacha that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development:

1. Mr. Braden, Member for Great Slave
2. Mr. Delorey, Member for Hay River North
3. Mr. Krutko, Member for Mackenzie Delta
4. Ms. Lee, Member for Range Lake
5. Mr. Nitah, Member for Tu Nedhe
6. Mr. Roland, Member for Inuvik Boot Lakes

And further, that the following Members be named alternates to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development:

1. Mr. Bell, Member for Yellowknife South
2. Mr. Lafferty, Member for North Slave
3. Mr. McLeod, Member for Deh Cho

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Dent. Item 11, notices of motion. Mr. Braden.

Motion 4-14(2): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, 2000, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures:

1. Mr. Bell, Member for Yellowknife South
2. Mr. Delorey, Member for Hay River North
3. Mr. Dent, Member for Frame Lake
4. Mr. Handley, Member for Weledeh
5. Mr. Krutko, Member for Mackenzie Delta

And further, that the following Members be named alternates to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures:

1. Mr. Lafferty, Member for North Slave
2. Ms. Lee, Member for Range Lake
3. Mr. Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 11, notices of motion. Ms. Lee.

Motion 5-14(2): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Social Programs

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday February 24, 2000, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Programs:

1. Mr. Bell, Member for Yellowknife South
2. Mr. Dent, Member for Frame Lake
3. Mr. Lafferty, Member for North Slave
4. Mr. McLeod, Member for Deh Cho
5. Mr. Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha

And further, that the following Members be named alternates to the Standing Committee on Social Programs:

1. Mr. Braden, Member for Great Slave
2. Mr. Krutko, Member for Mackenzie Delta
3. Mr. Nitah, Member for Tu Nedhe

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 11, notices of motion. The Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Motion 6-14(2): Appointment of Deputy Speaker

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, 2000, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South that the Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko, be appointed as Deputy Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 11, notices of motion. Mr. Bell.

Motion 7-14(2): Appointment of Deputy Chairpersons of Committee of the Whole

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, 2000, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho that the honourable Member for Hay River North and the honourable Member for North Slave be appointed as deputy chairpersons for committee of the whole.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 11, notices of motion. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Ootes.

ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Education Act

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, 2000, I will move that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Ootes.

Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, February 24, 2000, I will move that Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the first time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Handley.

Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1999-2000

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday February 24, 2000, I will move that Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 1999-2000, be read for the first time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Handley.

Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday February 24, 2000, I will move that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, be read for the first time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Steen.

Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday February 24, 2000, I will move that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 13, motions. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 13: MOTIONS

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may continue.

Motion 1-14(2): Rule Amendments for the Standing Committees of the House (Carried)

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 44 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act states that the "Legislative Assembly may establish such standing and special committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary";

AND WHEREAS the Standing and Special Committees of the Legislative Assembly are set out in Rules of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has chosen to make revisions to the Standing Committees;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended by rescinding Rule 85 and substituting the following:

85 (1) At its first setting after a general election, the Assembly shall appoint a Striking Committee of three Members to report and recommend, with all convenient speed, Members to comprise the following Standing Committees of the Assembly:

On Accountability and Oversight;
On Governance and Economic Development;
On Rules and Procedures;
On Social Programs;

And any other standing and special committees as directed by the Assembly.

(2) The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight shall:

- (a) Review issues that have government wide implications;
- (b) Conduct the overview of the budget and fiscal framework;
- (c) Consider the budgets and financial management of the Northwest Territories Workers' Compensation Board and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation and any other boards or agencies that

are outside the responsibility of any standing committee including the Office of the Legislative Assembly;

- (d) Examine reports on the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories and Report of the Auditor General;
- (e) Review government reports on financial and performance results and program and policy evaluations to ensure anticipated outcomes are being achieved and accountability is maximized;
- (f) Coordinate House business, scheduling and planning in cooperation with the appropriate Cabinet representatives;
- (g) Consider any other matter referred by the House.

(3) The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development shall consider the following matters with respect to the Department of the Executive, including the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and Financial Management Board Secretariat and the Departments of Finance, Public Works and Services, Municipal and Community Affairs, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and Transportation:

- (a) Review legislative and policy proposals, multi year business plans and budgets, bills and boards and agencies, including the Status of Women Council and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, the Business Credit Corporation and the Public Utilities Board;
- (b) Review departmental performance, including that of boards and agencies; and
- (c) Consider any other matter referred by the House.

(4) The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures shall inquire into such matters as may be referred to it by the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker or the Board of Management.

