



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

---

**4<sup>th</sup> Session**

**Day 1**

**14<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

---

## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, June 5, 2001**

Pages 1 – 30

**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>OPENING ADDRESS .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
1-14(4): SESSIONAL STATEMENT (KAKFW).....	2
2-14(4): NORTHWEST TERRITORIES SENIORS' WEEK(GROENEWEGEN).....	5
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES SENIORS' WEEK (BRADEN).....	6
CHIEF JULIUS SCHOOL EUROPEAN TRIP (KRUTKO).....	6
PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO (DENT) .....	7
MICHEL SIKYEA'S 100 <sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (NITAH) .....	7
ESCARPMENT CREEK CAMPGROUND (DELOREY).....	7
TERRITORIAL WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL CENTRE (MILTENBERGER) .....	8
SOCIAL AGENDA CONFERENCE (LAFFERTY) .....	8
EDUCATION ISSUES AND CONCERNS (BELL).....	8
SIGNING OF THE DEH CHO FRAMEWORK AND INTERIM MEASURES AGREEMENTS (MCLEOD).....	9
INUVIK HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION CEREMONIES (ROLAND).....	9
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES SENIORS' WEEK (LEE) .....	9
MICHEL SIKYEA'S 100 <sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION (HANDLEY) .....	10
BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR CAMERON CLEMENT (GROENEWEGEN).....	10
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY .....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>WRITTEN QUESTIONS .....</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES .....</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>FIRST READING OF BILLS.....</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>SECOND READING OF BILLS.....</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY .....</b>	<b>29</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****TUESDAY, JUNE 5, 2001****1:30 p.m.****Members Present**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

**PASTOR LIZ RICHARDS:** Let us pray. Holy Creator, God, we gather to begin this Fourth Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly thankful for the natural beauty of this Territory and attentive to the concerns of the people in our communities. We thank You, God, for the privileges and responsibilities of political freedom in our country. We ask now that Your spirit would be present as this session attends to the work set before it. Help each Member to be ready to speak their truth wisely and to listen to one another with discernment and respect, that decisions made here will truly honour the very best intentions for the lands and waters and all the peoples of the Northwest Territories. We pray in the name of Jesus who teaches us justice and calls us towards healing and peace. Amen.

**SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford):** Thank you. I understand her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber and give the opening address. Mr. Clerk, would you please attend to and escort the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories into the Chamber.

**ITEM 2: OPENING ADDRESS**

**COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Glenna Hansen):** Mr. Speaker, Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly, welcome back to the Legislative Assembly.

This is a fitting time for us to begin a new session. In most of our communities, we are entering a new season. Summer has returned and with it a natural rebirth of both the land and our spirits. As the last signs of winter disappear, new life is again appearing across the Northwest Territories.

When you first gathered as an Assembly, you identified a vision of a better tomorrow for the Northwest Territories. Now, like the new season, parts of your vision are beginning to emerge from the preparation and planning stages into our daily lives.

Recently, an Intergovernmental Forum was held in Inuvik. This was the second time this historic process was able to bring the aboriginal, territorial and federal governments together and they were able to move their agenda forward. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Deh Cho, federal and territorial leaders also came together to take another step in the completion of land claim and self-government negotiations in the NWT.

Today in Hay River, the Aboriginal Peoples' Pipeline Group is reviewing with aboriginal leaders a draft Memorandum of Understanding with Mackenzie Delta gas producers for aboriginal equity in a Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

Later this month, the men and women who daily address the social concerns of the Northwest Territories will gather with each other and this government to facilitate the advancement of a social agenda for the NWT.

Each of these are key steps towards the completion of your vision -- and each has been achieved or strengthened by your unity toward a common goal. I commend you for your progress and urge you to maintain this ability to work as one body, one government and one voice as you continue to seek the consensus on which this Assembly is based.

As we return to the Assembly, our youth are returning to the NWT from educational institutions in the south. In many ways their futures are brighter this summer thanks to summer employment initiatives, mentorship programs and job guarantees designed to maximize northern employment.

Gradually, a new identity is emerging for the Northwest Territories -- an identity that will make us unique in Canada and perhaps the world. Carefully, a jurisdiction is emerging in which indigenous aboriginal peoples are full and equal partners in the economy and system of governance. Dreams of self-determination -- some of which date back more than 25 years -- are beginning to take root. For the sake of the people of the Northwest Territories, I urge you not to lose sight of this opportunity to achieve your vision.

At this time, I would like to take a moment to remember Kyle Harry, whose young life ended so tragically this past weekend. Regrettably, our northern environment that offers so much opportunity and adventure for our people is also at times harsh and unforgiving. To the family and friends who knew and loved Kyle, and who will remember him with love and respect, I offer my prayers and condolences.

During this session, the Government of the Northwest Territories will be introducing a bill entitled Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2001-02 for consideration by this House. Mr. Speaker, the government considers this bill essential to the good conduct of government business and as such, I recommend its passage. As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I now declare open the Fourth Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Before we begin the orders of the day, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the pastor, Liz Richards, for her invocation. As well, the choir from Sir John Franklin High School with conductor Bill Gilday, for helping us with O Canada. Thank you. Item 3, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6), so that all Ministers' statements filed with the Clerk can be delivered today. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6) in order to allow the completion of Ministers' statements. Are there any nays? There being no nays, item 3, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Premier Kakfwi.

### ITEM 3: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

#### Minister's Statement 1-14(4): Sessional Statement

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. I also welcome Members of this Legislative Assembly back to the House for the start of our Fourth Session.

Today I will give you an overview of our work since the February session and updates on key initiatives to provide context for the progress reports that Ministers will be giving during this session. I will also share my thoughts on the work that lies ahead of us all.

#### Our Agenda – Towards a Better Tomorrow

Towards a Better Tomorrow, the agenda of the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly, provides broad strategic direction to the Government of the Northwest Territories based on four key priorities:

1. Self-reliant individuals, families and communities, working with governments toward improving social well-being;
2. Better governance through partnerships;
3. A northern-controlled economy that is balanced, diversified, stable and vibrant; and,
4. Adequate resources helping all levels of government to become more self-reliant in meeting the needs of the people they serve.

At the time of its release, the Legislative Assembly told the public that Towards a Better Tomorrow would serve as the measure of its accountability. My Cabinet colleagues and I take that commitment very seriously.

It is important that we continue to work together as a Caucus and that all Members of this Legislative Assembly have the opportunity for ongoing input to help guide and direct the work of government. There is much work yet to be done.

#### Intergovernmental Forum

On May 22, the second Intergovernmental Forum took place in Inuvik. Aboriginal Affairs Minister Jim Antoine, RWED Minister Joseph Handley and I participated in this important meeting attended by aboriginal leaders from across the Northwest Territories and by the federal Minister, Robert Nault.

The Intergovernmental Forum was established as a means for allowing aboriginal governments, the federal government and the territorial government to come together to share information and to make joint decisions. It is the first and only forum of its

kind in Canada -- one that respects the place of aboriginal governments as equals at the table.

Mr. Speaker, elected leaders signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Principles at the Inuvik meeting, which will guide the relationships of the parties of the Intergovernmental Forum. This represents a significant commitment by all three parties to operate the forum on a government-to-government basis. As well, Minister Nault has reaffirmed the commitment of the federal government to this process. This process supports better governance through partnerships, a key priority of our agenda.

On the critical issue of devolution and resource revenue sharing, leaders endorsed a Memorandum of Intent (MOI). This paper sets out the objectives, principles and process for future devolution talks and includes a commitment by the parties to seek instructions and appoint negotiators by March 31, 2002.

The successful conclusion of agreements on devolution and resource revenue sharing will allow our government and aboriginal governments of the Northwest Territories full access to the substantial revenues being generated through the development of our non-renewable resources and will give us greater control over how development takes place. This is critical to helping us achieve our vision of self-sufficiency.

The Honourable Jim Antoine, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs, will be providing further details on the progress made at the most recent Intergovernmental Forum meeting.

#### Capacity Building

Mr. Speaker, capacity building was also a focus of the Intergovernmental Forum. Aboriginal governments have made it clear that capacity is an issue if they are to be effective partners in the process and to cope with increasing responsibility and demands which are affecting aboriginal, territorial and municipal governments. Capacity also includes the ability of individual residents to participate in economic development opportunities.

The task force report on aboriginal communities and non-renewable resource development, launched yesterday in Yellowknife by the National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy, brings national recognition to our capacity-building requirements.

This government is prepared to do its part to assist with capacity building for aboriginal governments and organizations, the non-governmental sector, municipalities, the NWT workforce and within our own public service.

#### Aboriginal Rights Negotiations

Mr. Speaker, steady progress is being made to conclude aboriginal and treaty rights negotiations in the Northwest Territories. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, Minister Antoine and I joined the DIAND Minister, Deh Cho chiefs and the people of the Deh Cho in Fort Simpson to celebrate the signing of the Deh Cho Framework Agreement and the Deh Cho Interim Measures Agreement. Deh Cho people have much work ahead of them to implement the Interim Measures Agreement and to begin negotiations on an agreement-in-principle. I wish them well in this work.

The work of the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause is also underway. Range Lake MLA Ms. Sandy Lee and Minister Antoine will serve as committee co-chairs, ensuring coordination between the important work of this committee and the work of the government.

Negotiations are progressing and our relationships with aboriginal groups and governments are very good. During session, Minister Antoine will report on progress being made at the negotiating tables.

### **Regional Reorganization**

As the system of governance changes in the Northwest Territories, the Government of the Northwest Territories must remain responsible to the needs of the people it serves. We have taken some preliminary steps in this regard, which will enable us to continue to effectively deliver programs and services in this changing environment, particularly through our regional offices. We will keep this House apprised as this work unfolds.

### **Fiscal Framework**

Mr. Speaker, when we took office, we were faced with a fiscal forecast that we would hit our borrowing limit within a year. We expected to have little money for investment and proactive measures. Since that time, several positive developments have given us some breathing room and investment flexibility.

Tomorrow, the Honourable Joe Handley, Minister responsible for Finance, will provide an update on our fiscal position, how revised forecasts will affect business planning and changes to our tax regimes.

