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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

JANUARY 19, 2000

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Honourable Jane Groenewegen, 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

BISHOP CROTEAU: Dear friends, allow me to open the Bible at the Book of Kings. I would like to take you to the land of Israel, at the moment when young Solomon is called upon to replace his father David as King of Israel. He is just a young man without experience.

One night during his sleep, he had a dream. He heard Yahweh say to him, and I quote:

“Ask what you would like me to give you.”, and Solomon replied; “Now, Yahweh, my God, You have made me Your servant king in succession to David, my father. But I am a very young man, unskilled in leadership. Your servant finds himself in the midst of this people of Yours that You have chosen. Give Your servant a heart to understand how to discern between good and evil. For who could govern this people of Yours that is so great?”

And then, the Bible says, Yahweh was pleased that Solomon should have asked for this. He responds in kind;

“Since you have asked for this and not for a long life for yourself, or riches or the lives of your enemies, but have asked for a discerning judgement for yourself, here and now I do what you ask. I give you a heart wise and shrewd, as none before you has had and none will have after you. What you have not asked for, I shall give you too: such riches and glory as no other King has ever had. And I will give you a long life if you follow My ways, keeping My laws and commandments.”

To the elected Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly, I can assure you that if your feelings or dispositions are the same as Solomon's at the beginning of his reign, God will give you the same blessing He gave Solomon.

I would like to put those blessings in a more concrete way. I have prepared a blessing called the Irish Blessing. I have made a copy for each of you to take to your office so when you have good days, you can look at the blessing and stay humble. When you have bad days, you can look at the blessing and stay hopeful.

This is the blessing I would like to offer the Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly.

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.

-- Drumming

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. David Hamilton): Please be seated. I now ask the Inuvialuit Drummers and Dancers to come forward and perform a celebration song.

-- Drumming and Singing

-- Applause

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. David Hamilton): It is my duty to inform the House the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Dan Marion, is not prepared to address the Assembly until a Speaker has been elected.

I will now call for a motion to elect the Speaker. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

Motion 1-14(1): Election of Speaker (Carried)

MR. KRUTKO: I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South that Tony Whitford, of the electoral district of Kam Lake, take the Chair of the House as Speaker.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. David Hamilton): Thank you. Are there any further motions? There being no further motions, I declare the Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Tony Whitford, has been elected Speaker of the House.

I would request the mover and seconder of the motion to escort the Speaker to the Chair.

-- Applause

REMARKS OF SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Bonjour, madames et messieurs, et bienvenue a les Assemblée du Territories Nord-Ouest. Honourable colleagues, I wish to express my gratitude for the confidence you have demonstrated by choosing me as your Speaker.

It is with a great deal of pride and humility that I accept the honour of being your Speaker for this, the 14th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

My first obligation is to give you my commitment. My commitment to ensure the rights and privileges of all Members will be upheld, and that you are each able to discharge your duties. The most important and fundamental right is the freedom of speech in your debates, and freedom from interference in carrying out your duties.

I assure you I will do my best to ensure those fundamental rights are upheld, as well as all of the other rules and procedures this House has adopted. At this time, I would like to acknowledge the efforts and steady hand of my predecessor, Mr. Sam Gargan, who has set a high standard for me to follow.

I am sure you will all join me in extending our thanks to Mr. Gargan for the 16 years of dedicated efforts and services he has given his constituents, and particularly for the admirable performance of his duties as Speaker within these Chambers.

-- Applause

On a personal note, I would like to take this time to thank the constituents of Kam Lake who were the first to place their trust in me by electing me and who even now, I am confident, will support me in my new responsibilities. I want to assure them my accepting the position of Speaker will in no way diminish my efforts to serve each and every one of them to the best of my ability.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the people most important to all of us, our families. Our wives, husbands, partners and children. We must all strive to strike that elusive balance between our work and our families.

To my wife Elaine, and our three sons, Warren, Blair and Ian, and to my mother Emilie, I am thankful from the bottom of my heart. Without their guidance and support I could not have accomplished what I have and continue to have in my political career. I would not be sitting here before you today.

On the first sitting day of the 14th Legislative Assembly, I wish to ask all Members to pause and reflect on the tasks before us. We are a new and vibrant Territory entering a new century and a new millennium. We are fortunate to be here as the chosen representatives of our constituents. It is an honour that is bestowed on so few people.

As a Legislature, we are facing many critical decisions in the days and years ahead. Like all decisions made in this House, getting to those decisions sometimes leads us into adversarial situations. However, we must remember to always treat each other with respect, dignity, compassion and understanding.

On your behalf, I would like to thank Bishop Croteau for being our Chaplain today. It is always a pleasure to have you with us.

I would also like to acknowledge the fine performance of the Dettah Drummers and the St. Patrick's Choir, led by Ms. Hunter. It was also a treat to have the Inuvialuit Drummers from the Delta perform on the Chamber floor. This is a first for us, and an inspiration for us all to celebrate our new Assembly in the new millennium. Thank you to all.

In conclusion, my ability to preside over this House ultimately rests in your hands. I will continue to be inspired by the trust and confidence you have placed on me today. Thank you very much.

-- Applause

Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain if his Honour, the Commissioner, is prepared to enter the Chamber and address the Legislative Assembly?

