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16<sup>th</sup> Assembly

HANSARD

**Thursday, February 21, 2008**

Pages 467 to 494

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

**Speaker**  
**Hon. Paul Delorey**  
(Hay River North)

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(Great Slave)

**Mr. Tom Beaulieu**  
(Tu Nedhe)

**Ms. Wendy Bisaro**  
(Frame Lake)

**Mr. Bob Bromley**  
(Weledeh)

**Mrs. Jane Groenewegen**  
(Hay River South)

**Mr. Robert Hawkins**  
(Yellowknife Centre)

**Mr. Jackie Jacobson**  
(Nunakput)

**Mr. David Krutko**  
(Mackenzie Delta)

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty**  
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(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

**Mr. Kevin Menicoche**  
(Nahendeh)

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger**  
(Thebacha)

*Deputy Premier  
Government House Leader  
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Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing  
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Minister Responsible for the Workers'  
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**Mr. David Ramsay**  
(Kam Lake)

**Hon. Floyd Roland**  
(Inuvik Boot Lake)

*Premier  
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Intergovernmental Relations*

**Hon. Norman Yakeleya**  
(Sahtu)

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**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories  
Thursday, February 21, 2008**

**Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Hon. Norman Yakeleya.

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

**Prayer**

Prayer.

**Speaker (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber.

**Speaker's Ruling**

**Mr. Speaker:** Before we begin, colleagues, yesterday in the House a number of points of order were raised during oral questions. The first point of order, raised by Mrs. Groenewegen, alleged that the Premier, in response to questions about the Deh Cho Bridge, misled the House. I quote from page 40 of unedited *Hansard*: "Mr. Speaker, the Premier is not telling the entire story, and he is misleading the House."

This is not a point of order. In fact, parliamentary rules and practices are clear that an accusation of this sort may only be made by way of substantive motion, not by way of point of order.

In dealing with the point of order, Mr. Ramsay supported Mrs. Groenewegen by saying, and I quote again from page 41 of unedited *Hansard*: "When the Premier can stand in this House and say that the banks are solely responsible for that \$160 million, it is not true. It is not true, Mr. Speaker." This intervention by Mr. Ramsay led to a second point of order by the Premier under Rule 23(j), which prohibits Members from charging one another with uttering a deliberate falsehood.

There's nothing necessarily wrong with stating in the House that certain information is not accurate. In certain circumstances, it is even acceptable to suggest that certain information is misleading. It is always the case in dealing with allegations of unparliamentary language that the content, tone and intention of the Member speaking must be taken into consideration. The degree of provocation and whether the remarks cause disorder in the House are also relevant.

In reviewing the unedited *Hansard*, it is clear that Mrs. Groenewegen, in rising to her point of order, and Mr. Ramsay in supporting it, went further than to suggest that the Premier's answers were misleading or inaccurate. The Members in questions were clearly suggesting that the Premier intended to provide false and misleading information to the House.

Accusations such as this are serious and are not to be made lightly. As Speaker, I encourage lively but respectful debate in this House. The issues that we deal with are important issues. They are issues that the people we represent take seriously and want to see us take seriously.

I find that Mr. Roland has a point of order. While it is unclear whether the point of order was raised solely in response to Mr. Ramsay's allegations or was intended to cover Mrs. Groenewegen's earlier comments as well, I find that both crossed a well-established and understood convention of respectful parliamentary debate.

I will first ask Mrs. Groenewegen to withdraw her remarks and apologize to the House.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** I withdraw the remarks. I do apologize. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will then ask Mr. Ramsay if he is prepared to withdraw his remarks and apologize to the House.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do withdraw my remarks and apologize to the Premier if I offended him.

**Mr. Speaker:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay.

Item 2, Ministers' statements.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 24-16(2)  
N.W.T. TO JOIN NATIONAL  
BIZPAL PROGRAM

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise my colleagues that the Department of

Industry, Tourism and Investment has entered into an agreement with Industry Canada that will provide prospective business owners and entrepreneurs in the Northwest Territories with an easy and convenient means to access the critical information they need to establish and run a business.

The initiative is called BizPaL. It is an online service that provides businesses with one-stop access to permit and licence information for all levels of Government in the Northwest Territories and across Canada. Future entrepreneurs need only to answer a series of questions on the type of business they want to start or operate and the activities they plan to undertake. The BizPaL system will then automatically generate a list of all permits and licences required by all levels of governments. In addition, BizPaL will guide users to additional background information and links to the government sites where they can learn more and eventually even apply online.

Mr. Speaker, BizPaL will allow N.W.T. residents to cut through the paperwork and red tape that may impede or discourage them from pursuing their dream of owning and operating a small business.

For government, BizPaL provides the assurance that business clients will have information they need to meet all permit and licence requirements quickly and efficiently. It reflects not only this Assembly's priority to support the development of small businesses and a sustainable local economy but also to seek out more client-focused, service-oriented approaches to delivering government information to N.W.T. residents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Diane Ablonczy, Secretary of State for Small Business and Tourism, for joining us in Yellowknife today on behalf of Industry Canada to formally acknowledge their jurisdiction's shared commitment to the BizPaL initiative.

Departmental officials will be working in the coming months to finalize our network of N.W.T. partners. And I look forward to adding BizPaL to the growing list of programs and services provided by the G.N.W.T. in support of N.W.T. business.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 25-16(2)  
N.W.T. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS  
AND ADAPTATION REPORT

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Speaker, climate change is a serious problem that can significantly disrupt our global environment and affect the ability of Northern residents to lead healthy and productive lives.

The Northwest Territories is a global hot spot, having warmed on average two degrees a year compared to the global average of less than one

degree annually. If greenhouse gases, which cause global warming, continue to be released in large amounts, the North will continue to experience warming during the next few decades.

At the appropriate time today I will be tabling the *Northwest Territories Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Report*. This collaborative document outlines the problems we are experiencing because of climate change and the actions taken to date to adapt to them.

Members are aware of these problems. Many of you are seeing the effects of climate change in your own communities. These include melting permafrost and its effect on infrastructure, buildings, roads, airport runways and sewage lagoons; greater disruptions to winter roads as seasons get shorter and the ice gets thinner and less reliable; heavier snowfalls and more precipitation causing more pronounced spring flooding; and the introduction of new species of plants and animals as ecosystems begin to respond to warmer temperatures.

Mr. Speaker, climate change is a relatively new problem. The impacts described in this report have only started to become problems in the last ten years, but they are growing in severity and affecting entire ecosystems.

We have already started taking actions to adapt to these impacts. We repair and replace foundations that fail and develop new engineering practices to protect and insulate permafrost. Winter road construction techniques have been developed to create thick, load-bearing ice earlier in the season. Permanent bridges have been constructed on the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road to protect stream crossings and allow the road to stay open longer.

As impacts emerge, there is a need to ensure our monitoring programs can detect what is happening and, as much as possible, determine how we are going to adapt.

This report discusses immediate actions as well as long-term considerations to deal with these issues. This report provides enough background information to begin developing a climate change adaptation plan for the Northwest Territories.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will continue to work with other departments and stakeholders to better understand climate change, the resulting problems and to develop a plan to support continued actions.

We must demonstrate to the rest of Canada, and the world, that this government and our residents are taking this threat seriously. Only then can we expect the rest of the world to take it seriously too.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 26-16(2)  
BUILDING CANADA PLAN

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise that today the Government of Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories announced the signing of a framework agreement that will provide the Northwest Territories with funding of \$245.8 million in total over the next seven years.

Applause.

These dollars are to address public infrastructure needs and priorities in the Northwest Territories.

This funding is made available under the Building Canada plan, which is the Government of Canada's new long-term infrastructure plan first announced in the 2007 federal budget.

Today we announce the first project that will be funded under this program. The Government of Canada has agreed to cost share the reconstruction of the Kakisa River Bridge.

This urgent priority in the existing capital plan is an important link for most highway traffic coming from other parts of Canada. The wider bridge will improve safety, and the design of the bridge will meet the needs of the Territory for decades to come. No other decisions have been made about projects to be funded.

Today's announcement of the signing of a framework agreement is the first stage in a two-stage process. The framework agreement sets out the broad categories for eligible projects and the amount of funding to be made available to the Northwest Territories. The second phase, which will begin soon, is the negotiation of the actual funding agreement, which will outline details on project eligibility categories and the project approval process.

Until the funding agreement is actually negotiated and signed, it's difficult to make final decisions about which projects will be funded. However, Canada has identified the broad categories which will be eligible that reflect the mixture of national priorities and local priorities. National priorities include water and waste water, public transit, highways and green energy projects. Local priorities include sports and culture, disaster mitigation, solid waste management, local roads and airports projects. Within these broad categories, each province and territory needs to negotiate the details of which projects will be eligible.

Generally, the Government of the Northwest Territories will allocate funding to transportation and community infrastructure priorities. Transportation priorities will come from the projects that are

already in our capital plan, from the capital needs assessment and from strategic documents such as Corridors for Canada and the government's strategic plan.

Community government priorities will be identified in consultation with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and will be based on community capital plans. A list of possible projects will be finalized in the near future for review by the Financial Management Board and by standing committee.

I will be happy to provide my colleagues with progress reports as we continue negotiations on the funding agreement.

**Mr. Speaker:** I'd like to draw attention to Ministers' Statements being addressed that aren't directly as put forward to the House without notice to the Government House Leader.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 27-16(2)  
HERITAGE WEEK

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty:** Mr. Speaker, the third week in February is celebrated across Canada as Heritage Week. This year the theme, "Telling Our Stories," is particularly relevant to us in the Northwest Territories.

Storytelling is the time-honoured way that people in the North were traditionally educated through the passing on of their histories, cultures and traditions. Storytelling brings us together as a community, and it connects the generations.

I would like to highlight some of the Heritage Week events that will be taking place across the Northwest Territories this week.

The Fort Simpson Heritage Society and the Open Sky Creative Society are organizing activities that will focus on showcasing local history by telling the stories of individual families.

The City of Yellowknife Heritage Committee kicked off its celebration of Heritage Week last Sunday with an afternoon of storytelling.

The Northern Life Museum in Fort Smith has a full week of programs, including moccasin, beaver mitt and Metis sash crafting workshops led by local artisans, tours of the museum and a display of historical photos.

The Norman Wells Historical Centre is featuring an exhibit of moosehide craftwork by Sahtu Dene artisan Myrtle Harrison. Ms. Harrison was an NWT Arts Council recipient in 2005 for her work in traditional hide tanning.

The NWT Mining Heritage Society in Yellowknife is exhibiting George Hunter's black and white

photographs at the Gourmet Cup coffee shop. The photos feature gold and uranium mining in N.W.T. in the 1950s, based on the book *Not Only Gold*. The display will remain until February 23.

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre continues to feature the recently opened exhibition, *Yamoria: the one who travels*. This exhibition tells many stories about this Dene hero through stories told by elders. This exhibit is well worth a trip to the museum if you have not been there recently.

I encourage Members and all Northerners to celebrate our heritage this week and all year round by continuing to share our oral history through our stories. Mahsi.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 28-16(2)  
ARCTIC WINTER GAMES —  
TEAM N.W.T. CONGRATULATIONS

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** I am pleased to rise today and extend my very best wishes to the 350 athletes, coaches and managers who will make up Team NWT at the 2008 Arctic Winter Games being held here in Yellowknife from March 9 to 15.

