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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2000****MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Bonjour, bienvenue. Good afternoon, Members.

-- Applause

Thank you, thank you. I was keeping up with tradition. If not keeping up with it, setting it. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS**Member's Statement on Hay River District Education Authority Petition for Alternate Governance Model**

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hay River District Education Authority and their efforts to alter the governance structure of the Hay River education district. Mr. Speaker, on October 6, 2000, the Hay River District Education Authority put forward a position to the Honourable Jake Ootes, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, requesting the creation of a Hay River and area education division and divisional education council. This request, Mr. Speaker, is being made with a desire to streamline the administration of resources and maximize the results of programs and services they deliver. Mr. Speaker, the Hay River District Education Authority is comprised of a very dedicated group of volunteers and I commend them for the excellent job they perform week after week.

As you are probably aware, Mr. Speaker, Hay River is presently part of the South Slave region, which is headquartered out of Fort Smith. From day one, Mr. Speaker, this arrangement has proven problematic for Hay River and area. In 1997, the Hay River DEA proposed that each DEA negotiate its own individual agreement regarding the sharing of powers with the South Slave Divisional Education Council.

However, Mr. Speaker, in April of 1998, a motion to accept a single sharing of power agreement was passed by the South Slave Divisional Education Council by a vote of four to one with Hay River opposed. This motion, Mr. Speaker, closed the door to change within the existing structure and has compelled the Hay River DEA to petition for an alternate government model.

Mr. Speaker, 52 percent of the students in the South Slave region are based in Hay River. To this end, I feel strongly that Hay River should have local control over its resources. Mr.

Speaker, I am very much an advocate of having more control of resources at the community level. The community of Hay River is simply trying to take the next step in the evolution of community empowerment.

Mr. Speaker, Hay River is a very large and diverse community. By allowing the local education authority control over its own resources, it would be better able to focus on the concerns of the community it serves. Mr. Speaker, I believe that if the Hay River District Education Authority were granted control over their own schools, then this would provide for quicker and more efficient decision-making. It would also provide programming that better serves the needs of the multicultural makeup of Hay River.

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

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

MR. DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, I cannot stress enough that our children are our most valued resource. Mr. Speaker, I believe all of these factors would result in improved community relationships, more efficient use of resources and improved overall student performance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement on Addictions Services in the North Slave Region

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In February, on the first day of my first Session in this House as an elected Member, I made a statement on the critical issue of addictions in my region. I shared a petition containing over 600 signatures asking for better services to deal with alcohol and drug addictions in the North Slave.

Last week was the implementation of Family Violence Awareness and Action Week across the Territories. I think if we were to go and talk with anyone in the present system, they would say that there is a direct link between alcoholism, drug abuse and family violence. I think the awareness is there. It is simply the action to deal with these issues that needs to take place. To this end, the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services is correct when she says we each have a role to play in working to eliminate family violence. I think that we,

as a government, not only have a role to play, we have a responsibility to address concerns that people are raising. From our region alone, there were over 600 signatures gathered from one community asking for better addiction facilities. I know the government has limited funding available. I also know that having only one facility in the entire Northwest Territories to deal with addictions does not begin to address the issue. At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister regarding this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement on Fort Smith Building Communities Tourism Conference

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak briefly on the issue of the conference that is being held in the South Slave, in Fort Smith from the 7th to the 9th. It is the third phase of the Building Communities Strategy. The focus and theme is, Tourism, A Tool for Community Development. I would like to commend all the players that have come together to pull this conference off. We have RWED, MACA, and Education, Culture and Employment as the main Government of the Northwest Territories players, along with Aurora College, Wood Buffalo National Park, Northwest Territories Arctic Tourism, Northwest Territories Association of Municipalities and Canadian Tourism Commission. As well, the participants include all levels of leadership at the municipal, Metis and band level, and at the community level.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very, very important conference. The issue of tourism has been before this House for years. I would like to commend the three main departments for the work they have done and the fact that they are working so cooperatively at the regional level.

I would also like to commend all the communities that are taking the time to attend this conference. There will be a host of us going down tomorrow. I would like to thank my colleagues for taking the time to come to Fort Smith, along with our constituents who will be there from the South Slave. As well, we are going to get the benefit of Mr. Lafferty and some Ministers coming down as well.

I think this is a very valuable conference. Tourism for us is critical. We do not have oil, we do not have gas or diamonds, but we do have a lot of tremendous tourism assets. I would like to thank all the participants. I look forward to our visit tomorrow. I would like to commend the departments within the Government of the Northwest Territories that have worked so hard, and a lot of the other staff at community and regional levels for pulling this together. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Mr. Miltenberger. Declaration des députés. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement on Funding for the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise to speak about northern development and the regulatory process. Mr. Speaker, the Premier, the Minister of Finance and others from this government have been spreading the word that consensus is building among Northerners that we want to see a pipeline down the Mackenzie Valley.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to do this, but I think it is also important to remember the decision will not be made on the basis of political leaders' statements. The final decision will be a business decision on which route is the most efficient.

Our government needs to be sure that we continue to build a strong consensus of Northerners and that the regulatory process will work efficiently or, by default, the route outside the Northwest Territories may become more attractive to industry. We have heard that there will be a meeting shortly of regulatory boards in the North to discuss a cooperative approach and this is a welcome idea. The Government of the Northwest Territories has a role to play here and should work with those agencies to ensure that we facilitate a cooperative approach.

There is a potential problem that we must be aware of and it has to do with the funding for the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board. Mr. Speaker, since 1992, the funding for the board has been fixed at about \$540,000. This level of funding is aimed at environmental hearings, not at the cost of running the office or other infrastructure needs.

Mr. Speaker, given the current continually increasing developments in oil and gas and other mining developments in the Territories, the board probably needs more like \$1 million to \$1.2 million to continue their program at the current levels. Given the increase in prospects for development, more funding is required to effectively deliver the mandate of the board.

In the last fiscal year, Mr. Speaker, the board proposed funding of \$1.7 million to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, but they only received \$1.1 million. That is obviously a substantial improvement from the \$540,000 they had received before but more funding is needed to meet increasing demand. Mr. Speaker, if additional work is required this year, such as consideration of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline, the current funding will not be sufficient. This could lead to delays, Mr. Speaker.

Our government needs to go after the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to ensure that adequate funding is available or our chances of becoming a "have" Territory could be seriously endangered.

-- Applause.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement on Restrictions on the Commercial Hunting of Wood Bison

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today concerns commercial hunting of Wood Bison in the Fort Providence area. Mr. Speaker, there are many commercial opportunities associated with big game hunting, in regard to the

Mackenzie Wood Bison that are being missed at the present time due to problems with the regulations.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that the Wood Bison were originally listed as an endangered species. This endangered species classification resulted with the Wood Bison originally being placed on the international CITES, appendix 1 list. However, it is further to my understanding that the Wood Bison have now been down-listed to the CITES appendix 2 listing. Species on appendix 2 are species not threatened with extinction but may become threatened if the trade goes unregulated.

Regrettably, Mr. Speaker, the United States legislation still prohibits the importation of Wood Bison and does not recognize the animal has been down-listed. This is unlike every other country in the world that now allows for importation of Wood Bison. This is a similar situation that we faced with the polar bear and big game outfitters a number of years ago. On that occasion, the Government of the Northwest Territories supported a lobby to have the United States laws changed for the importation of polar bears. I understand that the lobbying efforts were successful and that polar bears from certain areas of Canada can now be imported to the United States.

Mr. Speaker, similar efforts are now required of the Government of the Northwest Territories to assist for the changes of laws for the Wood Bison as well. This would greatly enhance our abilities to market the Wood Bison to the significant big game markets in the United States and thereby increase the value of the hunting tags.