-- Singing of National Anthem

ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS BY COMMISSIONER

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Dan Marion): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Please be seated. Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to welcome you to this First Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly.

I extend warm greetings to the returning Members and to the new faces that I see around the Chamber today. I welcome the guests in the public gallery and people watching on television.

First of all, I would like to congratulate Mr. Tony Whitford on his election as Speaker. The Members of this Assembly have chosen well in selecting a person of your good judgement for this vital position.

Before I go any further, I would like to reflect on the very significant New Year's Day that has just passed. On January 1, we crossed into a new millennium. This date brought with it the optimism not only of a new year, but also of a new century. It also brought fears that computer technology could break down and cause an emergency.

As we all know, there were no problems here in the North, and that is due to the hard work of many different people. I would like to recognize, on behalf of all the citizens of the Northwest Territories, the efforts of the Department of National Defence, the RCMP, government staff, private business and volunteers who dealt with this situation. These people worked through the year to prevent any problems and were on duty over New Year's in case anything did go wrong. Many of them – particularly the military, police and some government employees – gave up their holidays to do this. In the words of our national anthem, which we heard so eloquently, they stood on guard for our safety and I thank them on behalf of all of us here in the Northwest Territories.

I am pleased to report that I recently visited the Sahtu region and I am grateful to the MLA Stephen Kakfwi, and his staff for their assistance. On that tour, six more people received the Commissioner's Award for Public Service.

Charlie Barnaby of Fort Good Hope was the longest-serving chief in the Mackenzie Valley. He remains dedicated to preserving his people's language and culture and to passing traditions on to young people. He is a very strong traditionalist.

Wilfred Jackson started the Hunters and Trappers Association in Fort Good Hope twenty years ago, and he is still working at it. He has also worked with young offenders, teaching them land skills.

Paul Baton of Deline still runs his own fishing boat at the age of 83 and takes great pleasure in sharing his skills and knowledge with others. He has served as chief in both Tulita and Deline.

Isadore Yukon of Deline has served his community as chief and as mayor. He worked as a river pilot on the Great Bear and Mackenzie Rivers. He has also received the Order of Canada for his contributions to life in his community.

The late Paul Wright of Tulita was a very strong advocate of preserving Dene legends and oral history. Wherever he went, he shared his stories and the music of the drum. He served as chief from 1981-88. Paul received this award in his home, surrounded by his friends. I was very happy that I had a chance to see him before he passed away. It was a great loss not only to his community but to the Northwest Territories as a whole.

Monica Loomis came to Norman Wells as a nurse in 1960. She and her husband now run their own business, but it is not unusual for Monica to drop everything to help someone in need. She also provides counseling as a lay minister in Norman Wells.

I also had the pleasure of presenting the Commissioner's Award for Bravery to Michel Lafferty of Fort Good Hope. Michel saved the life of his sister-in-law, Lucy Ann, when their snowmobile went through the ice on the Hume River and they fell into the water. Michel pulled Lucy Ann from the river and, although they were both freezing, kept her walking towards home until help arrived.

When I reflect on these people and others I have met during my time as Commissioner, I am again reminded of our national anthem. When I look about, I see the "true north, strong and free." This spirit is in all the award recipients as well as all people who are committed and work tirelessly for their community.

The Northwest Territories is a great place, full of hardworking, creative, caring people. We stand now at the beginning of an important new era in our history. This is the first Legislative Assembly since the creation of two new territories last year.

Each of the Members of this Assembly has the responsibility of representing their constituents and of ensuring the government does its best to serve the people of the Northwest Territories. In this Assembly, you have the added responsibility of building a new Territory.

Mr. Speaker, I offer you and this Assembly my best wishes as you begin this First Session of the new Territory and the new century. I have every confidence you will serve the people of the Northwest Territories in a way that will make all of us proud.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I now declare open the First Session of the 14th Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The next order of the day is item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. Mr. Steen, the Member for Nunakput.

ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Thanks to Colleagues, Constituents and Family

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations on your successful election to the position of Speaker. I know that with your experience and capabilities, you will serve the North well.

I would like to thank my constituents at home for their support in re-electing me to represent the interests of the Nunakput riding. I would also like to thank the Members of the 14th Legislative Assembly for their vote of confidence in allowing me to serve in the Executive Council for the next four years. I appreciate the support, and I am conscious of the responsibilities and expectations of this position.

I offer my sincere congratulations to the Premier-elect, Mr. Stephen Kakfwi, and to Members of the Legislative Assembly who have recently been elected to this Assembly and to those on the Executive Council. I look forward to working with all of you.

Mr. Speaker, last but not least, I appreciate the support I have received from my wife Betty and my children. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Charles Dent.

Member's Statement On Diavik Interim Land Use Permit Application

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before getting into my Member's statement, I too would like to congratulate you on your appointment. I know you will be a fair and impartial Speaker and I look forward to working with you.

I would also like to congratulate the Premier-elect, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi and his new Cabinet. I look forward to working with them as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank my constituents for their confidence and support in sending me back to this House to represent them. I wish to extend a special thanks to my friends and family, my wife Eileen and my son Tyler. As you so eloquently said, their support is what has made it all possible and worthwhile.

Mr. Speaker, I know this is a ceremonial day, but I was talking to the president of Diavik earlier today, and I feel I need to say something about what he told me.