For nearly a year now young people from across the Northwest Territories have been preparing themselves physically and mentally for this opportunity. They have been challenged along the way through regional and Territorial selections in order to achieve their goal of representing the Northwest Territories at this prestigious international celebration of sport and culture.

I congratulate all of the youth who have set these goals and challenged themselves to be the best through this process. Over 1,200 athletes and coaches attended the regional trials and over 819 will have attended the Territorials.

As these athletes move forward, I feel that it is important that we also acknowledge the monumental contributions that volunteers and parents make to support the youth. Without the coaches or referees or the track setters or scorekeepers or the thousands of others who give freely of their time, we would not be able to have a Team NWT. We owe these people our heartfelt thanks.

I also want to thank all of our sport and recreation partners who have contributed to this process. Our partners include the Sport North Federation and its member Territorial sport organizations, the Beaufort Delta Sahtu Recreation Association, the Mackenzie Recreation Association and the community governments who have hosted various selection events along the way. These partners have provided guidance and support and organized the many selection events across the Northwest Territories that have resulted in the final selection of Team NWT.

As Team NWT now goes through final preparations before the Opening Ceremonies of the 2008 Arctic Winter Games, I encourage them to continue to work hard and do their very best as always. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 29-16(2)  
NOTICE OF BUDGET ADDRESS

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that I will deliver the budget address on Thursday, May 22, 2008.

**Mr. Speaker:** Item 3, Members' statements.

**Members' Statements**

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
CONSULTATION OBLIGATIONS UNDER  
LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENT

**Mr. Krutko:** Today I rise on an issue we've heard a lot about over the last couple of weeks: the area of consultation.

It's a fundamental right. It's also right to have come by the way of land claim agreements and court cases and court challenges. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important to realize that we do have an obligation to consult, regardless of whether it's through a legal case in the Supreme Court of Canada or a land claim agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I'll read the definition that it's the Gwich'in Land Claim Agreement, which says:

"Consultation' means (a) the provision, to the party to be consulted, of notice of a matter to be decided in sufficient form and detail to allow that party to prepare its views on the matter; (b) the provision of a reasonable period of time in which the party to be consulted may prepare its views on the matter, and provision of an opportunity to present such views to the party obliged to consult; and (c) full and fair consideration by the party obliged to consult of any views presented."

Mr. Speaker, the land claim agreement is clear. They do have these obligations clearly spelled out. It's clear. I'll read under economic measures, chapter 10, Division Agreement. Again, 10.1.3 clearly states:

"Where government proposes economic development programs related to the objectives...government shall consult with the Gwich'in Tribal Council. (b) Government shall meet with the Gwich'in Tribal Council not less than once every three years to review the effectiveness of programs relating to the objectives under 10.1.1."

10.1.1 clearly states:

"Government economic development programs in the settlement area shall take into account the following objectives: (a) that the traditional Gwich'in economy

should be maintained and strengthened; and (b) that the Gwich'in should be economically self-sufficient."

Mr. Speaker, under another section dealing with forestry, under the forestry management section, those agreements, again, under section 13.1.10:

"Government may consult the Board on any matter which affects forestry and forestry management and shall seek the timely advice of the Board on the following matters: (a) draft legislation respecting forestry and forestry management including the fighting and control of forest fires; (b) land use policies or draft legislation...."

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

Unanimous consent granted.

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Speaker, going on to the subsurface section of the agreement again, section 21.1.6:

"The Government of the Northwest Territories shall involve the Gwich'in in the development and implementation of any Northern Accord on oil and gas development in the Northwest Territories which is negotiated pursuant to the enabling agreement, dated September 5, 1988, between Canada and Government of the Northwest Territories."

Mr. Speaker, 21.1.7:

"Government agrees to consult the Gwich'in Tribal Council in relation to any proposed legislation which affects only the Northwest Territories or only Yukon and the Northwest Territories and which (a) regulates the exploration, development or production of subsurface resources in the settlement area; or (b) establishes requirements for subsurface rights issuance in relation to subsurface resources in the settlement area."

Mr. Speaker, the point I'm trying to make here is that as government, as individuals, the process of consultation is fundamental to whatever we do regardless of if it's in the Legislative Assembly or through land claim agreements.

With that, I will be asking the Premier some questions in regard to consultation, especially in regard to the process of land claim agreements.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE  
BRAIN DEVELOPMENT  
IN YOUNG CHILDREN

**Mr. Bromley:** Today I'd like to talk about the awesome brain.

I know this House is all for healthy families and vibrant communities. I've recently learned about brain development in the young child. I realize there are implications and opportunities for enhancing the

efficiency and effectiveness of many of our government programs.

I would like to share some of the researchers' new insights on the brain. At birth there are over 100 billion brain cells, or building blocks, that make up our brain. They are especially designed for communicating among themselves across the spaces between them. Communication between brain cells occurs through electrochemical signals. When these connections are made, they shape our thoughts, our feelings, our capacity to think and learn.

Of all the incredible numbers of pathways or connections that can be established, only those that are used during our first two years actually become hard-wired and established for life. By age three a child's brain has formed 1,000 trillion connections. From birth to 18 months the brain forms connections that have to do with emotional attachments. From birth to four years the connections deal with visual development, colours, shapes and distances. From one to five years connections are made to learn music and math and, from birth to ten years, capacity for language development.

Our programs need to help families enhance the development of these connections in the wee child in the best ways possible. Under the right conditions and day-to-day experiences, what the baby sees, hears, touches, tastes, smells and feels actually shape the brain, form connections and cause the brain to grow larger and more active.

The very best way to develop a child's brain is to nurture and love your children and expose them to a variety of new experiences. An environment lacking love and experiences starves the brain. The neurons don't connect. It's love that grows brains.

One final note, Mr. Speaker. Beginning about age ten, the brain starts pruning, or getting rid of, cells and connections that are seldom or never used. The hard-wired pathways that are often used, however, are kept and become stronger and more efficient. This knowledge can help guide our efforts to reduce and reinvest wisely. For example, from birth to age ten, it is easiest to learn languages. This has implications.

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

Unanimous consent granted.

**Mr. Bromley:** As a government we need to work with young families to increase the awareness of when and how these brain connections are made. Let's use this knowledge to guide our support of early childhood development programs, language nests, and parenting and family support.

Let us, as leaders in this government, have the vision to increase awareness and provide the programs to ensure that our children's brains grow to their full potential. They are our future. Thank you. Mahsi.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
BONUSES AWARDED TO  
SENIOR PUBLIC SERVANTS

**Mr. Abernethy:** Mr. Speaker, the G.N.W.T. is currently faced with reducing spending by \$135 million over the next two years. Through this process, we need to be cautious. We need to ensure that reductions don't adversely affect the public or staff. At the very least we need to minimize these impacts as much as possible. We need to spend wisely and maximize the benefit of the dollars we spend.

So where do we look? One area we might want to consider is the bonuses that we pay. Last year this government paid \$1.6 million in bonuses. The majority of these went to 16 deputy ministers and 176 senior managers.

Deputy ministers in this government make an average of \$184,000 a year, while senior managers make an average of \$127,000 a year. In addition, the Power Corp paid out \$532,930 in bonuses last year.

I'm not suggesting that bonuses don't have value. I'm simply suggesting that we need to review them to ensure that we're getting best value per dollar.

This government may want to review its criteria for awarding bonuses. We may get better value for our dollars if bonuses were provided to all employees — not just DMs and senior managers — who identify real and effective ways to reduce spending and create efficiencies within the public service. Two point one million dollars is equivalent to around 21 public service jobs.

Let's make sure all options are considered before jobs are cut.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
CONDOLENCES TO THE CONSTITUENTS  
SUFFERING THE LOSS OF  
FAMILY MEMBERS

**Mr. Menicoche:** Mr. Speaker, mahsi. [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, this winter in my region there were many, many deaths of my people. We lost fathers and mothers, aunts, uncles, sisters, brothers, and it caused a great deal of pain and upset in many, many families, which affected our whole community and the region as a whole, because we're all inter-related.

We do not always know the ways of the Heavenly Father and do not always understand why we lose loved ones, Mr. Speaker. What I would like to do today is to wish for all precious healing time and reflections upon the lives of the people that have left us this winter, and to go on with the lessons that they have shared with us and left behind.

I wish for all the people who have been affected my best wishes of courage, strength and wisdom as we move on. Mahsi cho.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
CONCERNS REGARDING THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

**Mr. Ramsay:** Yesterday in response to a question I had asked on the realities of working at the Department of Human Resources, the Minister said they had reduced the backlog of final pays by 50 per cent. To my knowledge the backlog has been there since the department was first formed two years ago. So 50 per cent, Mr. Speaker, is nothing to be proud of.

What about grievances? How is the department dealing with grievances? I'm aware of some that are at least two and a half years outstanding. Is this an acceptable standard? Has the Minister talked to any of the front-line staff at Human Resources? I remember a former Minister of Justice who stood in this House, day in and day out, saying nothing was wrong at North Slave Correctional Centre. He listened solely to his senior managers and DM. He did not listen to me or the front-line workers, who were insisting that all was not right at North Slave Correctional Centre.

Finally he agreed to an HR review at the facility, and there were many deficiencies that had to be addressed. The moral of the story, Mr. Speaker, is that — to the Ministers — you cannot just listen to your DM or your senior managers. You have to listen to your front-line workers, those in the trenches every day, and the MLAs who are across from you, bringing their issues up in this House. That's where you'll find out what's really going on.

Human Resources also has to do a better job when it comes to staffing vacant positions and communicating the process. Mr. Speaker, I believe we need to look at a system like they use in Alberta, where there is the ability to check competition status online. It shows the posted closing dates and also if the position is in the screening, interview or offer stage. At least this way, it gives applicants some kind of idea where things are at. They're not waiting five and six months to see where their job status is at.

Here in the Legislative Assembly we throw the word "accountability" around quite often, but rarely do we put it into place to ensure it happens. Mr. Speaker, I

think a system like they use in Alberta, here in the Northwest Territories, would give HR some much-needed accountability.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** This is the last day of the sitting of this particular Legislature, and true to form, I want to talk about the Deh Cho Bridge.

Mr. Speaker, I want to summarize once again for people what has been provided to us in terms of information and responses to our very good and valid questions. We don't ask these questions for fun; we ask these questions because we are the conduit for the public to become aware of the government. If we're not going to have this debate on the floor of the House, well then, to me, really, you might just have appointed an administrator to take over running the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, in the last government two motions were brought forward by the Regular Members and cast in this House. I'd like to read them into the record again:

"Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the G.N.W.T. undertake and disclose updated economic modelling showing that the Deh Cho Bridge project anticipated so few economic impacts and benefits as it did in 2003, and further, that the Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the G.N.W.T. defer signing any further agreement concerning the Deh Cho Bridge until after the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly is in office."

That was one motion that was passed in this House, Mr. Speaker, and here's the gist and the tail end of another one:

"Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommend that government not enter into a binding agreement committing it to the Deh Cho Bridge project until it has provided Regular Members with an up-to-date analysis of the expected cost of living impacts of the bridge on Yellowknife, and the Tlicho communities and the Behchoko communities, the estimated social impacts and economic benefits for the community of Fort Providence, and the exact total cost of the Deh Cho Bridge to the Government of the Northwest Territories, and giving Regular Members an opportunity to comment on the bridge should it proceed based on that information."