(5) The Standing Committee on Social Programs shall consider the following matter with respect to the Departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation:

- (a) Review legislative and policy proposals, multi year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies including programs for seniors and youth;
- (b) Review departmental performance including that of boards and agencies; and
- (c) Consider any other matter referred by the House.

AND FURTHER that Rule 86 be amended by striking out "Management and Services Board in accordance with section 35(1)" after "shall appoint a", and substituting "Board of Management in accordance with section 36".

AND FURTHERMORE, that Rule 87(1) be amended by striking out "five" after "not more than" and substituting "six"; by striking out "Government Operations" after "Standing Committee on" and substituting "Accountability and Oversight" and by striking out "seven" after "shall consist of" and substituting "eleven".

AND FURTHERMORE, that Rule 87(2) be amended by striking out "Government Operations" after "Standing Committee on" and substituting "Accountability and Oversight".

AND FURTHERMORE, that Rule 89 be amended by striking out "Management and Services Board" after "Committees and the" and substituting "Board of Management". Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Motions. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed.

Motion 2-14(2): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight (Carried)

MR. NITAH: WHEREAS Rule 85 requires that Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Range Lake that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight:

1. Mr. Bell, Member for Yellowknife South
2. Mr. Braden, Member for Great Slave
3. Mr. Delorey, Member for Hay River North
4. Mr. Dent, Member for Frame Lake
5. Mr. Krutko, Member for Mackenzie Delta
6. Mr. Lafferty, Member for North Slave
7. Ms. Lee, Member for Range Lake
8. Mr. McLeod, Member for Deh Cho
9. Mr. Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha
10. Mr. Roland, Member for Inuvik Boot Lakes
11. Mr. Nitah, Member for Tu Nedhe

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Motions. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with my motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Dent, you may proceed.

Motion 3-14(2): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development (Carried)

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

WHEREAS Rule 85 requires that Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Thebacha that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development:

1. Mr. Braden, Member for Great Slave
2. Mr. Delorey, Member for Hay River North
3. Mr. Krutko, Member for Mackenzie Delta
4. Ms. Lee, Member for Range Lake
5. Mr. Nitah, Member for Tu Nedhe
6. Mr. Roland, Member for Inuvik Boot Lakes

AND FURTHER, that the following Members be named alternates to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development:

1. Mr. Bell, Member for Yellowknife South
2. Mr. Lafferty, Member for North Slave
3. Mr. McLeod, Member for Deh Cho

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays, please proceed Mr. Braden.

Motion 4-14(2): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures (Carried)

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Rule 85 requires that Members be appointed to Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures:

1. Mr. Bell, Member for Yellowknife South
2. Mr. Delorey, Member for Hay River North
3. Mr. Dent, Member for Frame Lake
4. Mr. Handley, Member for Weledeh
5. Mr. Krutko, Member for Mackenzie Delta

AND FURTHER, that the following Members be named alternates to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures:

1. Mr. Lafferty, Member for North Slave
2. Ms. Lee, Member for Range Lake
3. Mr. Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in

favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Motions, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed.

Motion 5-14(2): Appointments to the Standing Committee on Social Programs (Carried)

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Rule 85 requires that Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Programs;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Programs:

1. Mr. Bell, Member for Yellowknife South
2. Mr. Dent, Member for Frame Lake
3. Mr. Lafferty, Member for North Slave
4. Mr. McLeod, Member for Deh Cho
5. Mr. Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha

AND FURTHER, that the following Members be named alternates to the Standing Committee on Social Programs:

1. Mr. Braden, Member for Great Slave
2. Mr. Krutko, Member for Mackenzie Delta
3. Mr. Nitah, Member for Tu Nedhe

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The motion is order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Motions, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Please proceed, Mr. Miltenberger.

Motion 6-14(2): Appointment of Deputy Speaker (Carried)

MR. MILTENBERGER: Further to Section 46(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that a Deputy Speaker shall be elected at its first session;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South that the Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko be appointed as Deputy Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

-- Applause

Motions, Mr. Bell.

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Bell, you may continue.

Motion 7-14(2): Appointment of Deputy Chairpersons of Committee of the Whole (Carried)

MR. BELL: WHEREAS there is a requirement for the naming of two Members to hold the positions of Deputy Chairpersons for the committee of the whole;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to appoint two Members;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho that the honourable Member for Hay River North and the honourable Member for North Slave be appointed as Deputy Chairpersons for committee of the whole.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Your motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 14, first reading of bills. Item 15, second reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. David Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, the meetings of the Standing Committees on Government and Economic Development and Social Programs are upon adjournment, and following that a meeting of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures. Tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. there is a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, February 23, 2000:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents

14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 1-14(2)
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. This House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 23, 2000 at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