He advised me that DIAND has informed Diavik that an interim land use permit will not be issued at this time. I was very disappointed to hear the federal government's decision, as this will delay construction of the Diavik mine site for another year. Given the Government of the Northwest Territories' fiscal situation, the 400 to 500 direct jobs and approximately 700 indirect jobs that will not be created this year is a critical loss to our northern economy.

Diavik had planned to spend nearly \$100 million purchasing goods and services over the next year, and that will not happen

now. Based on past practices of the company, that probably means some \$70 million less is being spent in the North. That will have a significant impact on our economy.

Mr. Speaker, last fall I listened intently as the former Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, now the Premier-elect, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, told us the Government of the Northwest Territories was satisfied that no environmental issues had been raised that could not be addressed through the balance of the regulatory process.

I believe an overwhelming majority of Northerners agree, and wanted the project to proceed this year. It is truly regrettable the federal minister has chosen to ignore the advice of those who live in the North and are directly impacted by this decision.

Mr. Speaker, this decision further supports the trial by Northerners to wrest control of resources from Ottawa. It shows why we must move the discussions among Northerners about sharing ownership and control of resources forward very quickly.

Only when northern people and their governments own the resources and control the development process will we see the benefits that should rightfully be ours. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On Thanks to Colleagues, Constituents and Family

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation starts) I would like to send my warmest greeting for the New Year to my constituents, my family and my friends in Jean Marie River, Trout Lake, Fort Liard, Nahanni Butte, Wrigley and Fort Simpson. I thank the residents of Nahendeh for electing me as your MLA for a third term of office.

During the recent election campaign I was fortunate to speak with many of you, to hear your concerns, to answer your questions and to get your advice. Many of you mentioned that over the past year my responsibilities as Premier limited my ability to travel to the community I represent and this weighed heavily in my decision to not seek the position of Premier for this 14th Assembly.

However many of you encouraged me to seek a position on Cabinet, and thanks to the support of my fellow Members of the Legislative Assembly I was fortunate to have been re-elected to Cabinet on January 17th. Thank you fellow Members. I look forward to working with each of you on the important tasks which confront our government and our people.

As elected representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories our main responsibility is to work hard to improve the quality of life and to encourage sustainable employment opportunities for our people. I am committed during this term of office to see that our full potential is realized. To accomplish this we must continue to work together, we must respect each other and find areas of compromise.

Today we begin this journey together. Never has the path been so clear, never have the opportunities been so great and never have the needs been so pressing. What we need to do is to

roll our sleeves up and get to work. I am ready, willing and able.

In the next few weeks, I will have an opportunity to visit the communities of Nahendeh, and I will advise you well in advance of the dates I will be in your community. I am looking forward to seeing you soon, and again thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as your MLA during these challenging times.

Mahsi cho.

(Translation ends)

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement On Dealing with the Concerns of Northerners

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate you and the Premier on being elected to your offices.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to use this, my very first Member's statement in this House, to thank the constituents of Range Lake for giving me a place at this table. Mr. Speaker, I am sure I speak for all Members in the House when I say what a singular honour and privilege it is to be elected by the public at large, and to be given the mandate to serve them in this Legislature.

As I walk through the halls of this great place of meeting, I hear the voices of my constituents, which guide me now and will continue to guide me throughout the days and months to come. I hear the voices of moms and dads talking about their children's education, of the teachers', doctors', and nurses' working conditions. I hear the voices of laid off Giant Mine workers talking about the fairness in the settlement of their pension and severance packages.

There are so many more voices, Mr. Speaker. Voices of small and large business owners and stakeholders, voices of women and men, youth, aboriginal and non-aboriginal, the weak and the sick, whose voices we must hear and act upon. Mr. Speaker, I understand my mandate for the next four years is to bring life to these voices and to work with my colleagues in and out of this Chamber to develop solutions to their concerns.

I also appreciate that behind you, Mr. Speaker, and the 18 Members of this House, sit 43,000 voices of our Territory, which also must come to life and be acted upon.

As I begin this task in earnest today, it is with a firm belief that it is our collective task to set the course of the path for our new Territory towards unity and prosperity, not necessarily because we have a common interest in all issues, but because it is in our common interest to work together for solutions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement On Thanks to Constituents and Colleagues

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a very important day. A very good day for the Northwest Territories. I would like to congratulate you and the Premier-elect, as well as those Ministers who have been elected to Cabinet.

I would also like to thank all of the constituents of Thebacha for the honour they have placed on me, and of course, I would like to think good judgement, for electing me to this distinguished Assembly.

We have a lot of pressing issues and orders of business to deal with. I have had the pleasure of working with my colleagues around the table in the last couple of days. I would like to tell the people of the Northwest Territories I am very impressed by the depth of experience, enthusiasm, ability, interest and commitment to the jobs at hand. I know we will be very effective in the role we have to play working with our Cabinet colleagues to bring the kind of government the people of the Northwest Territories want and deserve. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement On Thanks to Constituents and Family

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations on your election to the very important office of Speaker.

(Translation begins) It is an honour for me to stand today as the elected Member for Sahtu.

This has been one of the most significant weeks in my life. The events of the past three days have been the high point of my political career so far. They have also marked the beginning of a new journey for which I am honoured to have been chosen.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support and encouragement I have received – for 13 years – from the people of the Sahtu and from my family. They have always supported me.