For anyone to say that the Members of the previous government and this government were not interested in the details of this bridge project is absolutely not correct.

One of the first things that we questioned the government about after getting re-elected to this House — I can speak for myself — was where we were at in terms of commitments to the Deh Cho

Bridge. Again, we were not informed that the concession agreement had been signed. Then, on further questioning as to our government's liability, we were told our liability extent was the \$9 million for the loan guarantee. In fact, this government is on the hook for the \$165 million that it is going to cost us to undertake this project and probably untold other expenses that will be seen as eligible costs over run.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
FUEL SHORTAGE IN INUVIK

**Mr. McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, on the second day of session I brought up the issue of the fuel shortage in Inuvik. This is a couple of weeks later, and after some correspondence back and forth, I find today that we are no better off than we were before. As a matter of fact, we are in worse shape than we were before.

The reason I bring that up is that talking to one of the gas bars up there, I was informed that they were critically low on fuel and that they weren't getting anymore, and that it had to be trucked in from Edmonton. At the other gas bar up there, it is trucked in from Whitehorse. And all of this while Esso has a tank down there with a certain amount of fuel in it that they figure they have the right to ration to these folks, who then have to bring fuel in up by truck. They don't want to, but to recover some of their costs, they have to pass it down on to the consumer.

I was informed yesterday that the prices have gone up again for gas in Inuvik. They are expected to go up again.

The reason that I have brought this up again is because I got a call from a senior last night who had some grave concerns about the prices continually going up. It is tough on seniors who are living on fixed incomes and who stay in their own houses and are paying a lot of their own expenses. This is extremely difficult on them. A lot of these folks go out on the land, and this affects them. Everything is going up in Inuvik. Everything is going up.

I feel for the agent and the two gas suppliers up there, who in my opinion are being held hostage by the supplier, being Esso. They have the gas there, but they think they have the right to hold it back, and the prices are going up and it is affecting everything up there. The private industry.... The government has an obligation to protect the consumers.

I will be posing questions to the Premier at the appropriate time to see what this government can do to bridge the gap between the supplier and the consumer.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
THEBACHA CAMPUS OF AURORA COLLEGE

**Mr. Hawkins:** Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House today to clearly state for the residents of Fort Smith that it was not my intention to portray all residents of the community of Fort Smith in a negative light. As we all know very well, it is usually the actions of a few individuals and not the community that causes this type of issue to rise to the surface. Those are the people to blame for this problem. Those who have chosen to make the lives of others miserable need to be brought to task.

Since I have made the concerns of my constituents public, I have been approached by even more people with similar concerns and stories about their experiences regarding incidents that have either occurred to them or their loved ones. Yesterday I had 15 messages from around the North on my phone from people who wanted to share their experience and talk about it.

Mr. Speaker, a real opportunity is before us. There is clearly a problem that needs to be addressed. It cannot be swept under the rug or ignored in hopes that it will go away. The issue is real, and it must be confronted. As I mentioned yesterday on CBC radio, I am working on a survey of former students relating to their experiences. I want to hear both good and bad experiences. And with that, I've had several offers from our community to help make sure that this survey gets off the ground.

Mr. Speaker, I commit to sharing the results of this survey with the local MLA for Thebacha, with the Minister of EC&E, with the town of Fort Smith and the council, and certainly with the management of Aurora College.

I quickly spoke to Mayor Martselos this morning, for whom I have a lot of respect, and I assured him I would make that statement today to make sure that the concerns are not about the community as a whole but needs to be focussed directly at those that are causing the problems. I agree with his concerns, and I certainly am making that statement to make sure he knows I have heard his statement.

Mr. Speaker, my goal is to work with all parties to find a collective solution to address this concern. It's about the students and safety, and that's all it is about.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ACCESS ROAD TO  
TUKTOYAKTUK GRAVEL SOURCE

**Mr. Jacobson:** Mr. Speaker, when I was the mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, and since elected to represent Nunakput, I have continued to press the government to recognize the critical need to get going on construction of the access road to Tuktoyaktuk's Gravel Source 177.

Mr. Speaker, this road is required for several reasons. The extensive granular resources at source 177 are required to support municipal infrastructure to Tuktoyaktuk instead of relying on expensive transport to pour in materials on the winter roads from sources near Inuvik. The road will allow Tuktoyaktuk residents and businesses to access employment opportunities in the exploration and natural gas processing facilities planned for the region, and the access road will follow the survey route of the eventual northern extension of the Mackenzie Highway, which is a high priority of this government.

I want to congratulate the government for signing the funding agreement with Canada today on the build Canada program. I understand that with the framework now signed, we can move on to the task of identifying the projects across the N.W.T. that can finally get off the ground.

With assistance from the federal funding contribution, later today I'll have questions for the Minister of Transportation on the prospects for the move forward on this long-awaited priority in my constituency.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
RETENTION OF  
COMMUNITY RECREATION STAFF

**Mr. Beaulieu:** [English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to once again talk about the importance of communities being able to hire properly trained recreation and youth staff. During my campaign, many residents spoke about the lack of things for the youth in their community to do. In general during my follow-up visits to communities, many constituents continue to actively need to have something positive for their youth to do. They talked about on-the-land programs, more sport and recreation programs, and some even said the community should have a swimming pool and a youth centre — a place the youth can call their own.

These concerns are made by all members of the community, including the RCMP, the youth, parents and especially elders of the community. On February 11, I spoke about the importance of communities being able to hire trained recreation and youth staff so the community can properly assess government programs and develop and deliver effective community-based recreation and youth programs for all community members.

However, Mr. Speaker, in my communities, this is not what is happening. Hiring properly trained recreation and youth staff continues to be a challenge because of low pay, little or no volunteer support, cultural differences, lack of government support, and even because of job demands,

Mr. Speaker, working evening, weekends and holidays, being overworked and underpaid.

In Fort Resolution they have a recreation coordinator and community recreation assistant position. In Lutselk'e, Mr. Speaker, they have a recreation coordinator and two positions of recreation support workers. All the positions in both communities are filled by local people, and none of these individuals are qualified as a recreation professional. I am sure they are all doing the best they can, and I commend them for taking the task.

My communities are in desperate need of support for finding solutions to the hiring of qualified recreation and youth staff. The ideal situation is to train local people for these positions. They know the community and the people, understand the culture and speak the language. One solution suggested to me by one of my constituents is to develop an apprenticeship-type approach for training recreation coordinators.

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

Unanimous consent granted.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

We are all aware of the success of the trades program. If we can do it for instrumentation, carpentry, and hairdressers, why can't we do it for recreation coordinators? Later on today I will have questions for the Minister of MACA on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO EMERGENCY SERVICE PERSONNEL

**Ms. Bisaro:** Mr. Speaker, I use my Member's statement today to acknowledge our emergency service personnel, particularly firefighters, both career and volunteer members. As is the case for many of the people who work silently behind the scenes on our behalf, we don't recognize them nearly enough.

Emergency service personnel stand by for us 24 hours a day, seven days a week, ready and willing to do dangerous work if called upon. These men and women train and prepare to be ready for action at a moment's notice. They have specialized skills and knowledge that enable them to do an outstanding job, often in difficult weather and treacherous conditions. They put life and limb at risk to keep us safe, and they keep our homes and businesses safe. At times, all they can do is control a situation, and homes and businesses are lost. And unfortunately, because it is potentially dangerous work, firefighters sometimes get injured, occasionally fatally.

Just three years ago next month, the city of Yellowknife lost two firefighters as they fought a fire in the line of duty. They gave their lives for our community as they performed a job they both loved.

Because we won't be in session next month, today I want to specifically remember and honour Cyril Fyfe and Kevin Olson, two exemplary firefighters who were both fatally injured March 17, 2005.

In their memory I recognize and honour all N.W.T. emergency service personnel as they go about their jobs today and every day. To each and every one, I say thank you for protecting us; thank you for taking risks for us.

To my colleagues I say, as you return to your communities over the next few days, take the time to search out and visit with your local firefighters and thank them personally.

And on March 17, stop and take a moment to think of those we have lost. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Applause.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON THEBACHA CAMPUS OF AURORA COLLEGE

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Speaker, when we stand in this House and raise issues and talk, what we say and how we say it has a tremendous impact not only in this House but outside of this House, in the communities, where many, many people watch avidly what happens in this House. It has a great impact.

Earlier in the week the comments in the statement by the Member from Yellowknife Centre reverberated through the community of Fort Smith and caused a tremendous furor that I'm still feeling the effects of today.

There are constructive ways to raise issues, and then there are destructive ways to raise issues. I would have to classify the Member's statement made earlier in the week as more destructive in nature.

I do appreciate his comments in the House today as being much more constructive and helping to put oil on some of the troubled waters. But to be sure, the people of Fort Smith were offended. They do very highly treasure and value the college and the students who come to the community.

The college is celebrating its 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. In those 39 years there has been a presence in Fort Smith. At the start of this college, it used to be called Adult Vocational Training. Thousands of students have gone through there.

On this side of the House, I look around. There are graduates in this House that have gone to the college, myself included, when I was doing my apprenticeship training.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue of great importance to my community that I want to raise in this House. As I said earlier in the week, I have to be able to speak for the people that I represent. I have to be able to speak for the people of the college.

And while we want to raise issues, we have to keep in mind we have to get all the facts and we have to get all the details. We have to look at all the numbers, including all the people who have gone through the college.

Harkening back to my younger days, I know that if you go to a strange community, and if you go out and engage in extracurricular activities.... It doesn't matter if it's Fort Smith, Hay River, Inuvik, Yellowknife. If you engage in extracurricular activities and alcohol is involved and you're looking the wrong way at the wrong person, or asking the wrong person to dance....

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

Unanimous consent granted.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

If you ask the wrong person to dance, there's a chance that things may happen that you didn't anticipate. That's an unfortunate reality in every community. I don't think it's specific to Fort Smith. There's a shared responsibility here.

Mr. Speaker, I want to conclude my statement by once again thanking the Member for clarifying his comments; encouraging him to accept the invitation to come to the community; and pointing out that the college is a very high-class operation that has lots of good people working there, and it is very, very important to all the people of Fort Smith.

Applause.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF  
YELLOWKNIFE AUTHOR MR. TYLER HEAL

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** I'm pleased to recognize Tyler Heal, who is a third-generation Yellowknife resident and a resident of Yellowknife South.

Tyler was awarded the 2007 Heritage Award from the Yellowknife Heritage Society in recognition of his contribution to the preservation of the history and heritage of Yellowknife.

His book *The Times Behind the Signs* was recently launched, giving details and stories behind

Yellowknife's street names. All of the proceeds from the sale of this book are being donated to the N.W.T. Mining Heritage Society.

Please join me in congratulating this talented and intelligent young man on receiving his award, and recognizing his commitment and contribution to Yellowknife.

Applause.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
TRAVELS TO INUVIK

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to rise to inform people back home in Inuvik that I will be heading back home to Inuvik next week from Monday to Wednesday.

I look forward to visiting with them once again and sharing their stories, and continuing to get back to work for the people of Inuvik.

**Mr. Speaker:** Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery, Mr. Krutko.

**Recognition of  
Visitors in the Gallery**

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize my Constituency Assistant, Liz Wright, who is here in the gallery today. Liz is in town this week, working out of my office here in Yellowknife. Welcome to the gallery.