### **The Environment**

Mr. Speaker, energy and the environment were key agenda items at the Western Premiers' Conference held in Moose Jaw on May 30th to 31st, which I attended. Climate change, sustainable development and production of environmentally friendly energy sources were discussed. I will provide more detail on the outcomes of our conference in a ministerial statement, and I expect that energy will also be an important topic at the Annual Premiers' Conference in early August in Victoria. Also, some of us expect to attend a U.S. Western Governors' Conference in Idaho that will focus on energy, also in the middle of August.

### **Energy**

Mr. Speaker, energy means oil, gas and hydroelectric power. All of us have experienced the economic impact on increased demand for energy in Canada and the United States. While this has resulted in a welcome boom in employment, business opportunities and revenues for the people of the Mackenzie Delta, Sahtu and Deh Cho, where energy reserves are located, it has also resulted in increased energy costs for everyone.

While the governments of Canada and United States are now aware, very aware, of the significant oil and gas reserves within the Northwest Territories, we still have much to learn and to report to the people of the Northwest Territories about the immense hydroelectric potential of Northwest Territories' rivers. Over the next two years, we will continue to examine the feasibility of developing this potential to provide long-term

revenue sources for both aboriginal and territorial governments. It is worth noting that this potential can be reached using the natural flow or "run of the river" without extensive flooding, thereby minimizing any adverse environmental impacts.

With the release of the proposed U.S. National Energy Policy, our government foresees increased interest in accessing our oil, gas and hydro resources. The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development will provide a progress report on developing our energy reserves. He will review what we are doing to maximize benefits for the people of the Northwest Territories, to protect the land and environment and to see that territorial concerns are considered in Canada's response to the proposed U.S. National Energy Policy.

We have also heard from residents and this Legislature that energy resource development must result in clean, affordable and accessible energy for our residents, our people. Presently, departments and agencies are undertaking separate initiatives to reduce energy costs for consumers ranging from the Greenhouse Gas Strategy to energy conservation to developing alternatives to diesel generation of power and heat.

To coordinate this work and to prepare an Energy Strategy to guide energy development and use within the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to announce today the establishment of an Energy Secretariat within the Department of Executive. I will lead the new Energy Secretariat, which will have a two-year mandate. I look forward to working with aboriginal and municipal governments, industry and other stakeholders to develop a Northwest Territories Energy Strategy.

### **Maximizing Northern Employment**

Maximizing Northern Employment is a key priority of this government and the people we serve. Full employment is essential to the development of healthy, self-reliant communities and a diversified economy.

The current period of unprecedented economic activity has significantly increased the demand for skilled technicians and trades people. Ensuring residents can take advantage of these opportunities is challenging. We must work in partnership to develop the training initiatives needed so residents can access employment in any sector of our economy.

Later in this session, the Honourable Jake Ootes, Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, will provide this House with a full report on the exciting work being done in this area.

### **Highway Investment Strategy**

Increased revenues and new employment opportunities are positive impacts that accompany resource development. However, there are also negative impacts associated with development, including increased wear and tear on our roads and highways. Government must mitigate against such impacts. To maintain and improve the safety of our existing highways, the Honourable Vince Steen, Minister responsible for Transportation, is leading the government's effort to implement a Highway Investment Strategy, in part by establishing commercial vehicle trip permits and fees.

We recognize that fees are seldom popular. However, we must be prepared to do our part to maintain and improve our road

system, and we are looking to the commercial transport industry to pay its fair share of costs associated with its use of public highways.

During this session, legislation will be introduced to provide for the commercial vehicle trip permits. In four years' time, the people travelling on our territorial highways should be pleased by the dramatic improvements that the Highway Investment Strategy has brought about in the quality and safety of our public highways.

### **Social Agenda**

Mr. Speaker, our government wants to see all residents realize their potential. This requires everyone to be healthy in body, mind and spirit. That is why we are committed to moving forward on a Social Agenda Framework. This will help us address the social issues that prevent people from being productive members of their families and in their communities. Progress in this area is as important to achieving the vision of Towards a Better Tomorrow as are devolution, resource revenue sharing and non-renewable resource development.

The Honourable Jane Groenewegen, Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, is leading this important work which will begin with a Social Agenda Conference being organized in cooperation with non-governmental organizations and aboriginal groups from across the Northwest Territories. The Government of the Northwest Territories will host this conference on the Hay River Reserve on June 19-20. It will bring together front-line service delivery experts, aboriginal and community leaders, Members of the Legislature and policy makers. I hope that all Members of the Legislative Assembly will make an effort to attend this watershed event.

Together, we want to produce a Social Agenda Framework for everyone -- the Government of the Northwest Territories, social agencies and the people living in our communities. The Deputy Premier will be providing this House with detailed information on the Social Agenda Conference and the development of a Social Agenda Framework.

### **Supporting Youth**

Mr. Speaker, our children are the future. The young people of the Northwest Territories have prospects and opportunities before them that are vastly different from those of their parents. They need our support and encouragement to prepare for life's challenges, to complete their education and to reach their full potential.

Our government feels a special responsibility towards young people, a responsibility reflected by the appointment of the Honourable Roger Allen as Minister responsible for Youth; a portfolio which he approaches with passion and enthusiasm.

Helping residents, and especially our young people, to lead healthier lives is one of the key priorities we have identified in Towards a Better Tomorrow. Later in this session, Minister Allen will inform Members of the activities he is undertaking as Minister responsible for Youth.

### **Recognizing our Public Service**

Mr. Speaker, with the activity underway in the Northwest Territories, our government and officials have been busy. We

have worked hard in recent months to implement our key priorities and initiatives. Much of the credit must go to the members of our public service. I am impressed every day by their professionalism and competence. They put in long hours and demonstrate great dedication.

I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories for helping us to get the job done.

### **Tourism**

Mr. Speaker, tourism is a growing industry worldwide -- particularly adventure and cultural tourism. Last year, 35,000 tourists visited the Northwest Territories, spending just over \$30 million. Because we want to see the number of tourists grow, NWT Arctic Tourism Association has worked with the Canadian Tourism Commission to set up a new \$1.8 million marketing partnership. The \$900,000 being invested by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development will be matched by the Canadian Tourism Commission.

The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development will also work with partners to improve and increase tourism attractions and services. Tourism is an important economic sector. It is one of the few economic opportunities available to small communities in the Northwest Territories. It is a cornerstone for diversifying our economy and it creates a stable market for arts and crafts, which embody our rich, northern heritage and cultural traditions.

### **Culture and Language**

Mr. Speaker, with all of the exciting opportunities taking place here, we continue to think about the work that the Government of the Northwest Territories is doing to ensure that the people of the Northwest Territories benefit from resource development opportunities, and we keep coming back to one conclusion.

It is not about the number of oil and gas jobs we get. It is not about how many miles of pipeline we build, nor is it about how many millions of dollars in revenues we raise. The value of our work lies in being able to improve the lives of the people who live here. That is how our success should be measured in the years and decades to come.

All of us want to live in vibrant, stable communities, speaking our own languages and immersed in the rich, cultural fabric that is our heritage.

Our goal is to ensure that residents, both aboriginal and non-aboriginal, whether living in large centres or small communities, all lead healthy, productive lives and have the opportunity to raise their children in communities steeped in rich cultural and linguistic traditions. All of us must work to protect, preserve and enrich our cultures and our languages to ensure that we do everything we can to see that they continue and that they thrive. At the end of the day, it is all about preserving the unique identity of the Northwest Territories that sets us apart.

A gradual process is underway -- we are gaining a new collective sense of identity as people of the Northwest Territories. I feel a responsibility as Premier to make sure that the work of this government contributes to that process in the months and years to come.

### National Aboriginal Day

In this context, I would like to take a moment to talk about National Aboriginal Day. During this session, we intend to introduce legislation that would propose to designate June 21<sup>st</sup>, National Aboriginal Day, as a statutory holiday in the Northwest Territories commencing in 2002. The government is introducing this legislation in response to support expressed by some of our municipalities and aboriginal organizations, and led by the MLA for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

I am aware that this may raise concerns for some members of the business community and that some of your constituents may have already expressed their concerns to you as Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I have tried to paint a picture for you today describing the ways that all of this increased economic activity is connected. We are entering a new era of cooperation, and much progress is being made in large measure because aboriginal people at last feel that their voices are being heard and that they are being included in the decision-making affecting their lives.

Think, then, of the tremendous expression of goodwill towards the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories that would result from broad public support for the designation of National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday. Think about what a powerful statement we will be making to the rest of Canada when we become the first jurisdiction in the country to honour National Aboriginal Day as a statutory holiday.

It would send a resounding and positive message about the place and importance of aboriginal cultures in the rich mosaic of the Northwest Territories. It would tell us and the rest of Canada what kind of a territory this is; what kind of people we are. If, in a spirit of harmony, we can acknowledge the aspirations of the aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories and support them to reach their goals, while at the same time respecting the diversity of all our residents, then we will have made a major contribution in defining the emerging Northwest Territories.

### Conclusion

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Chairs and members of the standing committees for their support, contribution and willingness to work together to meet the needs of our constituents and to fulfill the vision we articulated one year ago in *Towards a Better Tomorrow*.

Mr. Speaker, these are exciting and historic times. Since division, we have been building and developing a new identity for ourselves as a territory. Our ability to work together sets us apart from the people of most other places. With our combined resolve and creative energies, we can preserve our cultural heritage while at the same time being able to seize the opportunities before us. While we have made progress, we have a tremendous amount of work still ahead of us. Thank you very much.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Premier. Thank you, Premier Kakfwi. Item 3, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Seniors, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Minister's Statement 2-14(4): Northwest Territories Seniors' Week

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this week marks a special celebration. From June 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> we are recognizing Northwest Territories Seniors' Week. The slogan "Recognizing Northwest Territories Seniors and Elders -- Contributing to the Future" was chosen in recognition of the significant contributions of seniors and elders to the growth and well-being of our communities.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, seniors are a vital and significant source of knowledge and guidance in our communities. Seniors are our living heritage -- they connect us to our past and provide wisdom for the future.