The Government of the Northwest Territories should apply pressure to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service for importation privileges in regard to Wood Bison. We should let them know that we have a sport hunting program based upon sound scientific principles that allow for the maintenance of the Wood Bison population. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Member's Statement on Recognition of the New Yellowknife City Council and Mayor

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tonight, Mr. Speaker, at 7:00 o'clock in the city hall chambers, the City of Yellowknife will be swearing in a new council. They have eight councillors and a mayor. This new council was elected by the residents of Yellowknife last month and will serve our city for the next three years.

Residents of Yellowknife elected Mr. Gord Van Tighem to serve as mayor for our city. City council is represented by the following incumbents; Mr. Blake Lyons, Mr. David McCann, Mr. Ben McDonald, Mr. Kevin O'Reilly and Mr. Alan Woytuik. New councillors elected are: Ms. Wendy Bisaro, Mr. Robert Hawkins and Mr. Dave Ramsay.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to publicly congratulate these individuals on their election and wish them well as they serve Yellowknife for the next three years. Along with my fellow Yellowknife MLAs, including yourself, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to extend our welcome to this new

council. We look forward to working with them on common issues and concerns in our community.

At this time, I believe it also important to recognize the other candidates who put their names forward to represent Yellowknife. We are very fortunate to have a choice for representation at the municipal level. I would like to thank the following individuals. Candidates for mayor, Ms. Cheryl Best, Mr. Bob Brooks and Mr. Dave Lovell. Candidates for council, Mr. Travis Armour, Mr. Wayne Bryant, Mr. Bruce Coomber and Mr. John Murray. As Members of this Assembly are well aware, it is not an easy task to run in an election and I would like to thank these individuals for their hard work and dedication. Residents not only of the Northwest Territories, but all of Canada are fortunate to live in a democracy where we have the right to vote for and elect who we want to represent us in government.

We will soon have another opportunity to exercise our right to vote with the federal election on November 27th. I hope all eligible voters take this opportunity to choose their federal representative. In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like again to acknowledge Yellowknife's new council and mayor and say we look forward to the coming three years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Member's Statement on Operational Costs of the Fort McPherson Water and Sewage Distribution and Removal System

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was a meeting held earlier this morning with the mayor of Fort McPherson, Mr. William Koe; acting SAO, Mr. Don Smith; the honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs; and also, the honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Public Works and Services in regard to the extraordinary circumstances that Fort McPherson finds themselves in with the contaminated water supply and the increasing costs associated with it.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to let the Members know that when the cost of maintaining a service jumps from \$220,000 to \$400,000 that impact could be greatly felt by the people in the communities, especially in the case of Fort McPherson where you have contamination of the water with a product known as THMs. The water is not suited for human consumption and people are depending on bottled water.

Mr. Speaker, the outcome of the meeting was not too satisfactory because we did not really get an answer. I feel that this government does have an obligation to the health and well being of all residents of the Northwest Territories, especially with the circumstances that we find ourselves in Fort McPherson.

Mr. Speaker, there is an agreement in place, one that I believe most provinces and the territories probably have, for the Department of Public Works to operate the water and sewage systems. There is a water and service operation agreement between the municipality and the Government of the Northwest

Territories, in particular, the Department of Public Works and Services.

Mr. Speaker, one of the items which is clear in that agreement states that:

"it is further agreed that the committee, complete with representation of the Municipality of Fort McPherson, the Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Public Works, and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs shall meet twice a year on or about the first of April and again on or about October 1st of that particular year to review the expenditures that have occurred in the operating of the water and sewage distribution and removal systems within a six month period".

Mr. Speaker, that has never happened, and we find ourselves in a deficit situation.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krutko, the time allotted for your Member's statement has expired.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not ordinary and because of the contamination this government should realize that the associated costs are unforeseen costs. We do need assistance from this government to ensure that the community does not find itself in a financial situation where it is running a deficit because of the impact of contamination on the water systems. With that Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs a question on this matter later. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement on Recognition of the New Yellowknife School Board Members

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I join with my colleague from Yellowknife South and all the other Yellowknife MLAs in acknowledging the importance of another major aspect of our local government structure.

Mr. Speaker, school boards and educational authorities across the Northwest Territories are part of the community government structure which guides our education. They have a historic place in Canadian governance and Yellowknife school board members, like their municipal counterparts, are being sworn in at the next meeting and I would like to recognize these people and the contribution they make to community education operations.

For Yellowknife Education District No. 1, I acknowledge returning board members, Terry Brookes, and Dan Schofield who are being joined by new members, Marlo Bullock, Ann Enge, Rob Meckling, Jim White and Mildred Wilke.

For Yellowknife Separate Education District No. 2, I would like to acknowledge the new board members, Nancy Gardiner, Raymond St. Arnaud, and Francis Chang. Returning board members are Larry Purka, Mary Vane, Jane Haley and Debbi Ross.

It is unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that there is not greater interest in school board elections, as acclamations to these offices are not infrequent. It is one part which is generally paid little attention in local government, but these people have a significant impact on our children's future and municipal government taxation levels. Mr. Speaker, I see that my time is up, I seek unanimous consent to conclude.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In Yellowknife, one of the major issues around local education is taxation, and Yellowknife is unique in the NWT communities in that no other community gets funds directly from its tax base for education. School boards in our city jointly have 3,600 full-time students and they administer operating budgets of approximately \$33.6 million. About \$7.5 million is raised through local taxes.

From the numbers, Mr. Speaker, it is apparent that the school boards and educational authorities are significant contributors to community development and our progress for the future. I would like to also, Mr. Speaker, acknowledge the progress of Commission Scolaire Francophone de Division which is the equivalent of a divisional educational council and operates at École Alain St. Cyr. The commission is evolving into the Francophone school board of the Northwest Territories and I wish them well with their new status at their first meeting this evening, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement on Recognition of the Individual Achievements and New Executive of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In keeping up with the spirit of recognizing our fellow leaders and partners for the Yellowknife Members, I would like to recognize the new Chamber of Commerce board in Yellowknife. They had an election on October 27th, and, I would like to recognize the award winners who were honoured the same night. A business award of merit went to MacKay and Partners. This award acknowledges the accomplishments of a special Yellowknife business each year, recognizing those achievements that have made them an outstanding corporate citizen within our business community.

Also, an award for the business person of the year went to Mr. Bill Aho of Central Mechanical Systems. He is also the president of the NWT Construction Association and one of the founding members of NORD, which stands for Northern Organization for Responsible Development. Mr. Gordon Van Tighem received an award for outstanding dedication as well.

Mr. Speaker, with the time remaining, I would like to recognize the new executive committee elected on October 27th. Mr. John

Ondrack has been elected as the President; Jerome Babyn, first vice-president; Dave McPherson, second vice-president; and John Taylor was elected treasurer. I would also like to recognize the second year term directors Jerry Jaud, Bob Hoddinott, and Mike Olson.

I would also like to congratulate and acknowledge new members of the Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Mr. David Connelly, Mr. Rod Lowen, Ms. Shawnette MacNeil, Mr. Dave McCann, Ms. Karen Poitras, Mr. Gary Reid, Mr. Doug Snodgrass, Mr. Bill Tait and Mr. Andy Wong. I would like to congratulate them and tell them that on behalf of all the Yellowknife Members here, we look forward to working together and I especially valued their advice and input regarding the hotel tax. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement on Value of Country Food Consumption to the Renewable Resources Sector

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak to an important item that follows up on some Members' statements last week in respect to the renewable resource sector.