**Mr. Menicoche:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize the two pages from Fort Simpson who worked diligently and hard this week: Ms. Natalie Villeneuve and Ms. Marisa Isaiah. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Arthur Beck, a chaperone. I would also like to recognize the two pages from Fort Resolution, Tu Nedhe: Kelley Lizotte and Peter Beaulieu. Arthur Beck is also the Vice President of the NWT Métis Council.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize two pages from the riding of Frame Lake: In front of me, Stuart Hamre and then, behind me, Jeanne Yurris. They've done a great job. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions, Mrs. Groenewegen.

## Oral Questions

### QUESTION 142-16(2) DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Mr. Speaker, in following up the question that I was asking, I'm quoting from unedited *Hansard*:

"The lending agent itself went and got a review. They're the ones at risk for \$165 million if, in fact, they want to lend this money to this project and to make sure it's a valid project."

Mr. Speaker, my question for the Premier today is: is it not true that in the event of a default on the loan that he's referring to, the G.N.W.T. shall step in and receive the project company's rights benefits to the debt and loan documents, and assume and be bound by all current, future and overdue liabilities and obligations of this project?

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is quoting the worst-case scenario, if the project were to fail. As we've laid out, the traffic counts and volumes, our commitment to the project.... As was stated in this House, we recognize, as the G.N.W.T., that we are backstopping this project. So yes, through the process, through the whole arrangement, it's been known that we will end up backing this project if it was a worst-case scenario.

But I did point out, as she was reading from *Hansard*, responding to a part of a question, the fact is that the lending agent who is lending the money to the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation has made sure that they're covering all their bases, as well, to ensure that it's a worthy project to invest in.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Mr. Speaker, now that we have established that, in fact, the G.N.W.T. is bearing some of the risks — if something goes wrong, *all* of the risk — for this project, I'd like to ask the Premier — and he's the Finance Minister, so he should know this — how is this liability being reflected in the records of the G.N.W.T.? Because as everyone knows, we have a legislated debt limit of \$500 million.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** The bridge corporation process is being treated the same way we deal with capital leases and is recognized as well — as Members would know who are familiar with the Financial Administration Act — under that area. So we account for it in that area, but like many of our leases throughout many communities in the Northwest Territories, they don't show up on our guaranteed debt position.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** I can't ask a hypothetical question, but I would like to project the scenario if something should go wrong and the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation cannot meet the obligations of

this debt. Right now, we currently have, I believe, around \$300 million of debt, and another \$165 million would put us right at our limit. I want people to be fully aware of that.

Mr. Speaker, as we speak today, I'd like to ask the Premier: today is February 21<sup>st</sup>. What is being signed on behalf of our government today and by whom?

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, all the documents that are required to bring this deal to a closure. There are a number of schedules. I don't have a list handy with me right now, but those will bring this whole process to closure, and the banks will be satisfied. The Deh Cho Bridge Corporation, ourselves, all parties would be signing the appropriate documents. It could be at the close of the day, if we can get them all together, or tomorrow.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Mrs. Groenewegen:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier did not identify who is signing these documents on behalf of the G.N.W.T., and he doesn't seem too familiar with what they are, anyway.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, in case I don't get a chance to ask any more questions, I want to let the record show that today, February 21, 2008, I sat in this Chamber and said that this process has not done justice to due diligence and to the people of the Northwest Territories. It has put them at undue risk.

My question for the Premier here today is: will he endeavour to find out...? We're going to leave here now, but I want to know if the folks who establish the credit rating of this government have been made aware of this particular agreement, and how that has affected, or will affect, our credit rating as the G.N.W.T.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, in fact, as we have our credit rating established through Moody's and we looked at this borrowing situation, we have been in contact with them. They're aware of the situation, they have reviewed it, and they feel we're in a healthy situation and this is something that is affordable if things were to go wrong. The fact is we're planning things will move along, and we'll show that this was a good investment for the future of the Northwest Territories.

### QUESTION 143-16(2) CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AND LAND CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier and also to the Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs. In regard to my Member's statement on consultation, I read out different

sections of the agreement. It's very clear the government has an obligation to consult on specific matters, especially on economic measures, the subsurface rights section and also deal with forestry and other elements.

But again, the idea of consultation is not simply sending off a letter, and then if you don't get a response in two weeks, that's consultation. I think because of the issue of consultation, it's critical that consultation basically works for both parties — that you have the time for it and people have the right to consult.

I'd like to ask the Premier, as a government, have we looked at our policies and procedures and ensured they fall in line with exactly what's spelled out in the land claim agreements for consultation?

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Yes. Through Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations we have begun the process. In fact, a document was tabled and made public on the consultation process. We've reviewed and put it out there to see if we can get some comment back from aboriginal organizations to meet the request for consultation.

As a department, we are, as well, getting a guide together for our employees and departments, so that when we discuss issues that may have an impact on Crown lands that affect aboriginal rights and treaties, it kicks into place a formal consultation process that we're putting in place.

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Speaker, the reason I was asked to raise this question is because there are things happening within this government by way of policy changes and program changes. But they are not going to the First Nations organizations who have land claims, who have specific rights with regard to modern-day treaties. The right to consult is also spelled out in a lot of court cases.

Mr. Speaker, there have been changes by way of policy changes, such as contracts in regard to time limits, which have basically been shortened. Again, that change, under the land-claim agreement — an obligation to consult is there.

I'd like to ask the Premier: as a government, are we ensuring that we are fulfilling that obligation and not simply sending out a letter and if we don't get a response that's basically consultation? As far as the legislation reads, that is not consultation.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, as I stated, we have a package together that we are going to use with departments to highlight when consultation is necessary and needs to be done, what steps would be required, and what is considered actual consultation. As well, we have to use the court cases that have been settled out there and have an impact, because that affects the way governments would consult with each other.

There also needs to be the recognition that consultation isn't a one-way street. It requires both parties to come together. When it's a specific initiative, when contact is made, there's follow-up contact that continues to try to be had, but at some point decisions do need to be made. There's a recognition in this process we're developing of the requirement that the consultation needs to be created as a two-way street.

**Mr. Krutko:** In regard to the aboriginal organizations, I know we had a process in regard to the Aboriginal Summit, which no longer exists. There are some major issues happening in the Northwest Territories.

We could touch on the Deh Cho Bridge, but I think we're talking about the Tetlit'Zheh expansion; we're talking about other big projects in the Northwest Territories. The pipeline decisions still have to come down.

I'd like to ask the Premier what exactly we are doing as a government differently from what we did with the Aboriginal Summit. Is there going to be such a forum, or a committee or a makeup of regional leaders in the Territories, to sit down with the Premier and also the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs to talk about issues that this government is doing so we can involve them in government-to-government relationships between our three levels of government in the Northwest Territories?

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** In fact, we have started a process between myself and aboriginal leaderships, as well as including the Deputy Premier. We've started a process. For example, shortly after the election in November, we were meeting with the regional aboriginal leadership. We've set up a process. We're going to meet quarterly and discuss issues of concern between all parties.

In fact, I will be meeting with a number of the leaders. We've offered a meeting up actually next week. We'll be following up with that meeting with those that can attend.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final short supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Mr. Krutko:** As a government we're still doing work in regard to the devolution process — the Northern Accord, as it was better known in the past.

I'd like to ask the Premier: under the land-claim agreements it's clear, I stated, that the government shall involve these aboriginal groups in those processes. I'd like to ask the Premier exactly how you are going to include those groups who have land-claim obligations for this government to involve them through the process of consulting or devolution.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** The work that was done previously has incorporated a group. It was originally through the Aboriginal Summit, where a joint proposal was put forward to Canada on a devolution resource revenue sharing agreement. Since that day things have changed. The Aboriginal Summit is no longer in place.

I would use this avenue as an avenue to address what may be done if there's a joint initiative we can establish to move forward and work with them on that basis. As well, from that basis, if there's further direction on initiatives and work, or further information we need to get, we're back to that process of dealing with the regional leadership, at our level, and sharing the information on different initiatives we're trying to bring to a conclusion.

QUESTION 144-16(2)  
EXTENSION OF  
YELLOWKNIFE AIRPORT RUNWAY

**Mr. Hawkins:** Mr. Speaker, it's no surprise to this Assembly and certainly not to the Transportation Minister that I've been in support of the extension of the Yellowknife runway. I feel it will open up a new tourism corridor, whether it's for tourism or even business through flights over the top as they bring flights from Asia to North America.

I believe that expanding the runway in Yellowknife to accept larger planes will help not just Yellowknife. I think it will bring an economic boom throughout the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, there's new information coming out that the Ministry of Transportation is well aware of. There's a master plan that's being looked at for the Yellowknife Airport.

My question to the Minister of Transportation is: when can we expect this master plan to be completed and ready for public consumption?

**Hon. Norman Yakeleya:** The Member is correct in terms of a study being conducted. The study is being conducted by ITI and [inaudible]. We're in phase 2 of the study. I'll be happy to share that with colleagues and Members once the study is released.

I also want to assure the Member that as Minister of Transportation, I'm looking at investment in all areas and locations across the Northwest Territories to ensure that safety and efficiency is our number one priority in our transportation system.

**Mr. Hawkins:** I'd like to know if the Minister of Transportation has been working with the Minister of ITI — the Ministry of Industry, Tourism and Investment — to discuss and further find out more information as to the economic boom that would be provided to the Northwest Territories.

Is the study looking at those types of considerations? Is his department working with ITI to make sure this relevant information is being brought forward to make the business case to expand the Yellowknife Airport?

**Hon. Norman Yakeleya:** The Department of Transportation is working very closely with the Department of ITI, under the direction and leadership of Minister Bob McLeod, in putting this study together in terms of the Yellowknife Airport runway extension.

We are working with other stakeholders, such as the city, air carriers, Transport Canada in terms of seeing the benefits. And of course, I would be happy to sit down with Members once we have this study before us and have some discussion.

The Member may well be aware that I've tabled a document on runway licence studies. Certainly, there are comments in there about the 23rd-busiest airport in Canada, which is the Yellowknife territorial airport.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Mr. Speaker, as the Minister of Transportation knows, runways are an extremely vital piece of infrastructure to any area, region or territory.

I'd like to know what the Minister is doing to pursue funding for this potential project. And if I may underscore, I think we just received a promissory note of \$245.8 million. I'd like to hear what he's doing to make sure the Yellowknife Airport runway extension is being considered in that potential pot of money.

**Hon. Norman Yakeleya:** Mr. Speaker, I look forward to discussing with all Members of the standing committee, with my colleagues, once we have an idea as to types of priorities, where we want to invest in the Northwest Territories.

Certainly, the report from the runway-length study has identified some priorities there. I look forward to discussion with my honourable colleagues, and with the standing committee in terms of where we will have the best returns on investment, as a government, within this term.

We will work with the Member, and again, I will share that information once I have the final document.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Mr. Hawkins:** I again reaffirm my belief that this will open up international tourism as well as international business.

One thing the Minister neglected to mention was: when can I expect this study to be open for public consumption? When does the Minister expect that

this study will be made available for everyone to take a good look at?

**Hon. Norman Yakeleya:** Mr. Speaker, I want to let the Member know it will be available within a couple of months. I will communicate more with my colleague Minister Bob McLeod. I will get back to the Member in terms of the exact decision regarding the date.

QUESTION 145-16(2)  
FOCUS ON  
EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

**Mr. Bromley:** Mr. Speaker, during the earliest years of brain development, the potential for learning can be most fully established. I'd like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment: how does our current allocation of resources reflect the huge opportunity we have to be effective by focussing strongly on the very young?