Seniors' Week offers us an opportunity to:

- recognize, honour and respect senior citizens in the Northwest Territories;
- highlight the positive contributions that seniors and elders are making in their communities; and
- promote understanding of, and encourage positive attitudes towards, seniors and elders, and aging.

As Minister responsible for Seniors, I wish to highlight some events that are taking place this week. Today in the Great Hall there was a special luncheon ceremony to launch Seniors' Week and recognize recipients of the first ever Respected Elder Awards. I, along with my colleague Roger Allen, the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, co-hosted this ceremony. We were pleased with both the interest demonstrated by the community and by Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The Respected Elder Awards were introduced as part of the Outstanding Volunteer Service Awards in this, the Year of the Volunteer. There were five regional recipients and one territorial recipient, all present for today's luncheon. They are:

- Rosie Sewi of Deline;
- Steven Rowan of Fort Simpson;
- Ben Greenfield of Hay River;
- Phillip Nitsiza of Wha Ti;
- Lizzie Beaulieu of Fort Resolution; and
- Esther Braden of Yellowknife.

It was with great pleasure that we celebrated the achievements and contributions of these seniors in our communities by honouring them with these awards.

As part of recognizing Seniors' Week, I would also like to pass on congratulations to Sarah Simon who recently celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in Inuvik and to Michel Sikyea who is celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with a party this afternoon at the Aven Centre in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in a heartfelt round of applause for all the recipients of the Respected Elder Awards and for all Northwest Territories seniors and elders who

are making a difference in all of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 3, Ministers' statements. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, everyone. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland, that Minister's Statement 1-14(4) titled Sessional Statement, be moved into committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

#### ITEM 4: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

##### Member's Statement on Northwest Territories Seniors' Week

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As our colleague, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen, has just made a statement about, this is Seniors' Week in the Northwest Territories. It marks an occasion when we can come together to celebrate the involvement and the influence that our seniors and our elders continue to have in our society. It is a time when we can come together as Northerners and legislators and make sure we are doing the best we can for seniors.

Among the many programs this government already provides, Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that we provide the resources and funds for seniors to help themselves through groups and associations like the Northwest Territories Seniors' Society. I think this is perhaps the best kind of help we can provide, for seniors have made it abundantly clear that they are more than capable of helping themselves.

We need to recognize, Mr. Speaker, that in the past decade, the Northwest Territories population of people over 50 years of age has increased by some 60 percent. It is the fastest growing part of our society. Are we preparing our health and social systems to be ready for this increase? Do we in this Assembly understand that we are, as my colleague Mr. Miltenberger pointed out, the junior elders of tomorrow? That we will have to live with the plans we make today?

This is a week when we can all come together to celebrate the achievements of our parents and grandparents, neighbours and community friends who have had a hand in shaping this community, this North, and our lives over the years and the decades.

On a personal note, Mr. Speaker, it is a rare privilege for me to stand here today and acknowledge the honour bestowed by her peers on one of those amazing people, my mother Esther, recipient of this year's Respected Elder Award for the Northwest Territories.

We heard at lunch of her many contributions to friends and community here in Yellowknife, across the Northwest Territories, and nationally. She is a leader, a pioneer and a role model for her five children and eight grandchildren. She is the strongest and the wisest woman I know. From my family, Mom, we love you, we cherish you, and we are so proud of everything you have done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Indeed, congratulations to your mother, Mrs. Braden. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

##### Member's Statement on Chief Julius School European Trip

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, 13 students and three chaperones from Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson crossed the swollen Peel River on their way to Whitehorse, and had to be carried the last few metres to shore. As we speak, those 13 students from grade 6 to grade 12 and three chaperones are landing in London, England on the start of a ten-day European tour. From London, they will be flying to Rome, Italy, arriving at 9 p.m. tonight.

Thanks to the Premier, Mr. James Ross and the District Education Authority of Fort McPherson, the students will have the extraordinary privilege of having a special audience with Pope John Paul II at the Vatican tomorrow. I would like to take this time to thank the Premier and Mr. James Ross publicly for taking the time out of their busy schedule to arrange the audience with the Pope.

The students and chaperones will travel to Florence, Italy, on their way to Monaco, and from there to France, then to Spain before returning back to Canada on June 15<sup>th</sup>. The students, staff and community of Fort McPherson are to be commended on the extraordinary efforts made to fundraise so that they could undertake the privilege of having their students take the trip of a lifetime.

Believe it or not, Mr. Speaker, those students, their parents, the school staff and the community raised the necessary \$70,000 in only nine months. On behalf of the students and the chaperones, I would like to thank corporate sponsors such as Enbridge Pipelines, TransCanada Pipelines, Westcoast Energy, Genesis Exploration, Petro-Canada, Ninety North Construction, Northern Transportation Company, Pentastar Transportation, and also Cal Tire and other corporate sponsors. Without those generous contributions and donations, the people of Fort McPherson would not have the privilege and support for their children to take such a trip.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the students...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Krutko, your time for your Member's statement is over.

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

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the students who were on this trip. They set a goal and they have seriously learned that when you set a goal and you put work and effort into it, you can accomplish anything. With that, I wish them all the best in their trip, and have a safe trip home. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

#### **Member's Statement on Pupil-Teacher Ratio**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first of all commend the government and the Minister responsible for Education for moving more quickly than required to lower the pupil-teacher ratio in the Northwest Territories. The recent announcement that additional money will be put into schools is indeed welcome. This will allow educational authorities to hire more teachers and lower the average pupil-teacher ratio from 17 to 16.5 to one, a year ahead of what is required by legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I think this sets a good precedent. Bill 1, which was passed by this Legislature, was a good bill, but the standards set in that bill, Mr. Speaker, should be seen as minimum requirements. Since this bill sets an average standard, if we just meet those standards, we are obviously going to have many classrooms that are above average in size.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that in other jurisdictions, the pupil-teacher ratio, particularly in the northern and remote areas of the provinces, is much lower than the average in that jurisdiction. For instance, in Labrador, the pupil-teacher ratio is much lower than if you take the whole province into consideration. In northern Alberta, the pupil-teacher ratio is very low. The last time I checked, the Northland School District had a pupil-teacher ratio of about 12 to one. Mr. Speaker, that is in a province that has the highest pupil-teacher ratio in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I would argue that we should strive to achieve the levels that we see in the northern and remote areas of other parts of Canada, rather than being satisfied with approaching -- not meeting, but just approaching -- the national average. We could make no more significant investment than in the education of our young people. In fact, Mr. Speaker, that would be the most effective and important investment we could possibly make.

It costs much more to teach adults, Mr. Speaker. How can you even measure the cost to society of the lost potential of those who do not succeed? We must invest more and earlier in our kids' lives.

Mr. Speaker, a study released just three weeks ago, which followed kids who were born in 1980, found that early intervention programs like Head Start had a dramatic impact on keeping young people in school later on in life. The impact, Mr. Speaker, was especially dramatic on boys, who typically drop out more often than girls.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would call on this government to continue to lead, to set the example and not just follow the minimum standards set by the amendments we made in Bill 1, and invest

more heavily in lowering the pupil-teacher ratio and in early education programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Member's Statement on Michel Sikyea's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is good to be back in the House after a long delay. It is good to have the summer back. Mr. Speaker, I want to speak on a golden duck hunter during this, Seniors' Week. Today is a very special day for an elder who was born in my constituency. Michel Sikyea was born in Fort Resolution 100 years ago today. I want to wish Mr. Sikyea a very happy birthday on behalf of my constituents and the people of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Sikyea is a well-known duck hunter. His duck hunting ability has resulted in some major changes for aboriginal rights in hunting waterfowl. Mr. Sikyea shot an out-of-season duck in the early 1960s. This he was charged for and prosecuted, which cost a million dollars, for which he is known as the million-dollar duck man.

As a result, the courts ruled that the Migratory Birds Convention Act did not apply for aboriginal peoples' ancient right to hunt, trap and fish for food at all seasons of the year on all unoccupied Crown land. So, on behalf of all aboriginal hunters, I wish to again wish Mr. Sikyea, the golden duck hunter, a happy birthday.

Seniors are our link to the past and to the land. Just as we must take care of our land, we must also take care of our seniors. The majority of our seniors are living on fixed incomes, and their old age pension cheques are not making ends meet, Mr. Speaker. The pressures on our seniors in our aboriginal communities are great. Unemployment rates are high and this puts more pressure on the seniors' cheques by members of the family. On this important day, we want to recognize all seniors.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Lizzie Beaulieu of Fort Resolution. She was recognized for a Respected Elder Award during Seniors' Week celebrations this week.

I would also like to recognize all elders in Tu Nedhe and the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

#### **Member's Statement on Escarpment Creek Campground**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure to be back here with all of you, and I look forward to a very productive session. The last time I had the opportunity to address my colleagues in this Chamber there was a very cool breeze blowing here in Yellowknife, and indeed across all of our Territory. Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, that breeze has warmed up considerably and I might go as far as to say that summer has arrived.

Mr. Speaker, there is a certain magic about this time of year, and it shows up in all of our communities and on our streets. People cannot wait to put away their winter clothes and don their much cooler summer outfits.

Mr. Speaker, our walking trails, our parks and our ball diamonds come alive with all sorts of summer activities. We also see people airing out their tents and cleaning out their campers and motor homes, getting ready for their first camping trip of the year. And why not, Mr. Speaker? The days are very long, we have just come through a very long winter and, best of all, the bugs are not too bad yet.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that can put a damper on a weekend camping trip is to get to your favourite camping location and find that there are no sites left or, worse yet, Mr. Speaker, to find a gate across the entrance that is locked, thus denying everyone the pleasure of using the campground.

Mr. Speaker, the campground at Escarpment Creek just south of Enterprise has been enjoyed by many residents of Hay River and surrounding areas for several years. It is considered by many, myself included, Mr. Speaker, to be one of the best campgrounds for a weekend getaway.