Mr. Speaker, we often find the need to address the critical issue of the method in which we utilize northern food items. I would like to share in the House today, an interesting statistic that is found in an article produced in Inuvik that supports our northern diet.

Mr. Speaker, interestingly, the people at this specific venue consumed more than 8,000 Eskimo doughnuts, 60 pails of muktuk, 1,500 pounds of Arctic char and whitefish, and over 2,500 bowls of geese and caribou soup. Perhaps today this will give us some food for thought as we continue to support our renewable resources in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement on Recognition of the New Fort Smith Town Council and Mayor

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to comment that you have a very nice traditional outfit on today, so thank you and congratulations. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as MLA for Nahendeh to honour the women and men who put their names forward as candidates in the recent municipal elections, especially to those who won the trust of the residents to represent their interests at the municipal level. I would like to congratulate all the mayors and municipal elected councillors in their respective communities. Mr. Speaker, Mayor-elect Tom Wilson and council will be sworn into office in the Village of Fort Simpson tonight at 7:30 p.m.

First, let me offer thanks to the outgoing mayor, Norm Prevost, for the work that he did over the years on behalf of the residents of Fort Simpson. I would also like to acknowledge contributions of councillors Ron McCagg, Sandy Kidd and Owen Rowe who did not put their names to stand for re-election.

To the incoming mayor, Tom Wilson, I offer congratulations as he begins his term this evening as mayor of Fort Simpson. I am encouraged to hear that Mayor Wilson plans to work closely with the First Nations and the Metis Local 52 to ensure that community initiatives are supported by local leadership and benefit all residents.

There is so much we can accomplish by working together. I extend congratulations Mr. Speaker, to returning councillors Gordie Villeneuve, Bob Hanna, John Hazenberg and Duncan Caanvin. To the new councillors, Rusty McDonald, Betty Hardisty, Hazel Isaiah and Kirby Groat. This healthy mix of experienced councillors and new blood will ensure that village priorities and new innovative initiatives come to the table on behalf of the residents of Fort Simpson.

Mr. Speaker, Minister Roger Allen and I met with the past council and the village council on October 26th to reconfirm our commitment to work with communities to find and support local solutions to local problems. I would like to restate my commitment to the new mayor and village council that as the MLA for Nahendeh, I will work closely with you to improve the quality of life for all our residents and to foster opportunities for our businesses to grow. I look forward to working with Mayor Tom Wilson and the new village council. I would like to wish them congratulations and good luck and try the best you can. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Because of your kind words, the Speaker bent the rules on the single subject Member's statement. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

Member's Statement on New Ceremonial Dene Garments Worn by Mr. Speaker and Table Officers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sometimes in order to effect change, we have to work very hard to see some results. It is true that very often our political will does not persevere as quickly as we would like, but when change comes then we must always see it for what it is. I am pleased to see the changes in the Legislature today. I believe it is a significant and positive change that has come to the decor of this, the most unique of all Legislatures in Canada. Mr. Speaker, I recognize your personal commitment today in wearing a truly northern First Nations coat. It is a visible, strong statement. I want to commend you for it. I also would like to commend and recognize for the very first time, a truly positive change of garment by the clerk and the deputies. In the Legislature, where even Mickey Mouse makes the odd appearance inside an otherwise truly dignified traditional First Nations coat, it is good to see, Mr. Speaker, your officials of this Legislature making their first appearance in Dene garments. I want to recognize it for the significant statement that it is. Thank you very much.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Kakfwi. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honour to recognize the mayor from Fort McPherson, Mr. Willie Koe, and also his acting SAO, Mr. John Smith. Welcome.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. At this time, colleagues, I would like to recognize in the gallery Ms. Berna Beaulieu of Creations by Berna, who designed and sewed the ceremonial clothing of the clerks and myself, the ones that we are wearing here today.

-- Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**Question 204-14(3): GNWT Literacy Strategy**

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment and it is about the literacy strategy that his department has embarked on. As I mentioned, his department has the lead in this area, but one of the guiding principles of this literacy strategy is that this be a government-wide initiative and not just ECE out on an island acting in isolation. Can the Minister discuss how he intends to make this literacy strategy truly government-wide? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 204-14(3): GNWT Literacy Strategy

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working in collaboration with other government departments on the literacy strategy and while that has taken some effort to accomplish, we are doing that and continue to work closely with the various departments. As you can appreciate, sometimes in areas such as the plain English that may be needed, we need to involve the Department of Public Works, for example, on contracts and other areas. So we are working with other government departments. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 204-14(3): GNWT Literacy Strategy

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I picked up on something the Minister said there and was encouraged. I think I heard him say "plain English." I am wondering can the Minister tell us if we are considering plain language legislation for this government?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 204-14(3): GNWT Literacy Strategy

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe that is been looked at as of yet, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 204-14(3): GNWT Literacy Strategy

MR. BELL: Thank you. If this recommendation were to come out from the consultations that are being held, would the Minister bring this recommendation before Cabinet?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 204-14(3): GNWT Literacy Strategy

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, I do not have all the details as to what will come out in the literacy strategy as of yet. Certainly once the strategy is brought forward, we have to look at all the implications in the plan to implement the strategy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 204-14(3): GNWT Literacy Strategy

MR. BELL: Mr. Speaker, not only am I interested in how collaboration within the Government of the Northwest Territories is going to work, but also with other stakeholders like private business. BHP, for instance, is embarking on some literacy initiatives of its own. Can the Minister tell us how they are collaborating with private industry and maybe specifically use BHP as an example? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 204-14(3): GNWT Literacy Strategy

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The literacy strategy is very pervasive and broad, of course, because it takes into account the early childhood development plan that we are working on because that is part of literacy; the aboriginal language program; and, literacy programs that may be in place such as adult basic education. I have had discussions with BHP. They have pointed out a particular need to bring some of their employees up to a level where they can read and write and deal with some very basic literacy areas. That is a challenge for the company that they are facing right now because some of their employees, their workforce, is in unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled levels. Many of their people are in the unskilled level and many people in that area are not literate. So they have a problem there. I am familiar with that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 205-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Supply

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I made reference to the unforeseen circumstances that we find ourselves in Fort McPherson with the high cost of operating the existing water system. It has increased by some \$220,000 to \$442,000 this year and a projected \$400,000 next year. Knowing, Mr. Speaker, that the main cause is the THM problem in Fort McPherson with regard to the contamination of the water system that we have, because of that, the hamlet has no way of being able to recoup a lot of these costs. Yet, Mr. Speaker, this is an emergency and this has been recognized as a priority of this government. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, is there any possible way that the community of Fort McPherson could receive emergency funding to offset the costs that have doubled in the last year? Can the Minister tell me, is there a possibility of receiving supplementary emergency funding for this program?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Return to Question 205-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Supply

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am certainly aware of the Member's community problems with the water. It has been an ongoing issue. We had the liberty of meeting early this afternoon trying to resolve some of the problem areas. We are certainly on the path to some kind of resolution of the problem areas. Though it is going to take some time, I just wanted to advise the Member that we will continue to consult with the parties that are dealing with this matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 205-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Supply

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in plain English, can the Minister go forward to Cabinet and ask for a supplementary appropriation to access funding to offset the costs to Fort McPherson?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 205-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Supply

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not prepared at this time. I made a commitment earlier this afternoon to consult with all parties involved to verify the expenses and perhaps some expenses that were legitimate in the context of an original agreement. I have committed to that process and I will continue to work with the Member and also His Worship from Fort McPherson. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 205-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Supply

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has programs in place to assist municipalities when they are in trouble financially or they find themselves in a deficit and also with regard to unforeseen circumstances. So can the Minister tell me does the municipality of Fort McPherson fit into any of those categories where they can receive funding from this government?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 205-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Supply