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty:** Mahsi. Mr. Speaker, our government does realize that learning starts at a young age.

Our department — and also the Government of the Northwest Territories — does consider funding various levels, such as early childhood programs, early childhood contributions and policies, and children's initiatives. These are just some of the areas I'm highlighting. It is in the works. We've been funding for a number of years. There are also federal funding initiatives.

Those are the areas we will continue to fund, because we as a government feel it is important to start at an early age.

I'll just highlight some of the federal initiatives that have been undertaken and will continue: Early Childhood Development, early learning and child trust fund, child care space initiatives — we support the NWT Literacy Council, as well — and also program enhancement grants, language programs. So we do have various federal initiatives and also the G.N.W.T., with our ECE department. We do deliver various programs to promote that. Mahsi.

**Mr. Bromley:** I know a big focus and a big interest of this government — and of myself, personally — is cultural and language diversity. Languages, of course, hold the cultures and hold different ways of knowing. We know now that language development takes place especially early in life. That's when we get hard-wired for it, and we have the ability thereafter to speak it. But we need to have a lot of exposure early in life.

What programs do we have that actually get our most proficient language speakers together with our very young? Are we supporting our elders and those who can speak these languages most proficiently? Are we supporting them getting

together with very young children, even if they're just speaking in their presence, not necessarily teaching them? Apparently that will do the job. What programs do we have to support that?

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty:** Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Member's question in this specific area. It has always been my interest when I was a Regular MLA. We do continue to offer support in these areas. We support training programs through Aurora College and with our respective partnership from the Southern Institute, as well, deliver the ALTA program — aboriginal instructor' program — and also the CTIP program, TIP program.

Mr. Speaker, we also work with the communities. The elders are the most valuable tool in our communities as well. So we utilize their services in the communities, because they're the ones who give us wisdom and knowledge to pass on to our younger generation. We use them in our schools, in our communities, during activities, functions, with respect to education activities. We will continue to provide those services at the schools and at the community level. That's the areas we focus on. Mahsi.

**Mr. Bromley:** I appreciate the comments of the Minister. Most of the programs he mentioned, perhaps almost all, were focused on children in school. Really, what we're learning is that so much of this potential takes place before children are school-aged. So I'm particularly interested in getting elders together with the very young.

In my time in communities, I see a lot of elders looking for something to do, in a way, especially when they are unable to be as physically active as they may have been before. This seems like a huge opportunity.

What programs are we pursuing, or will the Minister commit to, that will get those proficient language speakers and culture holders together with the very young?

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty:** Mr. Speaker, we do provide programs such as Head Start, a pre-school aboriginal language and cultural perspective, and also we're promoting more aboriginal languages at school, whether it be K-12 or continuing on. We do have aboriginal instructors in classrooms as well. We do also utilize elders, as I indicated earlier, and we had an aboriginal instructors' forum last month, I do believe, to try to get their input into how we can produce even more children to speak their language.

So we are getting input from the groups and also from the community leaders and also from the elders on how we can improve our programs and also the support we deliver in our communities. We will continue to seek out all the information, input and advice that we possibly can to improve our

programs. With that, we are doing what we can under the department. Mahsi.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final, short supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

**Mr. Bromley:** The other point that I know is of concern is that our early childhood workers often don't meet the educational standards, particularly the federal standards they are coming out with. The Aurora College programs are currently not producing qualified child care workers. I would like to hear what the Minister is doing on this and any reinvestment-type opportunities he sees with respect to any of these questions I have asked.

**Hon. Jackson Lafferty:** Mr. Speaker, we do provide funding to our childhood development certification program at Aurora College. We will continue to do that. We are producing results. We are producing certified teachers, I guess we can call them. We'll focus on that as well, and where we can improve our program, we are certainly open to that. Certainly we will take those into consideration, and we will continue to support in these areas. Mahsi.

QUESTION 146-16(2)  
CONTRACT FOR  
WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

**Ms. Bisaro:** I would like to ask the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs some questions about the RFP for bundled implementation for the five-community water treatment plants. I know that the Minister advised us yesterday that all is in order, but I am concerned about the process that has taken place. The Minister stated in the House yesterday that "this contract for procurement is still in process. I am very reluctant to speak to something that has ongoing negotiations."

Once an RFP is completed, the evaluation has been done and the winner declared, is it standard practice to enter into negotiation with the winning proponent?

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** That is correct. In the case of an RFP, if the RFP process allows for further discussion and negotiation to the highest-rated company, that can be done.

**Ms. Bisaro:** That seems a little unusual. Why would one bother to put a request for proposal together and get numbers and figures and so on if it is only going to be negotiated once the proposal has been done? It seems strange to me, as well, that if negotiations are taking place with the winning proponent, the losing proponent doesn't have the opportunity to negotiate terms and conditions. If the Minister could elaborate, please.

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, it is not at all unusual for a company to have further discussions

with our government if there is an area that needs clarification or further discussion.

**Ms. Bisaro:** Clarification — yes, I understand that. Thank you, Mr. Minister. However, there are a number of things about this process that don't smell right to me. The selected proponent was pitching this project to the five communities at least a year and a half ago, and the selected proponent helped MACA set up the proposal call document for the RFP. Is this standard procedure for a request for procedure process?

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, first of all, I have to correct the Member: we were the ones pitching the concept of bundling the project. We had serious problems attracting people to bid on these projects when they were put out on individual tenders. The costs that did come in on some of these other projects that are a concern to us were very high. We went to the communities. We sought out a company to give us a feasibility study on this concept, and we presented it to cabinet and decided to go on an open call for, first of all, a request for qualifications. We had five companies respond. We went to the next step and put out a request for proposals. There is nothing unusual about that.

**Ms. Bisaro:** It can cost the bidder for a project of this size up to \$400,000 to develop a good proposal, with no guarantee of success. The process used in this case suggests to me that it was the intent of MACA to give the project to the winning proponent from the start. If that was the department's intent, why do an RFP at all? Why not just sole-source the project in the first place, and save the other proponent the cost of developing the proposal?

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** There seems to be some assumption that we went into this with a decision that was already made about whom we would select. Of course, this is not at all correct. We haven't awarded the contract; there is still more discussion ongoing. The process was fair. We had a committee, an independent evaluation ongoing. We've had advice from Justice, and I don't know what more we could add to that. The company that has been informed that they weren't ranked the highest has been given some time, and they will get a debriefing.

As for the cost, I would really beg to differ that it cost \$400,000. However, there is, in the request for proposal, an allowance made for a company to get some reimbursement.

QUESTION 147-16(2)  
ACCESS TO  
FUEL SUPPLY IN INUVIK

**Mr. McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, in a couple of weeks the trapping season is going to start up in Inuvik, and that's when all the trappers go out and do their muskrat trapping. It's been a way of life for many years. But this year we might be running into some problems if we don't get our gas issue taken care of and dealt with.

I'd like to direct my questions today to the Premier. I'd like to ask him what the government is doing to help mediate the fuel shortage in Inuvik.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, we have in fact been working. The Public Works and Services Petroleum Products Division has been in contact with community members as well, and Imperial Oil — their representatives, the agent — to try to come up with some information so we know where we're starting from; and then as well making contact to get further information as to what the plans are for ensuring the community has a sufficient amount of gas and fuel for the winter season.

**Mr. McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, I'd also like to ask the Premier. He did mention that we were in contact. But I'd like to ask him if we've had regular communication with NTCL, who was supposed to deliver the fuel, and Esso, who was supposed to load the fuel into the barge. Have we had contact with them as to what went wrong, and why it went wrong, and if there's anything that...? Have they taken responsibility?

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, the work that we have been doing is ensuring that there's fuel available in the community, working with Imperial on that side. We are aware of some of the comments or the issues between NTCL and Imperial. We've tried to gather information on that side.

When it comes right down to it, we have a limited role that we can play. But we are concerned and we are sharing that concern that it doesn't matter to us, as representatives, if it was a community we served or the private sector: their arrangements to get fuel or supplies to a community are their business. But they should ensure that it gets there, and if they've made a mistake or an error, that cross shouldn't be passed on to the individuals.

We're still working on the fact that they need to supply the community, and it shouldn't be based on rationing anything.

**Mr. McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Premier. We've already heard that the cost is being passed on to the consumers, which is unfortunate. But as a government, would we be able to truck gas

in to ensure gas stations at least have their supply of gas to serve the community?

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, if the companies or the delivery agent — or not the delivery agent, because the delivery agent is for Imperial, but the companies — that pump out gas in that community would make a request, we would consider that. We know in fact when there was talk of potential shortage, through the Petroleum Products Division, an offer for 400,000 litres was made. We were informed it wasn't required.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Mr. McLeod:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Premier. He said that we were informed that that \$400,000 wasn't required. Who actually informed us them that the fuel was not required?

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, a correction: it was 400,000 litres of fuel.

When it first came up, our communication between the Petroleum Products Division and Imperial was to see if, in fact, there was a shortfall that needed to be addressed. We had some volume that we felt we could allow them to use and reimburse us later. We were informed at that point that that was not necessary. Thank you.

QUESTION 148-16(2)  
PROJECT ELIGIBILITY  
FOR BUILDING CANADA FUND

**Mr. Menicoche:** Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Transportation.

I don't know how it's going to relate, but it was certainly good news to finally sign off on the Building Canada Fund this afternoon. Some of my questions, of course, like with many of my colleagues, are on exactly how it's going to roll out and how it's going to play out. More specifically, say there is a project like chip sealing the remainder of Highway No. 1 and Highway No. 7. How would that fit in the scheduling and planning of allocating those funds?

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, we have a lead Minister that's dealing with the Building Canada Fund on the infrastructure side, that being Minister McLeod, so I'd ask that that be redirected to Minister Michael McLeod. Thank you.

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, we have a two-phase process that's identified for the initiatives under the Building Canada plan. The first phase was signed off today, and that includes the amount of money we'd be receiving through this fund and also a commitment for ongoing investment in the gas tax program. The next step will be to sign off on the financial agreement, and we expect that to start taking place. We have identified the areas that the

investments will be required in, and those are the areas of transportation and municipal governments or communities.

On the municipal side we've started the discussion with the NWT Association of Communities to see how we can flow the dollars to the communities. It hasn't been decided whether it will be by project or on a formula. We have to also consult with the federal government on whether these processes will be allowable.

From the transportation side the Department of Transportation will be packaging up a comprehensive list of what projects may be eligible, and that will include everything that's in the capital plan, everything that has been brought forward as part of the strategies, Corridors for Canada, and other projects that have been identified through our own strategic plan with the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. That will be brought forward and shared with the Members so that we can have discussion on it. Thank you.

**Mr. Menicoche:** Mr. Speaker, that's certainly something that our communities will be very anxious to get to work on and help government with their priorities.

Just with respect to some of the commitments that were in Corridors for Canada, I believe the Deh Cho Connection was listed in there. In having that on the long-term priorities, it sounds like they have to redo another set of priorities working with the federal government. Can the Minister detail how that's going to play out? Is it a 15-year capital plan, or is it an annual capital plan? Thank you.

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, in the discussions that we had earlier on with committees, it started out that there was some desire to see a long-term investment plan put together that would cover all the seven years. That's something that's up for consideration. However, as the Member knows, that would have to be approved on an annual basis. We're trying to put enough information together so that we can have a good discussion on it and identify the different areas that need investments. I should also point out that there was a motion passed in this House for a couple of projects to be considered.