Mr. Speaker, on a number of occasions last summer, I drove down to the Escarpment Creek campground with out-of-town guests. We were going to enjoy a barbecue, and I was going to show them the picturesque scenery from this location, only to find the gate closed and locked. Mr. Speaker, this situation exists at Escarpment Creek campground again this year. It has been brought to my attention by a number of constituents.

Mr. Speaker, this is a territorial campground funded by public money. I say remove the lock, open the gate and allow our residents to enjoy the short summer season as much as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Territorial Women's Correctional Centre**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk briefly about the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre, also known as TWCC. It is a correctional centre located in Fort Smith, and has been there for a number of years. This particular facility is one of the best in Canada, if not North America. It did not get that way by accident. It got there because it had very capable and qualified staff, and a very educated and experienced warden. A warden who is only now there on a temporary basis as they look for a replacement. It has been some time since this facility has had a permanent warden.

I have watched for many months as the facility has laboured on and I have been waiting to see what is going to happen with that position, because it is a key one. It provides leadership and direction and will help maintain the good work that has been done in the last ten years or so.

I do have a letter from the Minister responsible for Justice indicating he was going to staff it by public competition. I am

waiting to see if in fact that will be done and what will happen. This is an important program and it is long overdue to have a permanent warden. Later today, I will be asking the Minister responsible for Justice for an update on this particular situation. Thank you.

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

#### **Member's Statement on Social Agenda Conference**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since we have formed this government a year and a half ago, much of our time and energy has been focused on hydro development, oil and gas, and the diamond industry. I would like to let the people know that as a government, we are also very aware of, and concerned about, social issues; social issues that already exist and social change that will happen with the increase of economic development.

On June 18<sup>th</sup>, a Social Agenda Conference will be held in Hay River. I hope that this conference is not just another exercise we take without positive results in the end. I hope that this conference will give us a chance to move forward beyond the many reports and studies that we have done on social issues. I hope that from the meeting, we as a government will begin to put much-needed infrastructure in place to address these issues. We need to take concrete steps to prevent further social problems in our northern communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Education Issues and Concerns**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To start the session off today, I would like to discuss several education issues that I have had some dealings with and time to think about. First, I would like to acknowledge some good work on the part of the Department of Education, especially in the area of summer student hiring.

The program this year, Mr. Speaker, is certainly night and day from past years. The website was a great idea. I think there are still some wrinkles to be ironed out, as is to be expected with any new program, but I believe the department is doing good work in this area. I would like to applaud the Minister for his work.

I do have some concerns with, as Mr. Dent has already raised, the issue of the Canadian average PTR. We are still funding at a much lower rate than the rest of Canada on average and certainly, as he has indicated, much lower than other rural and northern areas. I think this is something we need to target and move closer toward. We have put some additional money into this recently, but I feel we are not really running through the finish line, Mr. Speaker. We are sort of putting a toe on it and saying, "Well, there we are. We have complied with legislation."

Another issue I would like to raise is a concern I have with the Memorandum of Understanding that our Premier signed with the NWTTA in January of 2000. It indicated that we are going

to spend approximately \$4.6 million in 2000-2001 incrementally for student support and PTR. The actuals, Mr. Speaker, sad to say, are \$2.8 million. I am concerned about what I consider to be an issue of a missing \$1.8 million that should have been put into PTR and student support funding, Mr. Speaker.

As well, I think a lot of constituents have raised concerns with the Education Act and the fact that they do not believe it speaks to averages. It seems to be education-body specific. I think any reasonable person who reads the act would assume that, Mr. Speaker. I do not believe our funding formula is complying with the legislation.

I have several concerns that I intend to raise with the Minister and will be doing so today and going forward. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Signing of the Deh Cho Framework and Interim Measures Agreements**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to highlight for the House today a very important event for the people of the Deh Cho. On May 23<sup>rd</sup>, two historic agreements were signed at the papal grounds in Fort Simpson. Signing took place at the same site where Treaty 11 was signed in 1921. These two agreements mark a new era for the people of the Deh Cho.

Mr. Speaker, the Framework Agreement sets out how the Deh Cho will negotiate self-government with the federal and territorial governments. This document serves as a schedule or plan for negotiations between the GNWT, the Government of Canada and the Deh Cho First Nations. The Framework Agreement identifies boundaries for negotiations, including wildlife management, forestry, taxation, health and education.

Mr. Speaker, this is just the beginning of a longer process. Our second agreement, the Interim Measures Agreement, gives the First Nations a say in how the development occurs in Deh Cho lands while self-government negotiations are underway. Our self-government negotiations may take seven to eight years. The Interim Measures Agreement gives us the means of protecting our lands. We will be part of the decision-making process on what development occurs while we are in negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, these two agreements encompass 3,000 people in ten communities of the Northwest Territories. Our lands include approximately one-third of all of the communities in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, May 23, 2001 is a day in history for the people of the Deh Cho. We had the federal Minister of Indian Affairs, Mr. Nault; our Premier, Mr. Kakfwi; and Minister Antoine in attendance. It was a time for celebration. I want to thank the Premier and Minister Antoine for being part of that day.

Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, our negotiations will take time. May 23<sup>rd</sup> just marked the beginning of a longer process. I wish the people of the Deh Cho well as we move towards self-government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

#### **Member's Statement on Inuvik High School Graduation Ceremonies**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I start out my Member's statement in this session, I would like to send greetings back home to my wife and children. Mr. Speaker, spring brings on a special feeling for many people in the Northwest Territories. I refer specifically, Mr. Speaker, to those who are preparing for graduation from their formal years of education, the K-12 system as we call it.

Mr. Speaker, I was fortunate to attend and be part of the ceremonies and the banquet of the graduation ceremonies in Inuvik on June 1, 2001. It was a special time, Mr. Speaker, to see the young men and women there preparing to move on. It was like a rite of individuals moving forward to become young men, women and adulthood. Many will be pursuing further levels of education and some will be looking into the job markets right away.

Mr. Speaker, during the banquet, I had also listened to an event they had. This was the first time I have attended their banquet. During the banquet, they held an event they call the prophecies, where they do a slight roast of all of the graduates. Listening to that, Mr. Speaker, I also had warning at that time that some of these graduates would be looking to challenge in the area of leadership when it comes to this Assembly. I look forward to that, and encourage them to step forward and to look wisely at the decisions they make in the near future.

I wish them the best in their writing of the exams as the end of the month comes by, and I also commend them for being positive role models to their brothers and sisters as well. I think it is something we need to celebrate and show that it is something we definitely look forward to and hope that they will be achieving their actual graduation certificate and moving forward to further levels of education. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement on Northwest Territories Seniors' Week**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thank you for saving the best for last.

-- Laughter

I believe I am the last of the Members to speak here. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to honour Seniors' Week this week and recognize all of the elders we have in the gallery today, along with honoured guests. I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate and express our thanks to all those elders who were honoured for their contributions during the ceremony earlier today.

I am especially happy to have, for the very first time, the most important elder in my life, my mother, who I will be recognizing later, and also my aunt, who recently moved from Korea.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, I had an opportunity to attend a part of the workshop on elders abuse awareness held at Baker Centre in Yellowknife. I understand there will be a report arising out of that workshop and I look forward to getting their recommendations and acting upon them.

While I was sitting in the workshop, it made me think about the elders in my life. Not only those who are related to me, but elders I see around me. I realize that we constantly rely on our elders: mothers, fathers, grandparents, aunts and uncles, and we take them for granted to meet all our needs. It seems to be forever, no matter how old we are or how old they are, and how able we are or how able they are. I know when I walk in the house or whenever I am in need, I expect my mom to be there to give me support.

At the same time, without even knowing that we are doing this, we practice ageism. Like every other "ism" in our society, such as sexism or racism, it is ever so subtle, harmful and hurtful. It is not right.

As years go by, as I come closer to being an elder myself, I am always surprised at how the elders I know have the same goals, dreams and desires. They have expectations about their life. They have great talent and skills and great experiences for us to learn from.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I end the statement by saying perhaps it is because they are in a stage in their life where all the desires, needs and their appreciation for life is more pronounced, because they understand the concept more clearly about time and experiences. I do not think the rest of us, as individuals and a society, understand this enough. I think we have to take the time for this week, as Seniors' Week and Elders Week, to understand that we have to be aware of not practicing ageism, that we as legislators provide support and services and resources necessary to make sure that the elders and seniors in our society could fulfill and live their lives at their best ability, and that we appreciate them as much as all the other people in our society who need extra help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### **Member's Statement on Michel Sikyea's 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I too join Ms. Lee in thanking you for saving the best for last. Thank you.

-- Laughter

Mr. Speaker, today I would also like to recognize Michel Sikyea, who was born 100 years ago today and, as we speak, is enjoying his birthday party over at Aven Centre.

He had a very interesting life. He was orphaned at three years of age and lived at the Fort Resolution Mission until he was 18. In 1923, he and his wife Rose were married. He came to Yellowknife for the first time in 1928 for a visit and then moved here in 1934. He worked for Con Mine for 15 years, but on a part-time basis so he could have time for both he and his wife to continue to live a traditional lifestyle hunting and trapping at Moose Bay.

Michel also worked for the Town of Yellowknife in the 1950s, and in 1963 moved to N'Dilo. In fact, the main road leading into N'Dilo, Sikyea, is named after him. As was already mentioned, he is famous for having shot the million-dollar duck. That duck cost him one dollar: it cost the federal government one million dollars. That duck was, until recently, on display on the second floor in the Yellowknife Courthouse, a female mallard.

Mr. Sikyea and his wife live in the Aven Manor Home, where they moved in 1995. He and his family and friends are celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday today. Mr. Sikyea will receive birthday congratulations from Her Majesty the Queen, the Prime Minister of Canada, and the Governor General. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Indeed, the congratulations of this Assembly go to Mr. Sikyea on achieving such a milestone in life, 100 years. Item 4, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### **Member's Statement on Business Person of the Year Cameron Clement**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank you for saving the best for last.

-- Laughter

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to publicly recognize Cameron Clement, president of NTCL, as the Northwest Territories Chamber of Commerce's Businessperson of the Year. Cameron is retiring from the NTCL later this year, so the timing of this award is even more appropriate.