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been working very diligently to address some of the key problems in the municipalities. We have introduced a new formula financing agreement, or at least a proposal to provide another method of funding to the municipalities that would encompass other fiscal problems. Their intention, of course, is for the department to make it much more flexible so the communities have the ability to deal with some of those problems. At this point, we are still working on it and I am going to keep all Members informed of our progress. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 205-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Supply

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the present time, the municipality's original budget was \$220,000 to maintain funding in their budget. Almost half their budget right now is going to the cost of this increase to the water problem in Fort McPherson. Again, I would like to ask the Minister, will he make an effort besides just saying he is going to meet, to actually do something to deal with the problem in Fort McPherson?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 205-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Supply

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we are undertaking a lot of work at this point and I do have a plan of action in place. We will continue that plan of action. Hopefully we will have that resolved in due time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 206-14(3): U.S. Importation of Mackenzie Wood Bison

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for Mr. Handley, the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. In my Member's statement, I briefly outlined some of the challenges facing the growth of big game

hunting with regard to Mackenzie Wood Bison. Could the honourable Minister please explain what the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is currently doing to persuade the United States of America to allow the importation of Mackenzie Wood Bison from Canada into the United States? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 206-14(3): U.S. Importation of Mackenzie Wood Bison

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development do view the outfitting industry and outfitting potential in the Northwest Territories as a very important part. In the same way as the Member indicated in his Member's statement, we have succeeded with polar bears. We are also working to enable the import of buffalo or bison trophies into the United States. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 206-14(3): U.S. Importation of Mackenzie Wood Bison

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you. The Minister is also aware that bow hunting is a growing sector of the big game hunting market. Can the Minister confirm whether or not bow hunting is permitted as a method of big game hunting for the Mackenzie Wood Bison?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 206-14(3): U.S. Importation of Mackenzie Wood Bison

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if it is for bison hunting in the sanctuary. Certainly we allow bow hunting in a number of other areas. I will have to get the information for the Member on hunting of that species in that particular location. Thanks.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 206-14(3): U.S. Importation of Mackenzie Wood Bison

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister commit, should the regulations not allow for bow hunting, to change the regulations to allow bow hunting for Mackenzie Wood Bison? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 206-14(3): U.S. Importation of Mackenzie Wood Bison

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, with the approval of the Wildlife Management Committee in Fort Providence and Rae-Edzo, we would certainly look at that. I do not know if there are some other reasons why it would not be allowed, but certainly I would take that under consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 207-14(3): Addictions Pilot Project in Dogrib Region

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen. In June, I asked the Minister about addictions services for my region. I was told that from the government side, they have implemented a pilot project to deal with addictions. It was a three-week women's mobile treatment project. I would like to ask the Minister, what kind of feedback has the department received about this program from the community?

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

Return to Question 207-14(3): Addictions Pilot Project in Dogrib Region

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department informs me that the feedback from the community with respect to the Women's Mobile Treatment Program has been very positive and that it meets the needs of the women in terms of not having to leave the community and can attend this while living in their own homes. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 207-14(3): Addictions Pilot Project in Dogrib Region

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Because this mobile addictions program is only dealing with women, a large segment of the population that needs help is left without help. The chance for a relapse could be quite high. It is well known that to deal effectively with addictions, the family as a whole must be addressed. To that, I would like to know what plan does the department have to ensure couples and families have access to addiction services in my region?

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

Further Return to Question 207-14(3): Addictions Pilot Project in Dogrib Region

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree completely with the Member that this can be a family issue and where couples and families want to deal with this issue together, that is a very positive and productive choice. The female gender-specific mobile treatment program is to

address women specifically. There also is a Youth Mobile Treatment Program which is being implemented.

As far as the issue of relapse and after care in the communities, as the Member knows, during the Dogrib Treaty 11 regional meeting held in April this year, a motion was passed to provide \$578,000 for funding to establish the commitment to the Dogrib Addictions Strategy. Part of this money is for the training of drug and alcohol counsellors to work in the Dogrib communities. So hopefully they would be there to work with people who have taken treatment either in the South or at the territorial treatment centre at Nats'ejee K'eh. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 207-14(3): Addictions Pilot Project in Dogrib Region

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question for the Minister is by implementing the mobile addictions program she said for youth now, is the department planning to get away from developing permanent treatment facilities in the North? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 207-14(3): Addictions Pilot Project in Dogrib Region

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is the wish of the department to work in cooperation and in partnership with communities in finding community solutions to community issues and challenges. We are open to doing whatever is the most effective use of the resources that we have, which all Members in this House know are limited. We do not have unlimited resources.

The Women's Mobile Treatment Program and the youth one, we are told, are very effective. It is not that we want to get away from the residential treatment, but that is usually a 28 day program and it is fairly costly but it is not that we do not want to have that as one option.

We also want to look at other options so that we have a comprehensive selection of different types of treatment that community members could access that we would be looking to find what is the most effective use of our resources. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 207-14(3): Addictions Pilot Project in Dogrib Region

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister mentioned that there are different programs out there for addictions, but according to information we have, there is only one facility in the North right now. So I would like to ask the Minister, does the department have information on the cost of the mobile program versus the permanent facilities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 207-14(3): Addictions Pilot Project in Dogrib Region

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot break it down in terms of clients, but under the women's program, the funding allocated is \$500,000. Actually, I should clarify that. I am not sure if that is all for the mobile treatment part of it, but I can tell you that the Nats'ejee K'eh facility, the financial commitment there is \$1.3 million per year to operate. I would have to find out for the Member exactly what the mobile women's and youth programs are costing this government.

Mr. Speaker, I just also want to say that I think that the people of the North Slave certainly know the priorities that their Member is committed to. Sometimes we listen to Members on the opposite side of the House and it seems like everything is a priority. I do thank the Member for raising this again, this very important issue of addictions, and I will undertake to get that additional information for him on the funding allocation.

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

Question 208-14(3): Tourism Conference in Fort Smith

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, and it is in relation to the conference that we will be attending briefly for half a day tomorrow. The Minister is a keynote speaker tomorrow morning to kick off the conference, which has a theme of tourism. I would be interested to know if the Minister would be willing to share some of the key points he intends to bring to the many people in the South Slave who have such a significant interest in tourism. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 208-14(3): Tourism Conference in Fort Smith

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Member to be patient. If I go and give you the key points and the highlights of my speech here today, possibly nobody will show up tomorrow. It is going to pre-empt the whole thing. I can assure him that my speech is prepared. I think it will be a very positive one. Just be patient and tomorrow you will see. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 208-14(3): Tourism Conference in Fort Smith

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister then indicate whether he will be addressing issues like the need to resuscitate regional tourism associations that we basically killed and gutted prior to division? Do we need two major tourism associations, one in the east and one in the

west? I know over in the South Slave, and I think in other regions, that is a significant issue. I know it will be an issue that will be brought to him. Will he be in a position to address that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 208-14(3): Tourism Conference in Fort Smith

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, certainly encouraging regional capacity building is important. Whether it is done as a regional zone or what kind of regional organization would be set up, I would like to leave a lot of that up to the regions. Yes, I will certainly be encouraging regions to plan, to work together, to make sure that they are able to take advantage of every opportunity they have within their regions. I for one, do not believe that tourism has to be exactly the same for every part of the Territories. What is good in the South Slave might be a little different than what we may do in the North Slave or in the Delta. So in that sense, yes, I will be referring to the matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 208-14(3): Tourism Conference in Fort Smith