This whole agreement is based on investment from the federal government. It also requires investment from the Territorial government of 25 per cent. With any projects that are not on the capital plan or are coming from communities or are in one of the strategies, we'd have to have enough comfort that we can identify the 25 per cent. So those things will have to be considered and allowed for. Thank you.

**Mr. Menicoche:** Mr. Speaker, of course exciting news with this announcement. Just in terms of the general public, when can we see some impacts, whether it's municipal or transportation projects

being delivered, as a result of this announcement and expenditure? Mahsi.

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, I think we're starting to see some of that already. Today the federal government announced that they'd like to move forward with the Kakisa Bridge, something that's in our interim appropriation, so we're quite excited about that. I'm already getting the sense that we're campaigning for projects in the different ridings.

Mr. Speaker, we fully expect to have and be able to have some discussion with my cabinet colleagues and also the Regular Members. Sometime in mid-March for sure, if we're going to do anything this year, we'll have to have them approve it in the main. That will be sometime in the third week of March. So we'll really need to get going on these initiatives and start putting things together. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final, short supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Mr. Menicoche:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I was just trying to grasp the sense, as well, of how this is going to play out with our recent announcements of cutbacks, and now we're looking at some reinvestment. Would this be classified as a reinvestment?

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, of course, our capital investment is based on some of our surplus and our ability to borrow. This actually helps us in a way, that any projects that are on our capital list or on our needs are now being invested in from our side with 25-cent dollars. So it will help us. It should free up some dollars for reallocation and maybe loosen up the tight squeeze we're in. Thank you.

#### QUESTION 149-16(2) HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE

**Mr. Jacobson:** Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Minister of Transportation. Is the construction of the Mackenzie Highway through the Mackenzie Valley and right to the Beaufort Sea a priority of this Minister and the government?

**Hon. Norman Yakeleya:** Mr. Speaker, the Premier's special statement highlighted the Mackenzie Valley Highway right up to the Arctic coast. It's been the priority of this department, it's been the priority of this government for a long time, and I think it's been a priority of the people of Nunakput.

**Mr. Jacobson:** Mr. Speaker, what is the role of the federal government with respect to the construction of new roads in the N.W.T.? Thank you.

**Hon. Norman Yakeleya:** Mr. Speaker, since the 1980s the Territorial government has assumed

responsibility for the highways. It's always been our point and the point of this government that the responsibility for new highway infrastructure is the federal government's responsibility, and this government is working very closely with the federal government in terms of seeking out new infrastructure in the Northwest Territories. I'm going to continue to lead that with the federal government. However, we are working on possible partnerships in terms of infrastructure that would benefit all people of the Northwest Territories.

**Mr. Jacobson:** Mr. Speaker, given that the road to the Arctic coast is a priority of this government, the federal government has the responsibility for new roads in the N.W.T. Now we have access to federal infrastructure funds for N.W.T. transportation and municipal projects. Can the Minister please commit to looking at work that we could include under the agreement to initiate the priority of a section of my access road into source 177? Thank you.

**Hon. Norman Yakeleya:** Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with the members of the standing committee and honourable colleagues on this side, Members of the House, working with stakeholders and businesses, people in all areas of the Northwest Territories so that we have access, opportunities to talk about funding and working in partnership. I commit that this department will do its best in terms of working with all stakeholders in ensuring that funding, if possible, can be available through the type of agreements that we have. Minister Michael McLeod signed this afternoon with the federal government in terms of ensuring that investment down the Mackenzie Valley is well spent by this government.

QUESTION 150-16(2)  
CRITERIA RESPECTING  
STRATEGIC REDUCTION EXERCISE

**Mr. Abernethy:** Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned in my Member's statement, we are currently faced with \$135 million in budget reductions over the next two years. My question is to the Premier. I believe the departments have been tasked by cabinet to identify areas for reduction. What criteria were provided to the departments to assist them in identifying areas for reduction? Thank you.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, we went through an exercise of allocation and, as well, giving guidelines as to what could be considered for savings or for reallocation or reinvestment. Some of the criteria of our programs — mandatory delivery programs, or what we're legislated to do — is something that would have to be reviewed by every department. For the other areas, for example, we sat down in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly and came up with our vision, goals and priorities. Along with that, we've turned those into the strategic investment initiatives and highlighted a number of areas for

reinvestment. The departments were informed that they were to look at other areas that were outside of the reinvestment as a potential area as well. Thank you.

**Mr. Abernethy:** Mr. Speaker, how do these criteria affect the critical positions in this government such as those of nurses? Thank you.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, the departments are well aware of the challenges in delivering the services to our communities large and small. They are having a difficult time meeting the demands. As the Member has highlighted, the nursing side has always been a challenge in our communities. So the departments, as they've come through that scenario, again were mandated to deliver programs at levels in communities that still have to be met through this exercise. As we go through this exercise, Health has its overall target to meet, but it also has to look at the delivery it is mandated to deliver for people in the North. Thank you.

**Mr. Abernethy:** Mr. Speaker, in the announcement of the reductions there was reference to reinvestment. If the government is looking for \$135 million, how much will actually be reinvested back into the public service? How will it be done, and what criteria for reinvestment will be used? Thank you.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, the reduction scenario and areas where we need to find permanent savings is in the area of \$60 million. The target for reinvestment, putting back into the strategic areas, as we've highlighted in the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, is targeted at \$75 million. We're going to have to start at a smaller pace because we realize that we won't be able to achieve the savings, number one, and enough savings to reinvest, number two. So it will start off at a smaller pace and grow for the life of this Assembly as we continue to reinvest. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary, Mr. Abernethy.

**Mr. Abernethy:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, \$135 million is a lot of money. It's going to be hard to find these dollars. What will happen if we don't reach the targets that have been set by this government?

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, if we don't change the course we're on today, before the end of the life of this government we will be in a dire situation. We would not be able to carry forward the business as laid out. We have to remind ourselves sometimes that we are spending \$1.2 billion for 43,000 people in the Northwest Territories.

There's got to be a way. We're starting to do that exercise, and we'll be more so in the second year of government, re-focusing and looking at how we spend that money and what the results are for that investment. I think we have to consider it as an

investment. It's not just an expenditure; it's an investment in the people of the Northwest Territories. If we don't change that, we will, in fact, be in a situation where we won't be able to continue on with capital projects. We'll have to reduce those. We'll have to take a serious look at all the delivery programs we have.

QUESTION 151-16(2)  
ISSUES WITHIN THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

**Mr. Ramsay:** Mr. Speaker, I've got some questions today for the Minister of Human Resources. It gets back to my Member's statement from earlier today where I talked of it taking months to fill vacant positions within the G.N.W.T. public service. Also, some grievances that I'm aware of are two and a half years in duration.

I'd like to ask the Minister what standards are in place in the department in terms of time frames to make sure the positions are filled in a timely and efficient manner and that grievances are addressed.

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, with regard to staffing, we have some guidelines that we adhere to. With regard to grievances or arbitration, it depends on at what level the union submits their grievances.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering. The Minister had mentioned the standards that they adhere to. Is that from time to time, I wonder? I'm aware of it sometimes taking months to fill positions. I'm wondering if the Minister could look at putting in an accountability factor and looking at a Web-based competition status so that people who are applying for jobs know exactly where that competition is at.

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, I know the Member has the best interests of the government at heart. Competitions generally take about eight weeks. The competitions are controlled by the managers of the various departments. The things that can delay competitions could be a number of factors. They can include managers not being available, candidates not being available, having a person in an interview being unsuccessful so you have to re-book the file. There could also be appeals. But generally the rule of thumb is that competitions would be about eight weeks.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Mr. Speaker, I do have the interests of my constituents and the residents here in the Northwest Territories at heart when I do question the Minister.

I want to again get back to the accountability side of things. I think the department should look into a system like they have in Alberta, where it can tell the applicant whether the competition is in the

screening, interview, offer or appeal stage. That, to me, is a fairly straightforward accountability measure that the department should be employing.

I'd like to ask the Minister: will he take a look at the system they have in Alberta and try to get it implemented here?

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, we are always interested in looking at ways to improve our level of services. Certainly we will look at the Alberta model and look at implementing it, if it will improve our level of service as indicated by the Member.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering if the Minister can also commit to looking at grievances and the length of time it takes for employees to have grievances heard. As I mentioned, I'm aware of some that are two or two and a half years in duration. That's unacceptable, and I want to hear from the Minister what he has in terms of adding some accountability to that process.

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct that we do have a big issue with grievances and arbitrations. As of last week there are 233 outstanding arbitrations. As the Member knows, it takes two to tango. For over a year we've had difficulty in scheduling arbitrations with the Union of Northern Workers. The grievances have been filed at the highest level, so they go directly to arbitration. Arbitrations take some time to resolve.

We have had discussion with the union, and we've set up a very aggressive timetable or schedule to begin to address these outstanding arbitrations.

QUESTION 152-16(2)  
TRAINING STAFF FOR  
YOUTH AND RECREATION PROGRAMS

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Mahsi cho. Mr. Speaker, today I have questions for the Minister of MACA. Today I spoke about the many challenges my communities are facing regarding hiring properly trained recreation youth staff.

In response to my previous question on challenges in communities hiring trained recreation staff, the Minister of MACA acknowledges it was something that was recognized for quite some time.

I'd like to ask the Minister: Would he commit to following through with his commitment to meet with me to discuss these challenges, possibly redirecting financing to find solutions?

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** I've already committed to meeting with one of the communities in the Member's riding. It wouldn't take a whole lot more effort to meet with the Member in the other community he represents, Fort Resolution. We'd be

glad to talk about budgeting and being able to redirect financing and things of that nature with the communities, along with the Member.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** Thank you to the Minister for that answer.

Mr. Speaker, I pointed out the successes that we all are aware of in the trades program. Just look at all the apprentices in our community. Would the Minister commit to supporting the recreation director-type position and the trades apprentices-type approach or possibly working with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to reinstate the Public Service Career Training Program?

**Hon. Michael McLeod:** I certainly would commit to working with the Department of Education to look at how we can improve the numbers for qualified recreational staff. Aurora College already has a program, the Recreation Leaders Program; however, there is no real mechanism for an apprenticeship type of program in the community. Some communities have gone as far as to develop training plans for their communities, but it's a kind of one-off situation designed specifically for their community. I would like to see that brought forward as a template.

We also have a number of programs geared toward our recreation facility maintainers through the School of Community Government. I'd be glad to share that information with the Member also.

**Mr. Beaulieu:** I don't have anything further. I'd just thank the Minister for those answers.

QUESTION 153-16(2)  
SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS  
IN INUVIK REGION

**Mr. Krutko:** Presently there's a health crisis going on in the Inuvik region. It has to do with providing medical services to the whole Mackenzie Delta and Beaufort Sea communities and Inuvik itself. Right now we're short some five doctors in Inuvik; we're down to four doctors when we should have nine. Clinic tours to our communities have been cancelled because of the shortage of doctors. In regard to the collective negotiation that's going on, they seem to have no problem filling the Yellowknife Stanton hospital, which has some 27 positions. Out of that, 26 are filled.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, this health crisis we have in our communities is.... Without having medical services by way of shortages of nurses and, more importantly, doctors.... Doctors are the ones who play the most important role in our health care system. Without doctors, we're just another Third World country.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services: what are we doing as a government to ensure we have the capacity to deal with delivering health care services, especially with the shortage of doctors in the Inuvik region?