Cameron has worked for NTCL for the past 32 years, and has been a full-time resident of Hay River for much of that time. He has held many different senior management positions with the company before being appointed vice-president in 1993. In 1995, Cameron was instrumental in relocating the head office for NTCL to Hay River from Edmonton. In 1996, he became president.

Under Cameron's leadership, NTCL has established itself as a prime contractor for resupply and delivery materials, including fuel to the Northwest Territories and Nunavut communities, as well as other circumpolar regions, including the north slope of Alaska.

Not only has Cameron made an outstanding contribution to NTCL, but he has also maintained a strong sense of community and commitment to local causes. He has ensured his company has been at the forefront in the sponsorship of community-based programs, including education, the HH Williams Hospital Foundation, the youth centre, sporting events

including the Arctic Winter Games, the DARE Program, the food bank, the soup kitchen, Smart Communities and the development of community initiatives such as the Hay River Golf Club and the track and field facilities.

To those who know him, Cameron is a gentle and unassuming man, which belies the fact that many of us have had to bear the brunt of his combination of amazing wit and public speaking talent.

I am proud that Cameron's tremendous contribution to business in the North has been recognized, and I join in congratulating him for all of his achievements. I am pleased to take this opportunity to thank him for his consistent dedication to Hay River. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Are there any more "best for last" statements by Members? Item 4, Members' statements. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

#### ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

Colleagues, before I go to the floor on this, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a former Member of this Legislative Assembly, representing the Mackenzie Liard riding, and now a respected Metis elder, Mr. Bill Lafferty.

-- Applause

Also, I would like to recognize the Languages Commissioner for the Northwest Territories, Ms. Fobbie Tatti.

-- Applause

The Information and Privacy Commissioner for the Northwest Territories, Ms. Elaine Keenan-Bengts.

-- Applause

Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Eddie Koyina, the mayor from Rae-Edzo. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize several people here today: a familiar face, the deputy minister of RWED, Mr. Bob McLeod, and his wife, Melody, the chair of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Board. Visiting us for the first time here in the House is my mother, Forestine McLeod. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** It is always nice to welcome the parents of honourable Members. Mrs. McLeod, welcome to the Assembly. Do not be a stranger to us. Come back often. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to take the opportunity to do something I do not get a chance to do very often, recognize a constituent, Ms. Bea Campbell, the president of the NWT Seniors' Society in Fort Smith, who is here to help kick off this very important week. Welcome and thank you for coming.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of this session here, my daughter-in-law, Heather Antoine, was here with my grandson, Ka. I think they left, but I just wanted to mention their names and that they were here. As well, there are some constituents, Steve Roland, Martina Norwegian and Bill Lafferty. Welcome. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I see so many distinguished guests in the gallery. I am hoping that everyone there will be recognized eventually, but I hope I will be forgiven if I just recognize my family in the gallery, who is here for the first time. Mr. Speaker, my mother moved back from Toronto last summer. This is her first time being here, Taejeong Lee.

-- Applause

And, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce some family of mine: my cousin, his wife and two kids, and his mother moved from Korea about a month ago. I would just like to put them on record, Jaehoon Lee, Eunmi Lee, Eunseo Lee, Eunho Lee and Okhee Lee.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are some visitors from Hay River North, but I will let my colleague, Mr. Delorey, introduce them. I have two constituents here, Ben and Fran Greenfield, who I think have the best market garden and saskatoon orchard in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, Lloyd Brunet, who is also president of the NWT Seniors' Advisory Council, in the gallery. Although they are not my constituents, I would also like to recognize Ben and Fran Greenfield. I would also like to congratulate Ben on receiving the Outstanding Volunteer Service Award. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many people in the gallery and I wanted to recognize some of my constituents, and maybe take the opportunity to introduce several others as well. First of all, a gentleman who has moved into my constituency -- I am not sure of what other Yellowknife constituency he was in before, but he is a very well-known Yellowknifer -- Ed Jeske. I would also like to recognize Esther Braden, who is one of my constituents; Larry Elkin, the chair of the Stanton Regional Hospital Board; and my wife, Marg Baille. Also, they are not constituents, but I would like to recognize my deputy minister, Penny Ballantyne; Gordon Stewart, the chair of the NWT Power Corporation; and Larry Pirka, the chair of the Yellowknife Catholic School Board No. 2. Welcome to the gallery.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two people, Barb Hood, the executive director of the NWT Seniors' Society, and my mother Esther. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Lizzie Beaulieu, who may or may not be in the House. I cannot see from over here. I would also like to recognize all the people of Tu Nedhe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize all seniors with us today, especially Agnes Williams, who is a constituent of mine. As well, I would like to recognize Brita Tay, from Victoria, B.C. who is the mother of my deputy minister of Finance's secretary. Thank you.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Are there any other recognitions of visitors in the gallery? The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize two important ladies, Nora Lennie from Tulita and Helen Grube from Tuktoyaktuk. Also, I would like to recognize Charles Overvold, the deputy minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

-- Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Are there any further recognitions of visitors in the gallery? I would like to say thank you to everyone who has attended the Assembly today. Just a reminder that we are going to take a short break here to entertain a reception in the Great Hall, to which you are all invited. I would like to say that I wish you would come more

often. It sounds like the House of Commons here with all of the clapping. Now we shall take a short break.

-- Break

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House will come back to order after a short break. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for the Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 6, oral questions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? I did hear a nay. The Chair heard a nay. The Chair will again ask, are there any nays? There are no nays. Then we shall return to item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 1-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As indicated earlier, my question today will be for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment and it relates to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by our Premier and the NWTTA in January 2000.

Specifically, I am referring to the clause that says:

"It is recognized that the approval of the planned legislative changes will result in an incremental increase in education funding of approximately \$4.6 million in the 2000-2001 year."

Mr. Speaker, the last presentation I received from the department suggested that we only spent \$2.8 million in that year for incremental funding for those two things; student support and PTR. I am wondering why? Thank you.

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

##### Return to Question 1-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the time the discussion took place, the funding and the PTR, it was pointed out that we would lower the figures according to what is set out on a territory-wide basis. Additionally, we would include areas for forced growth. That is where the difference comes from, between \$4.6 million and \$2.8 million, I believe. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Merci, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

##### Supplementary to Question 1-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a little confused. I am wondering if we are supposed to tell our constituents and the public that we did not spend half the money that we were going to spend on student support and PTR because there was

some forced growth that did not happen. Is that really what the Minister would have us tell our constituents? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 1-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it did happen. The figures were based on the previous year. We always use the previous year's figures and, as the Member knows, we just put \$1.3 million back into the PTR system to address that issue. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 1-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**MR. BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I will acknowledge that we put some more money into PTR that originally indicated going forward, but that does not address the situation of underfunding in previous years.

I am wondering why we would set the bar so low that we could hop over it on one leg, Mr. Speaker? We did meet the legislative requirements, but clearly we knew that we could do much better. Why did we not? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 1-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think this has been a very ambitious program on the part of our government. On an overall basis, the PTR has been reduced to the figures that we have set out to achieve and I believe that our funding has been very substantial in this whole area and we have met the requirement. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 1-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. Substantial? I do not know, Mr. Speaker. We are far behind the Yukon, Manitoba, Newfoundland, other areas, northern Alberta. Would the Minister agree that we have some catch up to do if we are going to have the kind of PTR that other rural and northern locations have? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 1-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I am glad the Member brought up the issue of other jurisdictions, Mr.

Speaker, because yes, it is very true that we want to bring down the PTR. That is our aim and we are putting substantial money into this. There will be \$30 million plus at the end of four years that we will have invested into this whole area.

With other jurisdictions, Mr. Speaker, it is always hard to totally compare because we do not know if other jurisdictions have similar situations, such as we fund 77 language specialists in the Northwest Territories that are not counted in the PTR. We also fund teaching assistants, who are also not included.

So we have to compare apples and apples, not apples and oranges. Also, there are special student needs funding that perhaps is not included in other jurisdictions the way we include it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 2-14(4): Notification of Capital Project Deferral**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation. It is in regard to the projects that have been let on Highway No. 8. There have been some projects deferred, especially in regard to the count of replacement from kilometre 0 to kilometre 20 on the Dempster Highway; from the embankment widening from kilometre 127.6 to kilometre 130.6 on the Dempster Highway.

I would like to ask the Minister, in regard to the different adjustment transfer guidelines that we have within our budget directives, which is directive 302. I would like to ask the Minister, in regard to the changes that are increased, the project that is now known as the Campbell Creek Bridge, what is the notification process that your department uses to inform Members that the projects within their ridings are going to be deferred?

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

**Return to Question 2-14(4): Notification of Capital Project Deferral**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. We did move some capital funding from specific projects on Highway No. 8 to offset the increase in costs for the bridge at Campbell Creek. However, the department considers all the capital that is applicable to Highway No. 8 as one project. We are not moving money from one riding to another. It is all one project as far as the department is concerned.

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

**Supplementary to Question 2-14(4): Notification of Capital Project Deferral**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The point is, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that when you defer something, to me, that means you move it to somewhere else. In regard to my riding, two projects have been deferred, in which some of that deferral is because there was a capital cost overrun in regard to the bridge. I would like to ask the Minister again, what do you do when you defer a project in a Member's riding?

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

**Further Return to Question 2-14(4): Notification of Capital Project Deferral**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before we can defer the specific project that the Member is talking about and put it into another riding, we would have to inform the Member of this. However, we are not moving money from one riding to another. We are simply moving money from one project to another within the same overall project, which is the Dempster Highway improvement project.

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

**Supplementary to Question 2-14(4): Notification of Capital Project Deferral**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is my point. The point is that the projects that have been deferred are in my riding. I believe the bridge the Minister is talking about is in Mr. Roland's riding. The money was deferred from one riding to someone else's riding. That is the point I am trying to make. When money is deferred from one Member's riding, do you inform the Member in writing or let the Member have the ability to inform his constituents that these projects will not be taking place?