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, Mr. Speaker, one of the big issues that will invariably arise as we talk about tourism and the need to do more things and better things in areas of the Northwest Territories is going to be the issue of resources. Could the Minister indicate whether he will be able to speak in a definitive, positive way to that particular question which I am sure will arise, especially in light of the hotel tax and the proposed money that the Minister has indicated should be available if all goes well? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 208-14(3): Tourism Conference in Fort Smith

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will not be getting into the budget of next year or anything like that for the South Slave region. I certainly will be making reference to the need to find ways of generating more revenues, particularly in these times when our fiscal situation is not as healthy as you might like. I will also be making some reference to the hotel tax, although I am not going there to speak primarily about that. Yes, we do need resources. I agree with the Member and I challenge people tomorrow to help me find ways of getting the necessary resources for this important part of our economy.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 208-14(3): Tourism Conference in Fort Smith

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This issue of resources is probably going to be one of the more critical ones

in our strategic planning. I would ask if the Minister could elaborate. Does he have any possible suggestions of other creative ways, or suggestions that he may be able to put on the table for communities in the South Slave? I do not want to belabour the hotel tax, but are there other areas where there are some creative possibilities that we as a community or as a region may not have thought of that he would be bringing to us tomorrow? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 208-14(3): Tourism Conference in Fort Smith

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes. I do have other thoughts about other ways that revenues might be raised. Certainly some of them are more popular with some people than are others. I continue to look for creative ways of doing it. I realize that every time we want to spend money we have to raise it from somewhere. I do not expect tomorrow to lay out five other options, but I hope that at the conference tomorrow and on other occasions I will be hearing back from all sectors of tourism operations on ideas that they might have as well. I am open-minded on that matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Question 209-14(3): Funding for South Slave DEC

MR. DELOREY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. As I stated in my Member's statement, Mr. Speaker, the South Slave Divisional Education Council has been problematic for Hay River and area for a number of years now. The total student population in the South Slave educational council district is, as of October 1999, 1,869 students. I would like to ask if the Minister could inform me as to how the total funding for the South Slave region is based and how it compares to the student ratio in the total South Slave area?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 209-14(3): Funding for South Slave DEC

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding is done through the district education council according to a formula. It is done by the number of students, and then the allocation is made according to the number of staff that are required and so forth. That funding is allocated by the district education council to the district education authorities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 209-14(3): Funding for South Slave DEC

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the problem areas that Hay River has is in the distribution of funds. The Hay River area represents just over 50 percent of the total student population. Examples of how the funds are distributed unfairly are in an Older Workers' Pilot Project that was budgeted for \$48,800, Hay River's distribution was \$9,760; aboriginal special funding, \$97,000; Hay River received \$19,000; alternative government funding, total budget of \$50,000; Hay River received \$10,000.

I would like the Minister to give me his impression of how that distribution of funds can be a fair distribution in the total South Slave area, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes. I do not know whether that was looking for an opinion or something concrete, but I will allow you to answer it, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 209-14(3): Funding for South Slave DEC

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The funding formula for the school system, as I mentioned, is done similarly across the Northwest Territories. In the case of funding outside of that, it is done on the basis of regional application of funding. I do not have the specifics of those that Mr. Delorey referenced, but generally if you are talking about the school funding, it is done consistently across the Territory. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 209-14(3): Funding for South Slave DEC

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, far too often, the funds distributed are based on voting. There are five different communities in the South Slave area that have voting power. Hay River represents 50 percent of the population, and they have one vote, compared to other communities who only have five or seven percent of the population with the same voting power.

In the document we put out, Towards a Better Tomorrow, goal number one: "Healthy, educated Northerners making responsible personal choices for themselves and their families." Under that first goal the first bullet: "Communities having one-stop shopping access to comprehensive network of support programs for community-based wellness." Also, Mr. Speaker, in the document that was put out in 1994 by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, it states:

"We see a community where people work together to develop their own vision for learning in the community, and where they continue and nurture that vision and make it a reality, where they develop the programs and services they need, hire their own staff, keep an eye on results, and change things when they need to be changed."

I was wondering if the Minister stands behind those statements and if this is a good reason for looking at the South Slave region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 209-14(3): Funding for South Slave DEC

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue has been raised in terms of an application for a different governance system for Hay River. An application has been made to my office to set up a district education council. I believe some of the concerns that Mr. Delorey has just raised have roots in that. I advised the chairperson of the Hay River District Education Authority today, Mr. Speaker, regarding the petition I had received from them for removal from the South Slave Divisional Education Council. Today I responded that I am directing my department to do more work on that to look at the possibility of the financial impacts, and how it affects other communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 209-14(3): Funding for South Slave DEC

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I do have a copy of the letter that was sent to Mr. Andrew Butler. In one sentence he says: "In addition, it is essential to confirm the financial implications that the establishment of a new divisional education council would have with respect to both education programming and administrative costs." Mr. Speaker, the department has been aware of this petition-application for some three years now. Do I take it that the department has not even looked at the financial implications that this would have now and are just about to start now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 209-14(3): Funding for South Slave DEC

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are other implications beyond the financial implication, Mr. Speaker, and that is how it will affect the district education council as it is left, in the event that a separate council is established for Hay River. It does affect other communities. For that reason, we do need to consult, for example with the Hay River Reserve: The documentation was silent on their wishes. Also, Enterprise and how it will affect the district education council staffing and so forth that is in place at the moment. Thank you.

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

Question 210-14(3): Peel and Mackenzie River Crossings

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for Transportation. Mr. Speaker, I received a response to my letter in the area of ice-spraying at the Peel and Mackenzie river

crossings. The Minister responded to me stating that the cost has not been included in the department's transportation budget for the Inuvik region in the area of \$50,000, and went on to explain the differences between the crossing at Fort Providence and the ones up the Mackenzie River at Tsiigehtchic.

My question to the Minister is, what is the cost for extending the ferry operation at Fort Providence? That is the only place in the Territory where it is done when ice starts forming. I know in the Inuvik region, as soon as the ice starts forming, they pull the ferry out and then the prices in the stores in the communities in the region increase as a result. What is the cost difference? Since the Minister makes a direct correlation between the Merv Hardy Ferry remaining in service until full capacity of that ice crossing is in place, and it not being so in Inuvik, so what is the cost difference in keeping that ferry in service until the ice crossing is built up? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Return to Question 210-14(3): Peel and Mackenzie River Crossings

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I understand the question correctly, the Member wants to know what the overall costs for the Fort Providence ferry are after the date of freeze-up. I do not have that offhand, but I can get the information for the Member.

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

Supplementary to Question 210-14(3): Peel and Mackenzie River Crossings

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am more interested in not after the date of freeze-up, but as they continue to operate as they are building that ice bridge up. Again, there is a direct comparison of \$50,000 being saved, or the cost of that not being. In Inuvik, we are not able to use this ice-spraying method because it costs \$50,000 more. However, our ferry is out, so the costs go up. To be specific, what is the cost as soon as the ice starts to run in the Mackenzie until the ferry is pulled out? Can you supply that information? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 210-14(3): Peel and Mackenzie River Crossings

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I understand the Member's question to mean what are the day-to-day operation costs of the ferry. It would depend, of course, on the amount of time it ran after the ice started forming. I am sure the Member is aware of that. However, the purpose of the reference to \$50,000 in his letter that I signed off to him is just to show that it would be in the nature of \$50,000 to use ice spray on the Mackenzie crossing at Arctic Red.

We put in the letter the indication, for instance, as in Fort Providence, that would be offset. In this particular case, it is not offset because the ferry does not keep running there. It is an

outright cost to the department of \$50,000 more if we wanted to ice-spray that crossing. That is the only reason we compared the two.