Politics is a tough business and all of us here need our families behind us to do our job well. I am blessed with a family that supports me with love and patience and I am profoundly grateful for that.

To my constituents, the residents of Fort Good Hope, Tulita, Deline, and Norman Wells, I extend my most sincere gratitude. They have given me the first and most important honour – that of serving them in this Legislative Assembly.

They have given me their trust. I will not take that lightly. It will be a daily measurement of my words and actions.

They have given me the support that I will rely on when I need to stand as a leader of this Assembly and the people of the Northwest Territories.

To those who helped to co-ordinate my campaign, to those who answered phones, distributed buttons, put up posters and went door to door or supported me in other ways, I must say thank you for supporting my vision of the North.

I thank all those who voted for participating in a democratic process that provides us with the freedom to choose our Territorial leaders.

I thank them for believing in me enough to have me represent them during this exciting new beginning for our Territories. I will do my best for all the people of the North. (Translation ends)

I would like to thank my wife Marie, who is here today, my daughter, Kyla, and my two younger ones who are in school today, Daylyn and Keenan.

A long time ago, I made an offer to my wife. I said I might not amount to much, but I have dreams and visions. They may not amount to much, but on the other hand, you might miss out on something exciting and beautiful. She took a leap of faith, and she is still with me today. She has put her job and career on the line, and I thank her for that.

I do not know what will happen to us. I hope something good comes of all of this. I have to remain optimistic and true to this dream and vision all of us have for a better future. Mahsi.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Member's Statement On Thanks to Colleagues

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity with my first Member's statement of the 14th Legislative Assembly to thank my colleagues in this Legislature for showing the confidence to elect me to a seat in their Cabinet.

I am mindful of the principle that unto whom much responsibility is given, much is required. I approach this new task with a sense of humility when considering the awesome responsibility we have to positively affect the lives of our collective northern constituency.

We have a process of public democracy. A process which is the envy of many people of the world who are oppressed by dictatorships and often violent regimes.

Part of our public democracy affords elected Members to use the venue of this House to rise on the concerns of the constituents they represent. It also affords the government the opportunity to express what measures they plan to take in addressing those challenges.

If the debate that takes place on the floor of this House is stifled, the purpose of this forum is diluted. As I have stated before, the enemies of democracy are ignorance and apathy. We have the privileged opportunity of using this House as one avenue of keeping the electorate informed through our questions and statements. This in turn encourages their active participation through us as their voices on the issues affecting them.

I want to assure the new Members and veteran Members that I remain true to the view of a need for a well-organized, well-informed body of Ordinary Members to ensure the accountability and openness of this government.

Having said that, I trust you will appreciate that we are not miracle workers. We do not have magic wands. For some of us who are new, we are also embarking on a learning curve. In the 13th Assembly, we did not have the advantage of seasoned Members on our side of the House to observe and learn from.

When I started as an Ordinary Member, I wanted to take a course on the fine art of asking a question that will receive an answer. However, I assure the new Members there is no such course. By the end of my first four years, I thought I was starting to get the hang of it.

As our Speaker said today, we are a new and vibrant Territory, and we have a group of new and vibrant Members. Please be patient with me as I learn the fine art of answering the questions. In exchange for that, I promise not to embark on an effort to learn the fine art of answering a question by saying absolutely nothing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Member's Statement On Thanks to Constituents, Supporters and Family

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Keeping in mind the time factor and the majority of events unfolding here today, I will keep my comments short.

I would like to begin by congratulating you, Mr. Speaker, on your election to Speaker. I am sure you will do a wonderful job. I would also like to congratulate the Member for Sahtu, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, on his election as Premier. I would also like to congratulate the other Members who were elected to Cabinet, especially my colleague the Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen, on her election to Cabinet.

I represent the riding of Hay River North, which is a very diverse riding. It has four very different and distinct areas. I feel I have a very strong mandate to represent this riding, which is a riding that is very politically minded, as was very evident with a 91 percent turnout at the polls on election day.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all of the people of Hay River North who voted for me on December 6th. The trust, confidence and support they have afforded me will not soon be forgotten. I would especially like to thank Mr. Harvey Smith, my campaign manager, Mr. Andrew Taylor, my official agent, and all my workers for the hard work they have done in my campaign.

To my family, my wonderful wife Davida, my son D'arcy, my daughters, Michelle, Monique and Katrina, without whose love, encouragement and support I would not be here today. Especially my daughter, Monique, who worked tirelessly throughout my entire campaign. At the same time, she provided the family support to look after my two wonderful grandsons, Logan and Cordell.

Thank you to all of the people from Hay River in the gallery for coming out today to witness the events unfolding.

I would like to thank Mr. David Hamilton and all the staff at the Legislative Assembly for the help they have provided to me and the other new Members.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I would like to say how delighted and privileged I am to join the team that forms this new government, the first government of the new millennium, the government of this, the 14th Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, Members' statements. I may have missed whether or not you indicated that you wish to speak, so please give me another cue. I am going down the list as I have observed them. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement On Thanks to Constituents, Supporters and Family

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Premier-elect, Mr. Stephen Kakfwi, who I will join in Cabinet.