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

**Further Return to Question 2-14(4): Notification of Capital Project Deferral**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that Mr. Roland's riding goes all the way out to Campbell Creek. I do not know that specifically. As far as the department is concerned, that portion of the Dempster Highway that we are improving is all one project. We are simply taking money from what was originally planned that we would put towards the culvert replacement at kilometre 20 and embankment widening at kilometre 127.6 to 130.6 of the Dempster. We took money from those two specific projects and put it towards capital at the Campbell Creek bridge. We do not consider the Campbell Creek bridge being in the Inuvik riding. It is simply part of the Dempster Highway. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko, your final, short supplementary.

**Supplementary to Question 2-14(4): Notification of Capital Project Deferral**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the timing of the items in question, the contract was closed on March 28<sup>th</sup>. I did not receive a letter from the Minister until I finally probed on my own to entice his department to finally get me a letter. I did not receive it until May 28<sup>th</sup>, almost two months after the contract was closed. Why was I not notified sooner?

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

**Further Return to Question 2-14(4): Notification of Capital Project Deferral**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the reason for the delay in my response to the Member. I would have to get back to the Member on that. Thank you.

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

**Question 3-14(4): Territorial Women's Correctional Centre**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is addressed to the Minister of Justice, and it is a follow-up on my Member's statement about the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre and the vacant warden's position and what is happening with that particular critical position, keeping in mind his February 2000 letter where he indicated that he intended to fill that through the public process. I was wondering if the Minister could update us in this House as to what is happening with that position. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, the Minister of Justice, Mr. Antoine.

**Return to Question 3-14(4): Territorial Women's Correctional Centre**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre in Fort Smith is a territorial correctional centre for all the territorial women that have been sentenced by the courts and go there to serve time. This is a territorial women's correctional centre.

Some time ago in February, I did reply to a letter from the honourable Member for Thebacha that the process to select a warden at that time was to go through the public process. We did go through advertising and there were some candidates that have gone through that process.

However, that process was not successful. For some reason or another, the successful candidate did not accept the position and even left town. That caused the department and corrections to offer the former warden, Mr. Don Jackard, to take the contract as acting warden until we decide what the next steps would be. At this time, we are looking at different options that are available to us. There are different options that we are looking at at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Minister Antoine. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Supplementary to Question 3-14(4): Territorial Women's Correctional Centre**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is an answer that is a maybe and a final kind of a response, and it leaves many questions. My question to the Minister is, will the Minister indicate in this House whether he intends to readvertise that position and staff it through the public process that is the norm in the Government of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Question 3-14(4): Territorial Women's Correctional Centre**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is one of the options available to us at this time. We are looking at all the options before us, and that is one of them. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Antoine. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Supplementary to Question 3-14(4): Territorial Women's Correctional Centre**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask again, this position has been vacant for months and months and months. Will the Minister indicate what option he intends to pursue? Is it the public process? Is he going to direct appoint? What does he intend to do? I would like a clear answer so that it is clear in my constituency as to when this position will be staffed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Question 3-14(4): Territorial Women's Correctional Centre**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make the point that it is a territorial centre and we have to look at the whole territory when we look at it. The option is that we could go through a public tendering process, and the other options available would be a direct appointment and so forth. We are looking at that as well. If we go that route, it is a Cabinet decision. That decision has not been made yet. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Antoine. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Supplementary to Question 3-14(4): Territorial Women's Correctional Centre**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he could confirm that in fact he intends to proceed as indicated to me with a direct appointment. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Question 3-14(4): Territorial Women's Correctional Centre**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Cabinet agenda items and decisions to Cabinet are confidential. I do not make a decision on my own. That is one of the options that we are looking at. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**Question 414(4): Status of Income Support Review**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, and it relates to the Income Support Program of this government. Last spring, there were a number of issues raised regarding inconsistencies and clawbacks of funding to income support clients, and the adequacy of meeting family needs. The Minister indicated at the time -- and it was welcome news -- that the whole program would come under review to test its criteria in this day and age. My question is what is the status of the review of income support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return to Question 4-14(4): Status of Income Support Review**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the honourable Member on the income support system. Our department has been doing extensive work in this area over the past several months. We have looked at a number of issues that needed to be addressed, and we will be bringing forth, through myself, a statement in the House hopefully before the session ends. We did have the opportunity to brief the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight just yesterday, but we need to do a bit more work in that area, Mr. Speaker, before we can actually release some of the decisions that we need to make on that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary to Question 4-14(4): Status of Income Support Review**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister advise the Assembly of what parties, what people, what agencies the department has been consulting with in terms of redefining this program? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 4-14(4): Status of Income Support Review**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said, as I stated last session, we would be looking at having our officials do a review of critical areas, and that has been the process, to look at a number of areas that have been of concern and take into consideration some of the previous work that had been done in this area.

For instance, we had a report from the community advisory committee. That is a number of different agencies in our particular community that brought forward some of the issues. We took that into consideration as well as previous reports that had been issued in this particular area of concern, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

#### **Supplementary to Question 4-14(4): Status of Income Support Review**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to see if the Minister could give us any further indication on when any of these new criteria will be implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 4-14(4): Status of Income Support Review**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to move fairly fast on it, Mr. Speaker. The moment that I can make a statement in the House, or shortly thereafter if we cannot meet that deadline, I expect that within weeks we will be instituting changes in the program. As I said, I am not in any position today to discuss the details of those particular programs but we did have an opportunity for the Members to become a bit familiar with that.

I am meeting with some of the social agencies at the end of the week as well and there may be other areas that need to be taken into consideration. Thank you.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 4-14(4): Status of Income Support Review**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if any Members, constituents or any organizations in the Northwest Territories who would still like to have some input or some comment, are they still welcome to contact your department and offer that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 4-14(4): Status of Income Support Review**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I am not suggesting that we should ever stop with input, for the honourable Member's information. That needs to be ongoing. At some point, we have to make a decision to proceed with some of the changes because I think it is important for the people out there. If we can make improvements, we should do so and do so expediently.

I want to proceed expediently with this particular program and not hold it up. It is an ongoing situation in this particular area that we always need to be cognizant of the fact that conditions in our communities may change, employment-wise, need-wise, and we need to be able to respond to that.

That is how I would like to approach it, that we not delay, delay, delay simply for the sake of trying to get as much input here as possible. I think it is important for us to move forward. We are prepared to do that. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 5-14(4): Kakisa Access Road**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation. Mr. Speaker, the campground at Kakisa, Lady Evelyn Falls, is going through the process of expansion over the next couple of years. Part of the planning for the expansion project is to look at moving the road so it does not pass right through the campground that is currently there.

I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation if he is involved with the project that is currently underway.

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

#### **Return to Question 5-14(4): Kakisa Access Road**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware that we are involved at this point. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Supplementary to Question 5-14(4): Kakisa Access Road**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, part of the budget has already been approved to look at this expansion project and moving the road system is part of it. I would like to ask if the Minister would consider, along with his staff, going into Kakisa to talk to the people there, because part of the road that is being rerouted is a few kilometres long. The total length of the access road is only 12 kilometres long. I think it would make sense for the Minister to go in and talk to the staff from RWED and look at making this a holistic approach that would include the whole of the access road. I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider talking to the people of Kakisa and RWED on this project.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 5-14(4): Kakisa Access Road**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will pass that on to my department and we will have some discussion with RWED.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Question 6-14(4): Income Support Increases**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century here in the North, people are experiencing a great increase in the cost of living. The Minister responsible will respond by introducing some new initiatives to increase the amount of assistance available to income support recipients and other people that need the help of government in the areas of food basket and clothing allowances.

I am just wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister could answer a question for me. The question is, Mr. Speaker, where were these numbers developed? Were they developed in-house or did the Minister use outside sources? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Return to Question 6-14(4): Income Support Increases**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like to state that I am looking at finalizing the areas that we looked at in terms of the income support issues that we committed to address. I must point out though that I briefed the standing committee yesterday on this and I need more time to finalize this particular area. Also, I need the response from the standing committee if such a written response or other response is forthcoming.

We are not in a position today to deal with the details of the particular area that I mentioned because I need the time to be able to finalize some of the areas that we have looked at. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Supplementary to Question 6-14(4): Income Support Increases**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear that the Minister requires a little bit more time. There is a Social Agenda Conference happening in a couple of weeks in Hay River. The issue of income support, more dollars going to income support recipients and other people who are in need, is a social issue. Was the Minister planning to use that forum to educate or inform conference goers of this new initiative? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 6-14(4): Income Support Increases**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should point out first, Mr. Speaker, we are not talking about a new initiative. We are talking about having reviewed some of the areas that we were concerned about and need to improve. We have looked at a number of areas, but this is definitely not a new thrust by this government with a new initiative.

I will be bringing forward to the House some commentary on that end if we can finalize our particular consultation with the standing committee and particular areas we need to pursue with some of the other agencies out there and our Cabinet process. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Supplementary to Question 6-14(4): Income Support Increases**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Understanding that he cannot get into the specifics of the information, would the Minister responsible work with the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, who is hosting this conference, to see if it could happen? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 6-14(4): Income Support Increases**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, our coordination between Health and Social Services and Education is very close these days, simply because, as you are well aware, our deputy ministers have switched roles. We are very familiar with each others' programs.

Coordination has been ongoing for the past year. We set up a social committee that includes both the Minister of Health, myself and other Ministers. We are working very closely. I will speak to the Minister about the Hay River Social Agenda Conference. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Your final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

#### **Supplementary to Question 6-14(4): Income Support Increases**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is great that the departments are working closely together and the deputy ministers are swapping. However, I would like to stress the fact that the programs designed by the government are delivered by front-line personnel and the conference in Hay River is for front-line personnel.

I will strongly suggest to the Minister that they should bring these new initiatives, or additional initiatives, to this conference, to be endorsed, or questioned, by these front-line individuals before any final decision is made. Will the Minister commit to that? Thank you.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 6-14(4): Income Support Increases**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we have formulated some approach already to our review of the existing programs. It is not a new initiative. It is not a new thrust, which would be different. I think if we had a total new thrust, total new programs, and then take it to the table with a lot of people.