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

Supplementary to Question 210-14(3): Peel and Mackenzie River Crossings

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That goes to where I raised the question initially. Inuvik, in that region, why could we not have the ferry running until the ice road is built up? Then we could compare costs. We cannot compare costs right now. I am interested in what it costs as the ice starts forming at the Providence crossing. Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 210-14(3): Peel and Mackenzie River Crossings

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is true. We are not suggesting that this is a \$50,000 saving here. It would have been an offset cost if in fact the ferry was still running, but it is not running. It is shut down. In order for us to bring in the equipment and have an ice ferry done at that particular place would cost the department \$50,000 with no way to offset that.

In the letter, we suggested that if the oil and gas industry, who are the main beneficiaries here, were in favour of sharing this cost with us or coming forward with an offer to cover this cost, we would definitely take that into consideration. At this point in time, we have no offer from industry to cover this cost.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 210-14(3): Peel and Mackenzie River Crossings

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since the Minister refers to getting proposals from the oil and gas industry and saying they are beneficiaries, all residents of the region would be beneficiaries. As soon as the costs go up in Inuvik, they spread out to the communities. That is a transportation point to the rest of the communities in the Delta.

The Minister is saying that they cannot do it this year, but I would like to know what the cost is per day of operation once the ice starts to form, and maybe at that point look at why we cannot get Inuvik's ferry running longer than the cut-off date.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Further Return to Question 210-14(3): Peel and Mackenzie River Crossings

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the cut-off date of the ferry in Arctic Red is not subject to any specific day on the calendar. We run that ferry as long as we can, subject to ice conditions. When we no longer can go back and forth on the river safely, then we shut down the ferry. From

there on, we build up the ice as quickly as possible. I think that the Member's suggestion that we may be able to operate the ferry in some form at the same time that we build an ice bridge, might be very expensive, because it is very expensive in Providence. I do not have the exact figures, but I can come to the Member with the figures. It is definitely quite expensive and it is a lot more than \$50,000. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 211-14(3): Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Funding

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have heard the Premier and the Minister of Finance talk about the potential for the Northwest Territories to become a "have" Territory. While we are waiting for that to happen, we have to have proper development so that it will take place. I am concerned that because of a lack of support the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board could cause a delay in approvals for projects.

Mr. Speaker, current levels of funding will not allow the group to look at three or four major projects a year. Without additional funding, program delivery will most likely be limited. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development pressure DIAND to increase the funding so that this board can be adequately supported?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 211-14(3): Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned the other day, we do view this as being a critical piece of what has to be streamlined in order to attract industry to build a pipeline down the valley. As recently as September 27th, I discussed this matter with the Minister of DIAND. He confirmed to me that he was looking into what resources and what full time equivalents or people they would be needing in order to make this board as effective as necessary. I will continue that effort. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 211-14(3): Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Funding

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, developers are often unclear as to what the process is, and because the Environmental Impact Review Board is a new process, it is not particularly clear how everything works. The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs could develop regulations that would help everybody understand how things are supposed to work. So far, they have failed to do so. Will the Minister commit to demanding that the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs get to work and develop those regulations?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 211-14(3): Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been doing that. We have been bringing it to the federal Minister of the DIAND's attention for many months now since the pipeline became a possibility. We will continue to do that and do everything that we can to make sure that the regulatory process is as streamlined as possible. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 211-14(3): Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Funding

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the short term, the board relies very heavily on territorial and federal employees for expertise. In the short term, will the Minister ensure that his department make staff available and work with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to ensure that those staff are made available and not put it on to other projects? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 211-14(3): Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, we have been doing that. Our staff work very closely with the Environmental Impact Review Board. They will continue to. They will participate in the meeting on November 21st that I referred to several days ago. Mind you, only as observers, as we do not have a formal role. We will continue to make our staff available to the best of our capacity. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 211-14(3): Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Funding

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we may not have a formal role, but the Minister has talked about the momentum that is building in this project. If we do not get some momentum building to make sure that this board is properly supported, the project could go nowhere.

One other area that I would like to ask the Minister to work on with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs is with honorariums. Apparently, board members are paid \$200 a day to chair and \$275 per day for meetings. Mr. Speaker, the Inuvialuit Impact Review board pays twice as much. Will the Minister demand that DIAND increase the honorarium for people who work on this board?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 211-14(3): Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we are concerned that the board remain competitive and have as good a membership as any other board does. We will take that suggestion under advisement. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Monsieur Handley. Item 6, oral questions. Mademoiselle Lee.

Question 212-14(3): Response to Child Welfare League Report

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today goes to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. It is regarding issues surrounding child protection workers in Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, I recall the Minister making a very positive comment about the report done by the Child Welfare League, but we have not heard the response from the department as to where the department stands on some of those recommendations. I wonder if the Minister could advise this House today as to when she will be filing that report, and whether that report will address the need for extra resources in some of those areas? Thank you Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 212-14(3): Response to Child Welfare League Report

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I did indicate that when we received the Child Welfare League review, I was very pleased with it and that it would serve as a very useful tool in determining the needs in the field in terms of child protection. I did table that document in the Assembly in June. Since then, the department has been working on an action plan to respond to the report's recommendations. Some of the current things that we are doing right now are workload analysis, developing a staffing strategy with the assistance of human resources and also looking at providing basic statutory training. So, yes, the Member is correct that personally I felt it was a very excellent report. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 212-14(3): Response to Child Welfare League Report

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's personal opinion on it, but I wonder if the Minister could advise on her response as Minister. Mr. Speaker, I could advise you that I have met with one of the workers who has advised me that the workload in Yellowknife is becoming absolutely unbearable. I understand that they have about 180 cases in the City of Yellowknife alone, which amounts to the same number of cases that they have in Nunavut. Yellowknife is becoming a huge magnet community and because of the specialist services available and many other reasons, the workload is ending up in Yellowknife and the workers have expressed their frustration and their lack of ability to cater to the children in need and families in need. They are not able to do any counselling; all

they can do is emergency intervention. Obviously, there is a need for direction here. I want to know if the Minister has any plan for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 212-14(3): Response to Child Welfare League Report

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department and the management of the Yellowknife board do recognize the seriousness of the concerns that are being expressed by the social workers and we do also recognize that there is quite a heavy workload there. We are taking steps to address the issue. There have been several meetings convened between the department, the Yellowknife board management and the social workers already. We would like the opportunity to implement some responses to those concerns and we look forward to doing that very shortly.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Groenewegen. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 212-14(3): Response to Child Welfare League Report

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, I do not think I am hearing anything there in terms of any firm commitment for increasing the number of child welfare workers that will be in place. The report says we need as many as 22 new child welfare workers. I wonder if the Minister could advise as to whether or not she is thinking about increasing any number into the current resource pool. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 212-14(3): Response to Child Welfare League Report

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, in response to the review, we are looking at various options. However, these are things that will be considered as part of the upcoming year's business plans and I would not be at liberty to expound with too much detail on what might be contained in that. As a temporary measure though, we are looking at bringing in a couple of extra social workers on a temporary basis and also one additional support staff person here in Yellowknife to help alleviate the problem in the short term. We are also asking one of the panel Members that did the Child Welfare League review to come back here and take a specific look at the Yellowknife office to see what things might be done to, first of all, assess what might be some other contributing factors to the workload and then also to make some recommendations to us as to how we might solve the problem. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary to Question 212-14(3): Response to Child Welfare League Report

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the steps that the Minister has taken thus far, but I wonder if the Minister could advise as to whether or not the report, in terms of

responding to the report, where there has been anything found on whether there are some liability issues because of the fact that the child welfare workers have so much work that they are not able to do all the work that they are required to do, that they are only able to do the minimum required work. I wonder if there is any danger to not meeting up to the requirements under the law that they have to do to protect the children?