I would like to recognize a student I went to school with, who is here in the gallery, and most importantly, I would like to thank my parents and my family for their support. There is a very important gentleman who lays in Stanton Regional Hospital with terminal cancer, my uncle Stan "Goo-Goo" Tyrell. He has played a great role in my life, and I think he should be well recognized for encouraging me to work harder and be competitive.

As I said many times over, if it was not for the people of Inuvik Twin Lakes I would not be here today. Their fine effort, hard work and dedication to shared beliefs led me to put my name forward for election. I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to them.

There are other people who are very influential in our thoughts and beliefs in running for the 14th Legislative Assembly and I would like to recognize them, even though they are not here today. Gord and Lori from Northern Alberta. My wife, Dorothy, who is investing her time going to school in Fort Smith. There are many others who I will not be able to name today, but I would like to publicly state that I appreciate their continued support.

I do not have much more to add, Mr. Speaker, but I would just like to say that I am pleased to be here. It gives me great privilege to be standing here in front of you making this short thank you speech. Thank you very much.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement On Job Action by Teachers Outside of Yellowknife

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations. At this time, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the

residents of the Mackenzie Delta for electing me for another four-year term. With that, I would like to raise an issue which is on the minds of all people outside of Yellowknife; the teachers' strike and the impact it is having.

I think it is important for us to realize one of the most vulnerable groups in our society is our children. The children have put their lives in the hands of politicians, teachers and educators. We need to make sure the parents and the community as a whole have a role to play in the upbringing of our children.

We gave the teachers the right to strike and raise issues and concerns they have to ensure they are treated fairly. In saying that, I would like everybody to know the teachers outside of Yellowknife are impacted more seriously by issues such as isolation, shortage of housing, cost of living and other essentials which we may take for granted in a large centre.

I think we should focus on the most pressing issues. A lot of the issues that are coming to the table are political. They have to be resolved in this House.

We talk about class size. We talk about the lack of funding for special needs students. We talk about setting priorities. I find it awfully frustrating being in this House when we have an incident such as this strike. To have to make a decision between the education of our people and institutionalizing people in jails. We spend almost \$80,000 a year to keep one inmate in jail, yet we say we do not have money to educate our children. I will continue to do what I do best, and that is raise issues.

With that, I would like to thank you all, and I look forward to working with you over the next four years.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement On Thanks to Family, Supporters and Colleagues

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will speak in my own language.

(Translation begins) Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to congratulate the Speaker of the House, the Commissioner, and all of the Ministers who have been elected to the Assembly, as well as all the other Members of the Legislative Assembly.

We all live in the Northwest Territories. When one is in trouble, we are all in trouble. In Gameti, Wha Ti, Wakweti and Behcho Ko, I would like to thank all the people who have elected me to sit in this Legislature. I would like to say thank you to my family, my wife, my children and all my friends who have worked very hard during the campaign to have me sit here at this time.

When I was in the communities talking to you during the campaign, I said I was going to visit the communities as much as I can.

When we enter a political position like this, we do not always understand everything. We have to teach ourselves. We have to be able to work together in this Assembly. I would like to thank everyone here.

(Translation ends)

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement On Thanks to Family and Supporters

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add my congratulations and express my faith and trust in you, the Premier and Cabinet-elect to lead us into the new North that is before us.

My riding, the new riding of Great Slave, is a very interesting and diverse part of Yellowknife and of the Northwest Territories. I am very honoured and grateful to have the privilege to represent this new riding of Great Slave. I will endeavor to return that trust and confidence with integrity and will resolve to be an open, accountable and hard working Member.

The decision to run in an election is a personal one, but once taken, it is one that demands the help and support of many other people. My family, my campaign people and of course, the voters, have done that. I am committed to this election and I am pleased to be here as a proponent of change and evolution in our young democracy, Mr. Speaker.

I want to build on the foundations that were so well built and so hard earned by our predecessors in this House and in many other assemblies in the North. I want to help build an even better way of delivering government to our people and to give our children an even more secure foundation for their future.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Jake Ootes.

Member's Statement On Thanks to Constituents, Supporters and Colleagues

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Like the other Members, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Speaker. I am confident you will do a great job for us. I would also like to congratulate our Premier-elect, Mr. Kakfwi. I am very proud he is in this position. I am very appreciative to have been elected to the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories and this new Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to thank my constituents for having the confidence to return me to this lofty position. I would particularly like to recognize a person who was my team leader in my re-election, Mr. Gary Vanderhaden, who is here with us today.

Mr. Speaker, the make up of the group of people, as I look around, is very diverse with great skills and great abilities. I am very impressed with these people who have been elected. I am confident that as a team we will build a unified vision of the Northwest Territories, one that all MLAs can work towards. I am confident we will be in a supportive capacity with the aboriginal leaders of the Northwest Territories to ensure they

can achieve their land claim and self-government dreams and that we will continue to build as we should. To ensure we share a vision for all of us, that our children receive a great education and that all our people receive the ultimate in health care and social services and that we will continue to prosper as a Territory so that all people can get a job.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be here. This is an historic occasion. This is the first Assembly of the new Northwest Territories, and I am very proud to be here. I am also very proud to have been here in 1967 when this government first met as a Council of the Northwest Territories for the first time in Yellowknife, the new capital of the Northwest Territories.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Inuvik Boot Lakes, Mr. Floyd Roland.