However, I think that we need to move forward with some of the areas that we have looked at and have almost come to a conclusion on. We need to introduce that, Mr. Speaker, because as I mentioned to Mr. Braden, the honourable Member for Great Slave, we will continue to receive feedback and we want to get feedback and this conference will be a

great area. However, to get specific about individual programs may be very difficult.

I would depend very much on some of my Cabinet colleagues because the agenda may not fit in totally with specific small items like that and they are not small in terms of the public out there, but I want to institute those changes as quickly as possible. I think that is important, then additionally get feedback. We will look at programs throughout the years. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 7-14(4): Escarpment Creek Campground**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in my Member's statement, the campground south of Enterprise at Escarpment Creek had been closed to the public last summer. Apparently, it is closed again this year. It has been brought to my attention by a number of residents in Hay River.

I was wondering if the Minister could explain to us why this campground is closed to the public? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Return to Question 7-14(4): Escarpment Creek Campground**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The campground that the Member is referring to was closed last year while some of the facilities were under construction. The construction continues this year and while it is under construction, it is not wise to have campers go in there because of liability issues. So construction, which is mainly washroom facilities or bathrooms and a new bridge and fence, will be completed some time in July. At that time, the campground will open again. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

#### **Supplementary to Question 7-14(4): Escarpment Creek Campground**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What would be the difference in this project now, with construction going on there, than it was with, say, Alexander Falls and Louise Falls? When the construction was going on there, those were not closed to the public at that time. I remember going there myself when the construction was going on. What makes this one different? Thank you.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 7-14(4): Escarpment Creek Campground**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have not personally been to the campground myself, but I believe the issue here is primarily around the bridge and the

fencing. It is a safety issue if campers go in while it is under construction and an accident should occur. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

#### **Supplementary to Question 7-14(4): Escarpment Creek Campground**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the residents have been using that campground for a number of years now and where the bridge would be, I do not see any safety issue. However, I was wondering if the Minister could check. That whole area has been revised many times. I do not recall of any incidents ever happening there and the safety issue. Would the Minister have any incidents that have happened there that would have caused a safety issue?

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

#### **Further Return to Question 7-14(4): Escarpment Creek Campground**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, no, I am not familiar with any incidents that have happened there. I know that the construction is going on today as we speak. The workers will get it completed as quickly as possible. I will check to see whether it could be opened earlier, but I am not sure what the advice would be at this time. However, I will check into it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Your final short supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

#### **Supplementary to Question 7-14(4): Escarpment Creek Campground**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If where they are putting a bridge or the danger area can be sectioned off, would the Minister guarantee that he will check to see that the camping areas can be opened up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 7-14(4): Escarpment Creek Campground**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Speaker. If the area under construction can be secured against people going in there, then there is probably no reason why it could not be opened up. I will check with the department on that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

#### **Question 8-14(4): High Cost of Fuel**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today goes to the Minister of Finance, and it is in regard to the high cost of fuel.

Mr. Speaker, as we recall, the end of last session was taken up largely by discussions about the fuel rebate program. After the

session ended, I had numerous e-mails and calls from people who found out they could not qualify for this program.

I was wondering, Mr. Speaker, if the Minister had a time to review the program and tell us how much was given out under that program? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

#### **Return to Question 8-14(4): High Cost of Fuel**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I do not have information on the exact amount that was spent on it. That was a program that was managed through the Housing Corporation, so I do not have that information. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

#### **Supplementary to Question 8-14(4): High Cost of Fuel**

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Speaker, then may I ask, as the Minister of Finance, whether or not he is planning on introducing any other programs that could alleviate the high cost of fuel and gas and energy and power and everything else that we have? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

#### **Further Return to Question 8-14(4): High Cost of Fuel**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we are continuing to monitor the prices of fuel and what is happening in the long-term trend. If fuel prices stay high, then certainly we will consider another program to assist people. However, it would be difficult to predict what that would look like and what would need to be there at this time. However, it is open if prices stay high. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

#### **Supplementary to Question 8-14(4): High Cost of Fuel**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, may I ask the Minister to be more specific about what are the indicators he is watching as he monitors the price of fuel and the cost of living and the impact it has on it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

#### **Further Return to Question 8-14(4): High Cost of Fuel**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Specifically, we monitor the price of fuel, and that is the market price on the New York Merchant Exchange. I can say that the price of natural gas, for example, has gone from roughly \$10 to \$5 since February and it is predicted to go even lower than that. The price of crude oil has gone from \$30 a month, and gone down to \$28 and it is predicted to go down even lower. These are all in U.S. dollars because it is on the New York Exchange.

We do not see the impact of those immediately. It is probably a three-to-six-month lag period in there before we feel the impacts. However, at today's trends, the prices are going down

and we would have to take that into consideration as we watch what is happening over the summer. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final short supplementary, Ms. Lee.

#### **Supplementary to Question 8-14(4): High Cost of Fuel**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister made it clear that he had to have this fuel rebate in place immediately after the last session because the price was so high and things were so bad. Could the Minister say at what point is the price low enough that there is no need for a fuel rebate program? What is the cutoff? Does the Minister have any idea on that?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Finance, Mr. Handley.

#### **Further Return to Question 8-14(4): High Cost of Fuel**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I guess the cutoff is different for different people. Some people do not have much flexibility in their budget and need assistance for even minor changes. Some people can absorb a higher increase, but generally, I would say if natural gas, which affects the price of propane, stays down around \$5 U.S., and as predicted, goes as low as \$3.50, that is going to bring the price back to where it was a year, a year-and-a-half ago. With crude oil, if the prices go down to \$20 a barrel, which some people are predicting, then that will bring that down to what it was a year, a year-and-a-half ago. If we have both of those scenarios work out, there probably would be no need to have a fuel rebate. I say that knowing that some people may still feel a bit of a crunch, even with the prices going down. Thank you.

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

#### **Question 914(4): Funding for Addictions Treatment Centres**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen. I would like to ask the Minister, at the Social Agenda Conference on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>, if the NGOs and aboriginal groups ask for facilities for addictions prevention and healing centres, will the department build one in my riding? Thank you.

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

#### **Return to Question 914(4): Funding for Addictions Treatment Centres**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I fully anticipate that the subject of infrastructure and facilities will be raised in the context of some of the challenges we face on our social issues. I hope to be able to have a discussion with the participants at the conference as to ways we may be able to work together to advance the increase in the limited number of residential treatment beds we have at this time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary to Question 9-14(4): Funding for Addictions Treatment Centres**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister returned my question about what the costs were versus residential and mobile treatment, and the costs sort of equalize and exceed, in some cases, travel costs for out-of-the Northwest Territories services, because we do not have enough facilities in the North. Can the Minister tell me that whatever decisions are made in Hay River will be used and not shelved like other studies? 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 9-14(4): Funding for Addictions Treatment Centres**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are hoping that the discussions and dialogue that take place at the Social Agenda Conference will give us a context within which we can look at some innovative ways of dealing with social challenges, such as addictions. We are hoping to implement some of the recommendations that come out of there as we move ahead with our business planning and just planning on the part of the department for the needs and for the resources we have in the coming years. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary to Question 9-14(4): Funding for Addictions Treatment Centres**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, I hope this is not just another exercise as a front to the people of the Northwest Territories, to tell them that we are working for them in all areas. Can the Minister tell me that any decisions made, will they be followed? If not, can she tell me that?

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

**Further Return to Question 9-14(4): Funding for Addictions Treatment Centres**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the responsibility, the lead on addressing many of these issues, has traditionally been carried out with some help from the regional governments and the aboriginal governments, by the Government of the Northwest Territories. As I said, we want to talk in Hay River on the Hay River Reserve about relationships and how we can collaborate and coordinate our efforts with people. We want to talk about relationships so that we can make the most effective use of the ideas and the resources that we do have.

Certainly, as Members all know, our resources are not unlimited. We do have restraints on what we can spend on various things, but we think there is a lot of room for improvement on how we expend those resources. There is a lot of opportunity for us to think about how we could do things

differently that might involve other kinds of resources other than financial. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary to Question 9-14(4): Funding for Addictions Treatment Centres**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if she can get back to me about all of the expenditures out-of-territory that we have used for addictions and healing, and how many facilities we could have purchased in the last eight years? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. That is a difficult question to answer. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Further Return to Question 9-14(4): Funding for Addictions Treatment Centres**

**HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that it is possible to compile a total of what we have spent as a government on referrals to places like southern addictions treatment centres, residential treatment programs. It is possible to put those numbers together.

We should not dismiss the fact that people may have been helped by those referrals and by the expenditure of those resources. Sometimes, it was the best thing to do in view of what the people were facing when we talk about different dual-addictions and specialized treatment that people may have required. I do not think that we should dismiss the fact that some people may have been helped by those, but yes, we could put together the totals for what we have spent in the last five or ten years on southern placements. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Merci, Madam Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Question 10-14(4): Transfer of Funds Between Highway Projects**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was not satisfied with the last question to the Minister and I want clarification on the point that was a big issue in the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly, with the whole area of project dollars being moved from one section of the highway to another section of the highway, which is the same highway. For instance, if the project was on Highway No. 3, the Member for North Slave, where a project was moved from his area to the other end, which is in the Yellowknife Members' ridings, or the same thing in Highway No. 8. A portion of the highway is in my riding and the other portion ends up in Inuvik's riding. Money is being moved from one section of the highway to another Member's riding. I would like to remind the Minister that there was a motion of censure in the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly on a similar type of issue.

I would like to ask the Minister for more clarification on what type of authority Members have on those sections of highway that go through their ridings.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I just want to remind Members that in an effort to conserve question time, please

make the questions short. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Mr. Steen.

**Return to Question 10-14(4): Transfer of Funds Between Highway Projects**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for clarification, the department moved \$950,000 from the southern portion of the Dempster Highway to the northern portion of the Dempster Highway. It was to reflect the increased cost of that bridge project at Campbell Creek.

The department is not aware that we are going from one riding to another. I have my department checking on this right now, but we believe the town boundaries are the boundaries of the Inuvik ridings. Therefore, Campbell Creek would be in the Member's riding. We are not moving money from one riding into another, as far as we know at this point. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 10-14(4): Transfer of Funds Between Highway Projects**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the case that the bridge is in the river from the Inuvik Boot Lake riding, what is the remedy to ensure that this does not happen to other Members within this House, where the department uses the discretion that they can move from one section of the highway to the next section of the highway without informing the Members? Could the Minister tell me exactly whether this has happened anywhere else?