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

Further Return to Question 212-14(3): Response to Child Welfare League Report

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Part of the reason why the department undertook to do the Child Welfare League Review was to not only address the level of service, the level of training that was being provided to children and families at risk, but also to be proactive in identifying problems that could become a liability to this government. So far, we have been very fortunate that we have not had any major critical incidents occur. But we are cognizant of issues of ensuring a standard of service that would not put us into a situation of being liable for any unfortunate incidents occurring.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 213-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Service Funding Assistance

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs. It is with regard to the problem they have in Fort McPherson with regard to the water system costs. As a department, you are there to serve the municipalities and the system whenever they find themselves in difficulty, especially when they are running a deficit. I would like to ask the Minister, knowing that they are in a deficit situation, can the Minister assist in areas of costs that are unforeseen or there is a possibility of assisting communities to do audits or look at the possibility of what legal status they have? Is the Minister able to assist the community knowing that they do not have the resources to do an in-depth audit on the costs of the water system in Fort McPherson in 1999-2000?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Return to Question 213-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Service Funding Assistance

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned earlier that we do not have any internal funds to provide for extraordinary funding. There is always a letter of request coming from across the Northwest Territories for us to assist communities that are in some deficit problems. We do have a plan of action to provide. We do have our staff go into the communities to help various communities work out some of the long-range problems and establish some long-range plans. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 213-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Service Funding Assistance

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume the department is the ones with the high priced help and they have these resource people in-house. In light of the agreement that I mentioned earlier that is presently at hand and as far as my understanding has not been followed to date with regard to the water/sewage operation agreement between the hamlet of Fort McPherson and Public Works, will he consider getting a legal review with regard to this agreement between the Hamlet of Fort McPherson and the Department of Public Works?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 213-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Service Funding Assistance

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I am not committed to doing an overall legal review. Although we have begun the process of working with the community trying to establish if some of those costs were legitimate. If they were not, then we will try to take some appropriate action to correct them. Again, I made a commitment earlier this afternoon that we will work with the communities to try to establish a recovery plan. So hopefully that will meet the satisfaction of not only the Member, but also of the mayor and his staff. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 213-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Service Funding Assistance

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if it is possible to send some of his resource people from Yellowknife who are in charge of looking at the financial situation of municipalities and also people in his shop who are the legal beagles to go in and see what they can do by going to the communities and sitting down and reviewing the audit and also give them a legal opinion on what this agreement really means. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 213-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Service Funding Assistance

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We recognize there is a problem and I will certainly undertake further discussion on how we can assist the community in recovering some of the debt problems with regard to their water system. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Allen. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 213-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Service Funding Assistance

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me is there a possibility of forgiving some of these

costs or writing them off through the budgetary process or through the supplementary process?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 213-14(3): Fort McPherson Water Service Funding Assistance

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In terms of a short answer, I have been advised that all additional funding would have to go through a supplementary appropriation. Thank you.

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

Question 214-14(3): South Slave Divisional Education Council

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and it is further to the issue raised by my colleague from Hay River North.

The issue of governance, of course, comes up when you look at possible disbanding of the DEC in the South Slave. I know for some time, years as a matter of fact, there have been discussions of models of governance. The South Slave is unique given the multitude of health boards, the DEAs, the DEC's. My question to the Minister is, will any decisions being made in regard to the DEC's future be done within the broader context of these other governance issues that affect the region as well as every region in the Northwest Territories?

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

Return to Question 214-14(3): South Slave Divisional Education Council

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The initial effort will be to look at the issues with regard to how the creation of another DEC will affect the region as a whole and what impact it will have financially and administratively. I think we are going to concentrate on that, Mr. Speaker, so that we get an understanding of how the Hay River Reserve will be affected, how Enterprise will be affected and the other communities. The DEC is at the moment composed of a number of communities; Lutselk'e, Fort Resolution and Fort Smith as well. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 214-14(3): South Slave Divisional Education Council

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister be consulting with his colleagues from Health and Social Services and Housing, for example, where there are similar interests? Other regions are looking at the community service model that the Dogribs have undertaken and invested in, for example, and I know there have been some discussions in Fort Smith about the same kind of approach. My concern is that the focus not be too narrow, that significant decisions be

made in a narrow focus and, at the same time, there are broader issues in terms of the possible benefit of community service boards in the South Slave. So will the Minister be consulting with his colleagues to make sure that they have a broad approach to this very complex issue? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 214-14(3): South Slave Divisional Education Council

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under the Act, I have a total of 90 days in which to respond to the request by Hay River. We may not have adequate time to address the whole governance issue in all respects as the Member has indicated. However, I am familiar with what he is suggesting, that we do take into consideration other areas where, for example, in the case of the Dogribs, we have a community service board that provides services both in education and health and social services. But, Mr. Speaker, our time frame here does have limitations and I do need to respond to that, so I am not sure what can be accomplished within that time frame. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 214-14(3): South Slave Divisional Education Council

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, surely if the Minister, as part of a broader Government of the Northwest Territories issue on governance, is going to look at this in a comprehensive way, the legislation I would hope would allow him to respond in that very fashion to indicate that, yes, this is on the table along with a lot of other issues. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that we are going to do possible major surgery on one area and then have the patient back on the table, with the patient being the South Slave region a few weeks later because the government has taken the broad look that education should have taken before they made this decision. Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 214-14(3): South Slave Divisional Education Council

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The time frame, as I say, has limitations and while we are familiar with the issues of various boards being in place, there is a need for us to ensure we get enough information with respect to the issue that is on the table at the moment by the district education authority from Hay River to address the request that they have made. In order to initiate action on that, we have to go out and get information specifically dedicated to that at the moment. The broader issue, in my opinion, would take a great deal more time. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 214-14(3): South Slave Divisional Education Council

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a final supplementary would be to the Minister in regard to a level of comfort here. My concern is the answers I am getting seem to be that the department is taking a very narrow focus. The focus will be the trees rather than the forest. As a government, I would just like some comfort from the Minister that there is a recognition that this is more than just a bunch of trees, that they do know that there is a forest out there that they are trying to deal with and not just a very narrow specific issue. Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 214-14(3): South Slave Divisional Education Council

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that. I do feel that we are a part of that, but for us to spearhead that whole question of governance in the broader sense would require more than myself to discuss this. At the moment we do have, as I said, an issue on the table with regard to a request from a specific community and I do have to deal with that by virtue of the fact that the act gives me 90 days in which to respond to that and to resolve that request. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Monsieur Ootes. The time allocated for question period has expired. Item 7, written questions. Mr. Bell.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 13-14(3): Employment Opportunities for Northwest Territories Post-Secondary Students Graduating in Spring 2001

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a written question today for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. It is a five-part question.

1. How many Northwest Territories students currently receiving student financial assistance are on track to graduate from their programs this coming spring?
2. Have we contacted these students to determine how many intend to return to the North?
3. How many plan to return to the North?
4. How many of these students have we identified jobs for?
5. How many of these jobs are internal GNWT jobs and how many are a result of collaboration with the private sector? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Adoption Act

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report to the Legislative Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Adoption Act and wishes to report that Bill 10 is ready for consideration in the committee as a whole as amended and reprinted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 62-14(3): Water and Sewage Services Operating Agreement Between Fort McPherson and the GNWT

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the Water and Sewage Service Operation Agreement between the Hamlet of Fort McPherson and the Government of the Northwest Territories represented by the Minister of Public Works.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Wednesday, November 8, 2000, I will move that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 10-14(3), Mr. Braden.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 10-14(3): Referral of Tabled Document 32-14(3), Report of the Chief Electoral Officer to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My motion is in referral to Tabled Document 32-14(3), Report of the Chief Electoral Officer to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures.