Member's Statement On Thanks to Constituents, Supporters and Colleagues

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations to you and to Premier-elect, Mr. Kakfwi and his Cabinet. I think some time of reflection should be taken now. To reflect on the journey we just came from, the campaign and the new election on December 6th.

I would like to thank my campaign team who put a lot of effort into making a successful run and bringing me back here. Even though my riding has been split into two in this 14th Assembly, I still view it as one community. I look forward to working on behalf of our community as a whole. As I said in Caucus, welcome to the family.

For four years, we were like brother and sister. Friends come and go, but you are stuck with family. I am here and I am going to do my best. Something I demand of myself is hard work, integrity and honesty. I will do that and I will demand the same of ourselves and our government. I look forward to working with you, but most of all I look forward to getting back home. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Weledeh, Mr. Joe Handley.

Member's Statement On Thanks to Constituents, Family and Colleagues

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to congratulate you on your appointment and also congratulate the Premier-elect, Mr. Kakfwi, and my colleagues on Cabinet. I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart all of the people of Weledeh who have elected me.

I will continue to consult and seek support from those people as we go through the tremendous challenges in front of us over the next four years. I also want to thank my wife Theresa who is here, and my family. I urge Theresa to be a little less sensitive as people say nasty things about me over the next four years, because I am sure they will. I appreciate the continuing support and the support she has shown me in the

past, as I made the decision to run and have gone through the process.

My late father always told me as I was growing up and trying to seek my way in life, to believe in myself and no matter what job I ended up with, to do it the best I can. I approach this job over the next years with that same advice he gave me.

Mr. Speaker, over the past few weeks I have come to know my 18 colleagues in this House very well. I am proud to be a colleague with you. I think we have a tremendous group of MLAs here. I have a lot to learn and I am sure you will find ways of teaching me. I think we can do the job. I am confident that as a result of our efforts, the Northwest Territories is going to be a more unified, healthier, better place to live. Hopefully a wealthier place as well.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Steven Nitah.

Member's Statement On Thanks to Constituents, Colleagues and Family

MR. NITAH: (Translation starts) Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate you on your appointment. I would also like to congratulate the Premier-elect, Stephen Kakfwi, and the rest of Cabinet.

Within the Tu Nedhe riding, there is Lutselk'e, Fort Resolution and Reliance and the people that voted for me. I would like to thank them very much. We have a big job ahead of us. For everyone who lives in this Territory, I will do my best for you.

When we were visiting communities, I had said the only way to come out positive is to work together. I will do research and I will look at how the money is spent. Besides that, I have one more thing to say. The only way we can come out with positive situations here in the North is by working together.

For my wife and my children, I would like to thank them very much. I have a big job ahead of me and I still have a lot to learn. We will all learn at the same time, and that is positive thing.

For all of the young people that are growing up and all of the young people that have helped me in the past, thank you very much. My parents, my mother, the elders, I would like to thank them very much. I will be working with other Members here. They are all very hard working Members and they all have a big job and they all want to work positively.

There is one person I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart, my grandmother, who raised me. She was my mother, my grandmother, my father all at once. I learned a lot from her and she taught me right from wrong. While we were campaigning in the recent election, she passed away from me. That is what makes my heart cry. So now I speak to her with a positive mind. That is how I look at it and that is the way I keep her word.

One more time, I would like to thank you all very much. (Translation ends)

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Brendan Bell.

Member's Statement On Thanks to Constituents and Colleagues

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to congratulate you on being elected to your new position. I think you are going to do a great job. I think everybody in this room and in the gallery knows you are the natural choice, so it is nice to see you in that position.

I would also like to extend my congratulations to our new Premier-elect, Mr. Stephen Kakfwi and his new Cabinet. Mr. Kakfwi, I believe you truly are the man for the job and I am excited about working with you.

I have to thank all of the constituents of Yellowknife South for placing their trust and faith in me. It is an important responsibility that I have, and it is something I will not take lightly. I will work hard to do the best I can for you and work to the best of my ability.

There is one thing I would like to say. I was very encouraged to hear Mr. Kakfwi's words the other day when he mentioned we will make education a priority in the coming years. I know we cannot get into specifics, but I would like to encourage our government today to get back to the table with the NWTTA and work out a solution.

I know we are all aware of the tight fiscal situation we are facing, but I think we have to view education as an investment. Our negotiations with the NWTTA should be looked at as an investment in our children and our future. Thank you very much.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 4, Members' statements. The Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement On Thanks to Constituents, Supporters and Family

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too would like to offer my congratulations to you, to Premier-elect, Mr. Kakfwi, and the entire Cabinet. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say Happy New Year to all the people in the Deh Cho and all of the people in the Northwest Territories.

I also have to thank all of the staff for the coaching in the last few days. It was quite an ordeal learning when to talk, when not to talk, when to sit down, when to stand up...

-- Laughter

...so I have to thank the staff for the job they have done. I also have to thank all of the senior Members for their advice and all of the new Members for sticking by me.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my family in Fort Providence. My wife Joyce, my children Kevin, Robyn and Shawna, my parents Angus and Florestine McLeod and all of my brothers and sisters for their support throughout the campaign.

I also want to recognize one person who has worked extremely hard and who has put in an extra effort in supporting me, Susan Christie, who was my campaign manager.