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the Member for the question. As I indicated to the Member from Nunakput yesterday, we are experiencing a very unusual situation, even within the context of the shortages of doctors and health care professionals we normally face.

This month two doctors were on scheduled leave, and the other two decided to move elsewhere to practise. Right now we are operating with about 50 per cent of our normal complement of doctors.

We are actively searching to fill the positions by locums so that we can provide the services. Beaufort-Delta made a choice of not being able to have the doctors visit communities, but we continue to provide services through the nurses in our clinics, who are able to be in touch with the doctors.

This is a very serious situation. We are aware of that, and we are working hard to fix the situation.

**Mr. Speaker:** The time for question period has expired. I will allow the Member a supplementary question.

**Mr. Krutko:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole health care system is dependent on four doctors to provide services to eight communities in the Beaufort-Delta Region. It's not realistic to ask these doctors to provide that service and also ensure that we will have a stable health care system.

Also, the Minister stated that nurses....

**Mr. Speaker:** Please ask your question, Mr. Krutko.

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Speaker, it's not only the crisis with the doctors. We also have shortages with nurses in communities where our health centres are being closed or put on emergency notice.

Can the Minister tell me exactly how many health care centres in the Inuvik region are on emergency notice, where they can only deal with emergency cases?

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Mr. Speaker, all eight communities in the Beaufort-Delta Region are on a regular course of business. They do have the full nursing and primary health care services, including nurse practitioners and nurses.

We are not able to have doctors make regularly scheduled visits to communities as they usually have done, once or twice a month. Right now the community health nurses and nurse practitioners have to rely on doctors' services by phone.

We are working hard to fill the positions with the locums and to have more doctors in place in that region as soon as possible. We do understand this is a very unusual situation.

**Mr. Speaker:** A short supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Mr. Krutko:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Can the Minister tell me exactly how soon these doctors' positions can be filled in the Inuvik region so that the residents of the Beaufort-Delta Region will have some comfort, knowing that those positions will be filled?

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Mr. Speaker, this is on high alert, obviously, because we only have four full-time-equivalent positions, or hours available, of doctors' services out of the eight that we normally have.

We are doing everything we possibly can to fill them with the locums and to fill the permanent positions as soon as possible.

**Mr. Speaker:** Final, short supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Mr. Krutko:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister give me a month, date, year by which she's going to fill these positions?

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday I stated in the House that we would like to have the full complement by the end of March, either by locums or by other means, but we are hoping we could do it sooner than that, if at all possible.

**Mr. Speaker:** Item 9, written questions. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents.

### Tabling of Documents

**Hon. Bob McLeod:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled *Government of the Northwest Territories 2007 Public Service Annual Report*.

Document 33-16(2), *Government of the Northwest Territories 2007 Public Service Annual Report*, tabled.

**Hon. Sandy Lee:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled *Status of Women Council of the N.W.T. annual report 2006-2007*.

Document 34-16(2), *Status of Women Council 2006-2007 Annual Report*, tabled.

**Hon. Michael Miltenberger:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled *N.W.T.*

*Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Report 2008*.

Document 35-16(2), *N.W.T. Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation Report, 2008*, tabled.

**Mr. Speaker:** Pursuant to Section 68 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, I wish to table the *2006-2007 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Information and Privacy Commissioner*.

Document 36-16(2), *2006-2007 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Information and Privacy Commissioner*, tabled.

**Mr. Ramsay:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 9, written questions.

Unanimous consent granted.

### Written Questions Reversion

#### QUESTION 11-16(2) DIRECT APPOINTMENTS

**Mr. Ramsay:** My question is for the Department of Human Resources.

Please provide a comprehensive, up-to-date list of direct appointments by department for the past four years.

Please provide the affirmative action status of those persons directly appointed and a justification for each hire.

**Mr. Speaker:** Item 15, notices of motion.

### Notices of Motion

#### MOTION 8-16(2) APOLOGY FOR RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL ABUSE

**Mr. Menicoche:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, May 22, 2008, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Assembly urge the Prime Minister of Canada to make a public apology to the many aboriginal people who suffered abuse while attending federally funded residential schools, and further, that this Assembly strongly recommends the Premier of the Northwest Territories communicate this desire to the Prime Minister at the next opportunity.

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

**Mr. Speaker:** Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions, Mr. Krutko.

### Motions

MOTION 6-16(2)  
ACCESS ROADS TO GRAVEL SOURCES  
MOTION CARRIED

**Mr. Krutko:**

WHEREAS there is a longstanding need for the communities of Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk to have roads to access nearby gravel sources and to allow for future infrastructure such as lagoons and water sources;

AND WHEREAS the community of Tuktoyaktuk urgently requires gravel to address shoreline erosion;

AND WHEREAS the community of Aklavik experienced severe flooding in 2006 and continues to be at high risk for severe floods in the future;

AND WHEREAS repairs to Aklavik's community roads following the 2006 flood came at significant cost and after lengthy delay due to the need to transport gravel from Inuvik;

AND WHEREAS investment in access to local sources of gravel is consistent with the Government's infrastructure priorities of protection of people and assets and would avoid the substantial costs of transporting gravel from distant sources;

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has announced new infrastructure funding for provinces and territories over the next seven years through the Building Canada Plan;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories make the construction of access roads to gravel sources for the communities of Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk priority projects under the new Building Canada plan funding;

AND FURTHER, that should the construction of these access roads not meet the criteria for the Building Canada plan funding that the Government of the Northwest Territories make these projects priorities in its infrastructure acquisition plan.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion is on the floor. To the motion.

Motion carried.

MOTION 7-16(2)  
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE  
TO MAY 22, 2008  
MOTION CARRIED

**Ms. Bisaro:**

I MOVE, seconded by the Hon. Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding rule 4, when this House adjourns on February 21, 2008, it shall be adjourned until Thursday, May 22, 2008.

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to May 22, 2008, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

Motion carried.

**Mr. Menicoche:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today. Mahsi.

Unanimous consent granted.

MOTION 8-16(2)  
APOLOGY FOR  
RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL ABUSE  
MOTION CARRIED

**Mr. Menicoche:** Mahsi cho colleagues. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS generations of aboriginal children suffered physical and emotional abuse, leading to a loss of language, culture and parenting skills, while attending federally funded residential schools;

AND WHEREAS the impact of this abuse will continue to have an ill effect on the health and wellbeing of aboriginal people for generations to come;

AND WHEREAS while paying compensation to aboriginal people who attended residential school is appropriate, it does not address reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS a public apology by the Government of Canada would go a long way to addressing issues rising out of the abuse suffered while attending residential schools that many aboriginal people are still struggling with on a daily basis;

AND WHEREAS precedence exists in Canada vis-à-vis apologies made by the Federal Government to Japanese-Canadians wrongly interned during the Second World War and Chinese-Canadians who were subjected to the discriminatory immigration practice known as the head-tax;

AND WHEREAS other national governments, notably last week's apology on behalf of the Government of Australia by their Prime Minister, the Honourable Kevin Rudd to the Aborigine people of Australia acknowledging the damage done by past government practices;

AND WHEREAS it would be desirous for the Government of Canada to offer such an apology to the aboriginal people of Canada who were subject to abuse within the residential school system, in order to further reconciliation and forgiveness efforts;

NOW THEREFORE I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Assembly urges the Prime Minister of Canada to make a public apology to the many aboriginal people that suffered abuse while attending federally funded residential schools;

AND FURTHER, that this Assembly strongly recommends the Premier of the Northwest Territories communicate this desire to the Prime Minister at the next opportunity.

**Mr. Speaker:** Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the motion.

**Mr. Menicoche:** I would like to thank all of the honourable colleagues and all here today for allowing me to put this motion forward through unanimous consent.

It is something that is affecting almost all of the people of the Northwest Territories, because I believe that over half of our population has been affected by the residential school system. It was something that was imposed upon our aboriginal people — and not only aboriginal people, Mr. Speaker, it was anybody that lived in the North through the laws of the eras of the '40s, '50s, '60s. It was actually mandated law that children must be in school. Because of the vastness of the Northwest Territories, they were actually forcibly taken from their communities and forced into central school systems.

To me, I attended those schools, too, Mr. Speaker. I was forced to go to these schools. And I never did understand the reason why I had to be away from family life. And it was the same for many, many people that entered these systems as well. But today I understand that it was a mandated law. And both through school.... I went to the Lester B. Pearson College of the Pacific in B.C.

In some of my research, I was researching colonialism. And the policies of the day are exactly from the colonialist policies of the past that were instituted here in the Northwest Territories. I often tell people that the people in power, the government of the day, had 300 years experience in Africa before they came over to North America

and instituted the same old colonial policies which, by and large, still exist today.

Just in terms of destroying a whole way of life, a whole people, I was really affected. And it's only now that there's been a resurgence of aboriginal rights and identity and wanting to show the world our culture — that it was once a vibrant, viable economy, culture and people. And we still are today. We're an integral part of Canada.

I believe that the longer the Government of Canada takes to apologize to the aboriginal peoples of this country, it keeps the healing and reconciliation that has to happen on the back burner. It keeps us away a lot longer from the healing of the tragedy of our past, Mr. Speaker.

By and large, through the common experience payments and the residential school payments that have been happening over the last six months or so, that is recognition by the Government of Canada that there was a wrong and that they should apologize for it. I don't see why they have to go through one more stage in order to do that.

I was really happy to see that in Australia, they had a huge ceremony at the opening of their House just two weeks ago. They had their Aborigines; they had their culture; they had their hand drumming; they had music. And there was great, great fanfare of finally recognizing a wrong by their government and working towards healing and closing the gap of their tragedy as well.

And indeed it's a tragedy of ours. This chapter of our life should have some closure — not only to close the door but a closure in the sense of recognition that this type of incident, of activity that happened, of residential schools, of forcing people into the residential schools, should never, ever happen again. I believe that part of that apology should say that.

As well, as I travel about as an MLA for the past four years, people ask me about this residential school system and how it impacts us. People really didn't understand what really happened. To me, that's because it was such a sad chapter in our history that it wasn't even in our history books. I don't believe that even in our school systems, people are made aware of the impact and the things that they've done to our people to try to erase from us the memories of our proud and historic past.

Today we're a proud nation. And we want to share that pride with all Canadians. This is one step in doing it. I believe the apology is important as well as to ensure that it never happens again and to ensure that everybody knows the story of what really happened.

So it really touches me to have this motion debated and spoken in this House. I look forward to full support when this vote comes for this motion, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

**Mr. Krutko:** Mr. Speaker, it's an honour to second this motion, knowing the threat of residential schools and also that First Nations people in Canada have suffered under these long-held policies of past governments.

Yet, it's still originates in our communities, from the suicides that we see, the alcoholism, the physical abuse — it's still there today.

Mr. Speaker, I was amazed to find out that in my home community, Fort McPherson, there was a residential school operated by the church in 1895. That's how far back you can go to recognize how this was implemented in Canada. We've had residential schools in Hay River, Fort Providence, most of the regional centres, Fort Simpson, Fort Smith. Along with my colleague, I went to a few of these places.