WHEREAS the report of the chief electoral officer titled, Modernizing our Electoral System has been tabled in this House;

AND WHEREAS the report covers the administration of the Northwest Territories general election of December 6, 1999;

AND WHEREAS the report contains recommendations for amendments to the Elections Act and actions in preparation for the next general election;

AND WHEREAS this report requires detailed consideration;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Tabled Document 32-14(3), Report of the Chief Electoral Officer titled Modernizing Our Electoral System be referred to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures;

AND FURTHER, that the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures report its findings with recommendations to the Legislative Assembly no later than the fall Session of 2001. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Your motion is in order. To the motion.

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? All those abstaining? The motion is carried. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 11: An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 3

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 11, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, No. 3, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Workers' Compensation Act to increase the amount of the year's maximum insurable remuneration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Do I hear question?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Bill 11 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Bill 8, Justice Statutes Amendments Act with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. I will call this meeting to order. We have one item to deal with today, Bill 8, Justice Statute Amendments Act. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that we deal with Bill 8.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. I will call a short break and then come back and deal with Bill 8.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call the committee to order. We are dealing with Bill 8, Justice Statutes Amendment Act. Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Justice Statutes Amendment Act makes minor amendments to seven statutes administered by the Department of Justice. These amendments correct errors in these statutes or make minor adjustments to introduce efficiencies or improvements. I will briefly summarize the changes.

1. The Coroner's Act is amended to authorize the coroner to investigate a death even though the body has been destroyed; is in a place from which it cannot be recovered such as deep water, or has been taken out of the Northwest Territories. The amendments would also clarify that only a qualified pathologist may perform an autopsy and would delete the requirement that pituitary glands be removed during an autopsy, as that practice is no longer followed. Finally, the amendment would correct a number of instances where the word "coroner" is misspelled.
2. The Corrections Act is amended to remove reference to "remission of sentence earned by an inmate after July 1, 1978" as there are no longer territorial inmates serving sentences back to that date. A number of references to federal statutes or institutions are also adjusted to reflect federal legislative changes.
3. The Judicature Act is amended to permit the senior judge of the Supreme Court to convene meetings of the judges of that court to consider administration of justice issues. Any cost associated with such meetings would be paid by the federal government under the authority of the Federal Judges Act. This amendment has been requested by the senior judge of the Supreme Court. A mechanism is also put in place so that the references to senior judge of the Supreme Court will be changed to chief justice of the Supreme Court when that position has been created by an amendment to the Federal Judges Act and the bringing into force of the 1995 amendments to the Judicature Act that will ultimately create the position of chief justice of the Supreme Court.
4. Presently the registrar of security has the authority to exempt an applicant from requirements of the Securities Act. The act would be amended to clarify that the registrar of security may make an order exempting an applicant from the requirements of the regulations as well as those of the act.
5. The Societies Act is amended to clarify that one or more deputy registrars of society may be appointed to act on behalf of the registrar of societies.

6. The Statutes Revision Act is amended to provide that the Northwest Territories Statutes Revision will include statutory material enacted before January 1, 2000 rather than before the previous cut-off date of April 1, 1999 and to limit the items that must be included in the report submitted to the Minister of Justice by the statute revision commissioner. Minor errors in the act are also corrected.
7. The Territorial Court Act is amended to make minor amendments to the provisions relating to the Northwest Territories Judicial Remuneration Commission, including extending from 60 to 90 days the time available to the commission to hold an inquiry and submit its report on the salaries and benefits of territorial judges; extending from 60 to 90 days the time available for the government to implement the recommendations of the commission and clarifying that implementation will take place on April 1 of the year the commission report is provided to the Minister. The act also amended to substitute references to the chief justice of the Supreme Court for existing reference to the senior judge of the Supreme Court. These amendments would not come into force until the position of the chief justice of the Supreme Court has been created.

Mr. Chairman, at the appropriate time, I will bring forward a motion to add commencement and transitional provision to amendments to the Territorial Court Act in Bill 8. These provisions are necessary to ensure that an upcoming inquiry of the Northwest Territories Judicial Remuneration Commission can proceed under clear and stable rules. Mr. Chairman, I and my officials, would be pleased to answer the committee's questions. Mahsi cho, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. I call on the chair of the Social Programs Committee to comment on the bill. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs reviewed Bill 8, Justice Statutes Amendment Act, 2000, at its meeting on October 20th and November 2nd, 2000. The committee would like to thank the Minister of Justice and his officials for presenting the bill. This bill makes amendments of a minor nature to seven acts that relate to the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories. These amendments are intended to correct errors and inconsistencies that have been identified in various justice statutes such as errors in spelling, and references to legislation that have been repealed. The committee was satisfied that the amendments to the seven statutes administered by the Department of Justice will correct spelling errors and provide for administrative type changes which are of a minor and technical nature. Mr. Chairman, committee members may have additional comments or questions on the bill during the review in committee of the whole. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Does the Minister wish to bring in any witnesses? Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee agree? Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witness in please. Mr. Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses please.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, to my left is Gerry Sutton, he is the acting deputy minister of Justice, and to my right, Mark Aitken, he is the director of legislation division. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. General comments. Clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill 8, Justice Statutes Amendment Act, Coroner's Act, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Corrections Act, clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Culture Act, clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Securities Act, clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Societies Act, clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Statutes Origin Act, clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Territorial Court Act, clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in my opening statements, I indicated that on Bill 8, clause 7 regarding the Territorial Court Act, I will be doing a motion, and there is a copy of it going around.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Antoine, do you have a motion to present at this time?

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman I have a motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Antoine, if you are going to present a motion, could I get you back to your seat to present the motion?

Committee Motion 28-14(3): To Amend Clause 7 of Bill 8, Justice Statutes Amendment Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that in the Justice Statutes Amendment Act that Clause 7, of Bill 8 be amended by (a) adding the following after subclause (10.1), subsections 2 (6) to come into force on December 31, 2000. (b) by adding the following after subclause

11, that the Territorial Court Act as it read immediately before coming into force of subsection 2(6), applies in respect of any enquiry that is commenced by the commission before the coming into force of those subsections and in respect of the recommendations made by the commission on the completion of such an enquiry and that the **inaudible** of those recommendations.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Antoine. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Clause 7, Territorial Court Act. Clause 7 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee agree that Bill 8 is now ready for third reading, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill 8 is now ready for third reading, as amended. Thank you, Mr. Minister and your witnesses. As that was the only issue we had to deal with today in committee of the whole, I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 8, Justice Statutes Amendment Act and would like to report progress, with one motion being adopted. Bill 8 is now ready for third reading, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of committee of the whole to be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Nunakput. All those in favour of the motion? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 2, Write-off of Debts Act, 2000-2001

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 2, to Write-off of Debts Act, 2000-2001 be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 2 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Bill 3, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2000-2001

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 3, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2000-2001, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 3 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Bill 7, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 7, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2000, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Antoine. The motion is in order. To the motion.

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 7 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. The motion is in order. To the motion.

Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 9 has had third reading. Item 22, orders of the day, Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, November 7, 2000:

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

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 12, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2000-2001
 - Bill 13, Hotel Room Tax Act
 - Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act
 - Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act and the Public Service Act
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Committee Report 4-14(3), The Report on the Review of the Auditor General of Canada to the Legislative Assembly for the Years 1997 and 1998, and Transcripts from the Public Hearings held September 27th and 28th 2000.
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 8, Justice Statutes Amendment Act
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Tuesday, November 7th at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