I want to say to the people of the Deh Cho; Fort Providence, Kakisa, Enterprise and Hay River Reserve that I believe I have a clear mandate. The messages I heard over the duration of my campaign will be with me throughout all decisions I will be making.

Mr. Speaker, I also have to extend a sincere thank you to Mr. Sam Gargan, who served as the MLA for the Deh Cho prior to my election for 16 years of service. On behalf of all of the people of the Deh Cho, thank you.

With that, I wish all of the Members good luck, and I look forward to working with you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. SPEAKER: To all of our visitors in the gallery today, you are warmly welcomed, and you are too numerous to be named individually. I would like to thank you for joining us on this very special day.

I would however like to recognize some individuals, on behalf of all of the Members. I would like to recognize the other partner in the Senate team, Mrs. Karen Sibbeston who is with us here.

-- Applause

A very special recognition will go out to welcome His Excellency Gordon Giffin, the United States Ambassador to Canada. Mr. Giffin is accompanied by the U.S. Consulate General, Ms. Lisa Bobbie Schreiber Hughes.

-- Applause

I would never be forgiven if I did not recognize my partner and wife of 34 years, Elaine.

-- Applause

Another very special person who is in the gallery and must be recognized is Ms. Kate Hamilton, the partner of our esteemed Clerk.

-- Applause

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also would like to recognize my partner, Celine. She is up there in the crowd. I would also like to recognize the Deh Cho First Nation Grand Chief, Michael Nadley. I would also like to recognize Joanne Deneron, the mayor of Fort Liard as well as the chair of the Northwest Territories Worker's Compensation Board. I would also like to recognize Chief Sammy Sangris from Jean-Marie River as well as Kathy Tetso of the Deh Cho

Health and Social Services Board, as well as Ernest Hardisty of Jean-Marie River. Also, an elder, Horace Watsyk. Thank you, mahsi.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 5, 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. They are all constituents of mine.

I would like to start with Superintendent Terry Elliot; Colonel Pierre LeBlanc, Fred Koe, Pat Thomas, Mayor David Lovell, Denise Burlingame, Cameron Aindow, Gary Vanderhaden, and Norm Glowach.

Some other people I would like to recognize are people who worked here in the early years, Sam and Dorothy Murdock, along with their son-in-law, Chic Callas who is a constituent of mine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two strong women from Hay River, who for now are still my friends. Georgina Rolt-Kaiser, the President of the Union of Northern Workers, and Pat Thomas, President of the Northwest Territories Teachers' Association.

MR. SPEAKER: I think Ms. Thomas is probably the most recognized person in the whole Territories. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize an elder and a youth. I would like to acknowledge my mother Esther. From several countries in the world, exchange students are guests of families here in Yellowknife for the year and students at Sir John Franklin High School. We have Miss Suteera Boonlua from Thailand; Mr. Yuki Hirata from Japan; Shyrley Larroso of Paraguay; and Veronique Collin of Belgium.

-- Applause

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize three individuals who were a great help to me in the campaign, Ms. Hilary Jones, Mr. John Argue, and Julia Mott from First Air in the Northwest Territories. Thank you very much.

-- Applause

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

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the one person I physically see, Ms. Lorraine Catholique from Lutselk'e. I would also like to recognize the people of Tu Nedhe who will always be here in spirit with me in this House.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize a woman who has moved up the ranks of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and is currently the assistant deputy minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Ms. Pauline Gordon. I would also like to recognize a young chap from Inuvik, Mr. Dennis Allen, who is in the public limelight of producing things. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a resident of Weledeh and former Member, Minister and Speaker of this House, Mr. Michael Ballantyne.

-- Applause

Although not yet a resident of Weledeh, I would also like to recognize Mr. Jake Epp, a former federal Member of Parliament and a Minister.

-- Applause

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize all of those hard-working deputy ministers who are spending their afternoon here. Thank you.

-- Laughter

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: They will be frequent visitors to the Legislative Assembly as time goes on. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize my wife, Marie Wilson, and my daughter, Kyla, who are here today.

-- Applause

Our family friend, Suzan Marie, and two members from the Sahtu tribes, Chief Charlie Furlong from Aklavik and Charlie Overvold from Yellowknife.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. To everyone in the gallery, welcome to this very special day. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, petitions. Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. Item 10, tabling of documents. Item 11, notices of motion. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 11: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 2-14(1): Appointment of Premier

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, January 21, 2000, I will move the following motion: now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr.

Stephen Kakfwi is hereby chosen to be Premier and a Member of the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Notices of motion. Mr. Dent.

Motion 3-14(1): Recommendations for Appointment of Executive Council Members

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, January 21, 2000, I will move the following motion: now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that this Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that the following Members be appointed to the Executive Council; Mr. Roger Allen, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Antoine, the Member for Nahendeh, Mrs. Groenewegen, the Member for Hay River South, Mr. Handley, the Member for Weledeh, Mr. Ootes, the Member for Yellowknife Centre, and Mr. Steen, the Member for Nunakput.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Notices of motion. Mr. McLeod.

Motion 4-14(1): Appointments to the Striking Committee

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, January 21, 2000, I will move the following motion: now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that Mr. David Krutko, Ms. Sandy Lee, and Mr. Steven Nitah be appointed to the Striking Committee of this Assembly.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Notices of motion. Mr. Dent.