And yet the thing that stands out the most is to talk to your elders and hear of the experiences they went through. They were taken away from their parents at the age of five. They were taken to Hay River, and they were kept there till they were 12 years old, before they were let back home. Seven years you were put into that institution. Seven years you did not get to see your siblings, your parents, your grandparents, your relatives in your home community.

They send you back to your community after you've been gone for seven years, and you try to reunite with your family, not able to speak your aboriginal language to your parents, your grandparents, your siblings. Not being able to have the skills to sustain yourself in the harsh environment of a trapping community or a community that has to sustain itself through hunting, trapping and fishing. Not having those skills because you were put into a system that they were trying to brainwash you from having those abilities to carry out those skills.

Yet today we look around and see the problems that still originate in our communities. You can trace an individual's family tree to where a lot of this stuff started from. It will take you all the way back to your grandparents, who were put in those institutions for seven years. And that's why we're burdened with problems we still see in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, as with anything else that happens around us, I think you get a lot more out of having an argument with somebody than simply saying, "Here's a bunch of cash; we'll take care of the problem," rather than approaching an individual, confronting them and saying you're sorry and honestly meaning that you're sorry. It goes a lot more till you feel it in your heart. Money isn't solving

your problems. I think an apology from the Government of Canada will go a long way, like it did in Australia from the Prime Minister there, to make that public announcement and to basically have the reaction of the indigenous people of Australia. The same thing should happen here in Canada.

With that, I look forward to the support of all the colleagues in this House in directing the Prime Minister of Canada to seriously apologize to all the aboriginal people of Canada. Thank you.

Applause.

**Mr. Hawkins:** Mr. Speaker, I won't be long, but I do want to emphasize a particular point. A lot of homes were broken up and challenged by this policy of the government. But the fact that they actually decided to make payment as compensation to recognize the mistake demonstrates the courage we need to have to take the next step to do the right thing, which is to formalize that through an apology. With that note, I hope our Premier will deliver that message. That one little step further may mean not just a little but a lot to a lot of people who have suffered through this.

**Hon. Floyd Roland:** Mr. Speaker, as we've come through a convention and as we're being directed, and especially as the Premier is being directed to deliver this message, we would, on the cabinet side, be abstaining from this vote. Thank you.

**Mr. Speaker:** I will allow closing debate to the Member who moved the motion. Mr. Menicoche.

**Mr. Menicoche:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Indeed, for me, it is a great honour for this House to direct our interest in telling Canada that yes, we as the political body of the Northwest Territories are representing the majority of the population of aboriginals and the majority of the population that suffered in the residential school system that indeed a public apology accompanying that should be on the forefront of the national agenda. I know that federally they are waiting for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to finish their report, but some time it's coming. I believe this apology can start the healing a lot sooner than that. There's talk of a federal election now that further delays cause inaction on this file.

Once again, the file is about destroying a once proud people through government-instituted policies and indeed, an apology should be forthcoming and not be relegated to a bureaucratic jungle. This should be something that, to me, strikes when the iron is hot. I believe the federal government can take this opportunity to tell all Canadians that yes, we erred as well. We did it to the Chinese and the Japanese, but we did it to our aboriginal people first and for the longest, too. I

don't know why they're waffling and waiting, but it's something they've already recognized and they're already doing, so I believe an apology should happen sooner than later.

Just to further reiterate the pain and suffering that happened, my honourable colleague from Mackenzie Delta speaks about being five years old. That's a very small child to be taken away from families and put into institutions. That indeed is a sad chapter, as well as what that had created, especially if they are there for seven and, in some cases, twelve years in the system.

You've taken them away from home, family and cultural values, and you've created a whole cultural gap, as well as the age gap that happens because you're away from home for so long. Your normal interactions with your grandparents, the elders in your community, all that is gone. Any knowledge lost from our elders about our way of life is a huge, huge loss. Today we look to the elders to learn from them because we missed out a big gap in our life.

With that, Mr. Speaker, once again I urge all my colleagues to vote in favour of this motion, and to Mr. Premier, to take our direction seriously and speak with the Prime Minister at the earliest opportunity and convey the desire of this House.

I would like to request we go to a recorded vote. Mahsi.

**Mr. Speaker:** The Member is asking for a recorded vote on the motion. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

**Clerk of the House (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. R. McLeod, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Abernethy.

**Mr. Speaker:** All those opposed to the motion, please stand. All those abstaining from the motion, please stand.

**Clerk of the House (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Roland, Mr. M. McLeod, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. B. McLeod.

**Mr. Speaker:** Results of the vote: 11 for, zero against, seven abstaining.

Motion carried.

Applause.

**Mr. Speaker:** Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Item 22, third reading of bills.

Colleagues, before the Commissioner enters the Chamber to assent to bills, I would like to draw the

attention of all Members to the presence of Mr. Myles Moreside in the Visitors' Gallery. He's easy to spot up there.

Applause.

He is surrounded by his many friends and colleagues here in the Assembly. I understand there are also some exchange students in the gallery as well.

As Members know, Mr. Moreside will retire from public service at the end of this month after 25 years of loyal and dedicated service. Today marks the last sitting day of his long and distinguished career. I think it is appropriate that we take just a moment, for the record, to express our gratitude to Mr. Moreside.

I should begin by saying that I have a vested interest in interrupting the House proceedings today for this important occasion. I've heard that Mr. Moreside intends to write a book about his many unique experiences within the halls of this institution.

I hope that any kind words I have for him today will be met with similar kindness to me as he puts pen to paper in the weeks and months ahead.

Laughter.

Myles joined the public service of the Northwest Territories in 1983 as a revenue and taxation analyst with the Department of Finance. He finally saw the light and accepted a position with the Legislative Assembly in 1987. Back in those days, the House staff was much smaller than it is now, and they were located in the Yellowknife Inn. Myles's first job title with the House was Chief of Finance and Administration. That title didn't last long, as some of the aboriginal Members took offence to having to refer to a member of their staff as "Chief."

Laughter.

I have had the good fortune to know Myles since my election as a Member in 1999, and the even better fortune to have had him as my Director of Corporate Services during my two terms as Speaker and Chair of the Board of Management.

As Members know, the board often has to fit its meetings around the busy schedules of the House and its committees. Often our meetings take place at the rise of the House and run through the dinner hour. For years I have been curious as to why Myles never ate a meal with the rest of the board and the staff when we were working. It wasn't until a few days ago that I learned the reason why.

Years ago, while appearing before a committee, a Member asked a question that was, let's say, not overly intelligent. Myles was just about to swallow a

mouthful of food when the question was asked, and it caused him to nearly choke in the middle of the meeting. Ever since he has refrained from eating at meetings, just in case a similar intelligent question was asked.

Laughter.

Colleagues, in all seriousness, it is a great privilege for me to express the gratitude of all Members and, indeed, this entire institution for Mr. Moreside's many years of dedicated and fine service. I know that many of you have known Myles and worked with him for far longer than I have.

It is interesting to note that he has selected February 29 as his last day of work here. This is indeed a leap year, and we don't often get to enjoy an additional day in February. However, just as leap years are rare occasions, so are employees with the dedication and commitment of Mr. Myles Moreside.

Myles, on behalf of the Members and staff of the Legislative Assembly and, indeed, the people of the Northwest Territories, I thank you for your service and wish you and Kim and your children and grandson all the enjoyment you deserve in the next exciting stage of your life.

Applause.

I would like to ask all Members and staff to join me in the Members' Lounge for an informal reception to celebrate both the completion of this sitting and the celebration of an outstanding career.

Myles, just in case you're thinking about not attending, just remember who signs your record of employment.

Laughter.

Mr. Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Hon. Anthony J. Whitford, is prepared to enter the House to assent to bills?

**Commissioner of the Northwest Territories (Hon. Tony Whitford):** Monsieur le président, monsieur le premier ministre, messieurs et mesdames les députés, mesdames et messieurs et mes amis.

Once again it is my privilege and my pleasure to be back among you again.

I would like to join the Speaker, the honourable Members of this House and the staff of the Legislative Assembly, past and present, and the Department of the Executive in extending my personal best wishes to Myles Moreside on the occasion of his retirement from the public service.

I have known Myles for many years in my terms as a Member of this House and as your Speaker. I wish to extend best wishes to Myles and his wife, Kim, for a very happy and long retirement together. I would add that I had received a couple of phone calls from persons in the Okanagan wishing Myles the best in his retirement from his former staff.

With the return to Yellowknife of the Arctic Winter Games in March, I look forward to joining many of you at some of the competitions and those special events that have been set out. As many of you know, Stuart Hodgson, the ninth Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, will be attending the opening ceremonies of the Games, along with his son and grandson. It will be a personal honour to welcome Mr. Hodgson back to the Northwest Territories for what I am sure is to be a most enjoyable week.

A personal honour, because when I graduated from the University of Calgary in 1977, Mr. Hodgson was there giving the keynote speech. And in his address he said to the Northern students, "Now that you've completed your education here, I hope that some of you will come back to the Northwest Territories and help develop what is the future of Canada and the future of the North." And some of us did.

During the Arctic Winter Games, I am delighted to be hosting a meeting with the other two Territorial Commissioners, Mrs. Geraldine Van Bibber from the Yukon and Mrs. Ann Hanson from Nunavut. They will be visiting Yellowknife to attend the opening ceremony of the Games and some of the sporting activities as well as the cultural activities.

I am so honoured and excited to be a volunteer with the Arctic Winter Games. I will be a driver and a "raconteur" to the VIP venue lounges. Maybe someone here, after hearing all my stories again and again, won't want to come back. But I'm sure they will, because of the hospitality.

### Assent to Bills

And now, as Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

Bill 1, Interim Appropriation Act, 2008-2009

Bill 2, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2007-2008

Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act

As we adjourn from this House, I wish you safe travels and a very busy, very productive time as you continue your work. Until we meet again in May, I want to wish you good travels.

Merci beaucoup, quyanini, mahsi cho.

**Mr. Speaker:** Before we go to Orders of the Day, colleagues, I'd just like to acknowledge the pages who have been working in the House this week. We have had two pages from Tu Nedhe, two from Frame Lake, two from Nahendeh, one from Kam Lake, and one from Weledeh. I want to thank all the pages who have been here this week. We appreciate the work you do for us.

Applause.

Also, colleagues, seeing that this is the last day of our sitting for this session, I want to thank all Members on both sides of the House, on behalf of all the people of the Northwest Territories, for the dedicated work you do for the people. I know the work is not done. We're heading out, and everybody has very busy schedules. I want to wish each and every one of you safe and enjoyable travels until we meet again. I look forward to meeting again in May.

### Orders of the Day

**Clerk of the House (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the Day for Thursday, May 22, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.:

- 1) Prayer
- 2) Budget Address
- 3) Ministers' Statements
- 4) Members' Statements
- 5) Reports of Standing and Special Committees
- 6) Returns to Oral Questions

- 7) Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
- 8) Acknowledgements
- 9) Oral Questions
- 10) Written Questions
- 11) Returns to Written Questions
- 12) Replies to Opening Address
- 13) Replies to Budget Address (Day 1 of 7)
- 14) Petitions
- 15) Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
- 16) Tabling of Documents
- 17) Notices of Motion
- 18) Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
- 19) Motions
- 20) First Reading of Bills
- 21) Second Reading of Bills
- 22) Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
- 23) Report of Committee of the Whole
- 24) Third Reading of Bills
- 25) Orders of the Day

**Mr. Speaker:** Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 22, 2008, at 1:30 p.m.

The House adjourned at 4:03 p.m.