Motion 5-14(1): Appointments to the Board of Management

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, January 21, 2000, I will move the following motion: now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that the following Members be appointed to the Board of Management of this Assembly; the Honourable Tony Whitford; the Honourable Jane Groenewegen; Mr. Brendan Bell, Mr. J. Michael Miltenberger, and Mr. Floyd Roland.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Notices of motion. Mr. Kakfwi.

Motion 6-14(1): Adoption of a New Mace for the Northwest Territories

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, January 21, 2000, I will

move the following motion: now therefore, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that this 14th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories hereby adopts a new Mace before it as the official Mace of this Legislature and as a symbol of the authority of our Speaker, reflecting the ability of the people of the Northwest Territories to govern themselves.

And further, that the former Mace, having been used since 1959, be officially retired and placed on permanent display.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 13, motions. Mr. Roland.

ITEM 13: MOTIONS

MR. ROLAND: 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 his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed.

Motion 2-14(1): Appointment of Premier (Carried)

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 61(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that there shall be an Executive Council of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Executive Council shall be comprised of the Premier chosen by the Legislative Assembly and persons appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South that the honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Stephen Kakfwi, is hereby chosen to be Premier and Member of the Executive Council of the Northwest Territories.

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

-- Applause

Item 13, motions. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion for the Cabinet Ministers that I gave notice of earlier today.

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

Motion 3-14(1): Recommendations for Appointment of Executive Council Members (Carried)

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS section 61(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that there shall be an Executive Council of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Executive Council appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of this Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake that this Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that the following Members be appointed to the Executive Council:

Mr. Roger Allen, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes;

Mr. Jim Antoine, the Member for Nahendeh;

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, the Member for Hay River South;

Mr. Joe Handley, the Member for Weledeh;

Mr. Jake Ootes, the Member for Yellowknife Centre; and

Mr. Vince Steen, the Member for Nunakput.

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

-- Applause

Item 13, motions. Mr. McLeod.

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

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

Motion 4-14(1): Appointments to the Striking Committee (Carried)

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS it is required by Rule 85 that the Legislative Assembly shall appoint a Striking Committee of three Members to report and recommend, with all convenient speed, Members to comprise the Standing Committees;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that Mr. David Krutko, Ms. Sandy Lee and Mr. Steven Nitah be appointed to the Striking Committee of this Assembly.

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

-- Applause

Item 13, motions. Mr. Dent.

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

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

Motion 5-14(1): Appointments to the Board of Management (Carried)

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS this Legislative Assembly is required to appoint Members to the Board of Management in accordance with Section 36(3) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

AND WHEREAS appointments to the Board of Management are required to be made during the First Session of each Legislature;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that the following Members be appointed to the Board of Management of this Assembly:

the Honourable Tony Whitford, the Member for Kam Lake;

the Honourable Jane Groenewegen, the Member for Hay River South;

Mr. Brendan Bell, the Member for Yellowknife South;

Mr. J. Michael Miltenberger, the Member for Thebacha; and

Mr. Floyd Roland, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lakes.

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

-- Applause

Item 13, motions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion, that I gave notice of earlier today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Kakfwi. The Member for Sahtu is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with his motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Kakfwi.

Motion 6-14(1): Adoption of a New Mace for the Northwest Territories (Carried)

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Special Committee on Western Identity of the 13th Legislative Assembly was established to consider the official symbols of the Northwest Territories before and after the creation of Nunavut on April 1, 1999;

AND WHEREAS the existing Mace of the Northwest Territories is reflective of the demographic, geographic, and cultural heritage of both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Special Committee on Western Identity felt that a new Mace more accurately reflecting the land, cultures and peoples of the new Northwest Territories after April 1, 1999 would be more appropriate;

AND WHEREAS the Special Committee commissioned the design and construction of the new Mace by three well-known and accomplished northern artisans;

AND WHEREAS the new Mace incorporates new symbols and unique design features representative of the new Northwest Territories and has been presented to the people of the Northwest Territories at an unveiling ceremony in the Legislative Assembly Building on January 14, 2000;

AND WHEREAS in its Final Report to the 13th Assembly, the Special Committee recommended that the current Mace be retired and placed on permanent display and that the new Mace be used at the first Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Mace is a traditional symbol of the Legislative Assembly and represents the authority of the Speaker;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that this 14th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories hereby adopts the new Mace before it as the official Mace of this Legislature and the symbol of the authority of our Speaker reflecting the ability of the people of the Northwest Territories to govern themselves;

AND FURTHER, that the former Mace, in use since 1959, be officially retired and placed on permanent display.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion has been carried unanimously.

-- Applause

Item 14, first reading of bills. Item 15, second reading of bills. Item 16, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk, will you ascertain whether his Honour the Commissioner is prepared to enter the Chamber to prorogue the Session?

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Dan Marion): Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly – prior to proroguing this First Session of the 14th Assembly, as Commissioner I wish to announce the Second Session of the 14th Assembly will convene on Tuesday, February 22, 2000 at 1:30 p.m.

I would also like, at this time, to invite all Members and the public to a reception in the Great Hall immediately upon prorogation. I also invite you all to observe the swearing-in ceremony for the Premier-elect and Members-elect of the Executive Council at 4:00 p.m., here in the Chamber.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I hereby prorogue the First Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

-- Applause

-- PROROGATION