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

**Further Return to Question 10-14(4): Transfer of Funds Between Highway Projects**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is well aware of the requirement to inform Members if we move certain amounts of money from one riding to another. We have been practicing this. We have, in the past, where we have had to move money from sections of Highway No. 3 to Highway No. 4, for instance, and we have informed the appropriate Members when we have done this. As far as we know, we are following the rules to the letter. We do not believe that we are moving money from one riding to another at this point. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary to Question 10-14(4): Transfer of Funds Between Highway Projects**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So can the Minister clarify exactly what is his department doing to ensure that all Members are aware that any project is deferred, regardless of where it happens on a road system, that the Members are being informed that you are deferring dollars, in this case \$900,000 from an area that I believe is in my riding, to the north end of the highway? What is the process to notify Members of monies being deferred? Thank you.

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

**Further Return to Question 10-14(4): Transfer of Funds Between Highway Projects**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we have to transfer money from one riding to another, we inform the Members by letter that we are doing so. That is the process that we have been using. That is the process that we have been told to use. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Steen. Your final short supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary to Question 10-14(4): Transfer of Funds Between Highway Projects**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is the first time I have heard that \$950,000 was deferred from one section of the highway to another, until I heard it in this House. It took your department two months to inform me that the contract, which was let go in March, which I just received a couple of days ago. What is the timeline that your department used to inform Members that they do ensure that they do have fair notification, where we do not hear about it long after the fact that the contract has been let go?

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

**Further Return to Question 10-14(4): Transfer of Funds Between Highway Projects**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this point, we do not have a process whereby we inform Members if we are going to move money within their ridings from one section of the highway project to another.

The total project for the Dempster is \$5 million for this year. We are simply taking money from one section of the Dempster and putting it on another section of the Dempster.

Almost 100 percent of the Dempster is in the Member's riding. So we are not transferring money outside of his riding and we do not have a process to inform any of the Members if we are transferring certain projects around or moving the money around within their ridings. It is only required if we take it from one riding to another. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 11-14(4): Territorial Woman's Correctional Centre**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to address my question to the Minister of Justice, continuing the line of questioning in regard to the warden's position at the Territorial Women's Correctional Centre.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister's answers have been less than forthright. Basically, he has been trying to slag me off here.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Minister indicated that he had made a decision that he was going to go to direct appointment.

Now he says that it is a Cabinet decision. I know that he takes it to the Cabinet as the Minister. I would like the Minister to confirm whether he intends to proceed with the direct appointment for the warden's position? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Antoine.

**Return to Question 11-14(4): Territorial Woman's Correctional Centre**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to abide by Cabinet rules here. At the same time, I was forthright and open to the honourable Member yesterday. When he asked me, I told him what my intentions were, which is to sign off a letter to Cabinet requesting that option and it is up to Cabinet to decide. It has not been on the Cabinet agenda yet. I do not know when it is going to be, but that is when the decision is going to be made. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Merci, Mr. Antoine. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Supplementary to Question 11-14(4): Territorial Woman's Correctional Centre**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is somewhat of a painful process, but I would just like the Minister to confirm that yes, he is moving forward with the request to have a direct appointment to staff with the warden's position at the TWCC? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Question 11-14(4): Territorial Woman's Correctional Centre**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a Minister, and I know the Member used to be a Minister, he should know that you make these kinds of decisions, but it is up to Cabinet to decide whether to put it under the agenda or not. That has not been done yet. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Supplementary to Question 11-14(4): Territorial Woman's Correctional Centre**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Clearly it is the Minister who initiates the action. My question to the Minister is now that he has intended to proceed with the direct appointment, is he prepared to put a political patronage issue above the quality and care of the program in the TWCC? Is he satisfied that he can do that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I heard two questions there. You can choose which one that you want to answer. Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Question 11-14(4): Territorial Woman's Correctional Centre**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of questions there. There are impeding suggestions there that I do not want to go there. However, the

decision has not been made. The decision has to be made before we do it. Again, it has not been on the Cabinet agenda. It is my request to Cabinet, but I do not know when it is going to get on the Cabinet agenda. At that time, we will discuss it. One of the options is there and it could go either way. However, right now, the decision has not been made and I would like to leave it at that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Your final short supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Supplementary to Question 11-14(4): Territorial Woman's Correctional Centre**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister indicate whether he has a specific person in mind for this direct appointment? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Justice, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return to Question 11-14(4): Territorial Woman's Correctional Centre**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, I do. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**Question 12-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is along the same lines as earlier, but I would like to direct it to the Premier, who in fact, on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2000, signed off on a Memorandum of Agreement between the Executive Council and the NWTTA. In it, it says:

"It is recognized that the approval of the planned changes will result in an incremental increase in education funding of approximately \$4.6 million in the 2000-2001 year, based on projected enrolments and further additional funding increases in future years."

My question is for the Premier, Mr. Speaker, whether or not he intended to honour this agreement and in fact spend the \$4.6 million that this MOU refers to? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, I refer the question to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

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

**Return to Question 12-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I dealt with the question earlier and stated that the way the PTR and the funding was formulated included the identification of monies that included forced-growth costs. So that \$4.6 million included

the expansion plus the PTR, plus the forced growth. Thank you.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 12-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, of course this was signed by the Premier on behalf of the Executive Council and was an intention to provide money to the department. That is why I directed the question to the person who actually signed the MOU, but since he has referred it, I guess I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Education if he would be prepared to table the calculations that led us to believing that we would spend \$4.6 million in the first year. I would like to ask him to table those calculations. Thank you.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 12-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will have to check with the department on the type of calculations. I am not sure how much detail is available in that area. I will check with the department on that. Thank you.

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

#### **Supplementary to Question 12-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. Would the Minister commit to providing whatever detail the department does have in this area, specifically to the projected enrolments and the projected forced growth that led us to suggest to the NWTTA that we were going to spend \$4.6 million when in fact we did not? Thank you.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 12-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I think there was a good understanding by the NWTTA and the department. There have been discussions with respect to the approach to this funding. That approach was that we would bring the PTR into line on a territorial-wide basis according to the figures, and that we would put in approximately \$4.6 million, which included the forced-growth area. I want to emphasize that. We committed to spending that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

#### **Supplementary to Question 12-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, will the Minister table all of the calculations and assumptions that the department used, that he has access to, to arrive at this \$4.6 million figure that we screamed loud and clear about from the mountaintops? Thank you.

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

#### **Further Return to Question 12-14(4): Student Support and Pupil-Teacher Ratio Funding**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know what the screaming was about. At the time I think everyone was in favour of the approach. We committed as a government. I think it was a very positive move on all of our parts to be able to support that and to put more money into support for our teachers and our schools. It has been substantial. As I said earlier, we are putting \$30 million in, by the looks of it, at the end of four years.

I will do my best to get whatever information I can, Mr. Speaker, but I am not sure exactly what the calculations and the detail the Member is speaking of. I will see what I can do and talk to my department.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. The time for question period has ended. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

### **ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

#### **Written Question 1-14(4): Fuel Rebate Program**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a written question for the Honourable Roger Allen, Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation.

Please provide the following information regarding the Fuel Rebate Program introduced in March of 2001:

1. What was the duration of the program?
2. Did the program go beyond March 31<sup>st</sup>?
3. If so, until what date and why?
4. What was the total amount given out under the program?
5. What percentage of the total allocated budget did this amount constitute?
6. How many individuals benefited from the program? Please specify by eligible amount categories. For example, \$320, \$160, et cetera.
7. What is the community breakdown of these recipients? Please provide the number of recipients in each community.
8. What was the total number of applicants?
9. How many were rejected? What community were these from?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, petitions. Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

#### ITEM 9: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

##### Committee Report 1-14(4): Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly For the Year 1999

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I have the Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General to the NWT Legislative Assembly for the Year 1999.

##### Introduction

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight met to review the Report of the Auditor General to the NWT Legislative Assembly for the year 1999 on April 2 through April 3, 2001.

The first day involved briefings by the committee analyst and staff from the Office of the Auditor General on issues raised in its report. Staff from the Auditor General's Office included Mr. Ronald C. Thompson, assistant auditor general; Mr. Roger Simpson, principal; and Mr. Shawn Vincent, legislative auditor.

A public meeting was held on April 3, 2001. Committee members took the opportunity to raise issues with witnesses that came before the committee. The list of witnesses included Mr. Lew Voytilla, comptroller general; Mr. Kelsey Scott, analyst, Financial Management Board Secretariat; Ms. Debbie Delancey, associate deputy minister, Health and Social Services; Mr. Warren St. Germaine, director of corporate services, Health and Social Services; and Mr. Fred Koe, president, Northwest Territories Development Corporation.

##### Public Accounts Issues

Mr. Speaker, public accounts are the audited consolidated financial statements of a government. The consolidated financial statements represent the financial position of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The committee and the Auditor General noted that the Government's public accounts and most of our territorial corporations' annual reports are rarely tabled in a timely manner. The public and Members of the Legislative Assembly have a need for timely, accurate and relevant information on the financial condition of the government so they can effectively hold the government accountable for the way in which it manages and spends public money.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight conducted an interjurisdictional survey to determine if public accounts for the fiscal year 1998-1999 have been submitted in a timely manner and whether other Canadian jurisdictions included unaudited statements which may accelerate the tabling process. Of the jurisdictions surveyed in Exhibit 1.0, only Alberta and the Northwest Territories required audited statements without exception. As of June 4, 2001, the results are as follows:

- in the jurisdiction of the Northwest Territories, our documents were tabled on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 2000;
- in the Yukon, the documents were tabled on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, 1999;
- in British Columbia, they were tabled on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, 2000;
- in Alberta, the individual departments tabled at different times;
- in Saskatchewan, volumes 1 and 2 were tabled on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, 1999, and Financial Statements Compendium Parts A and B were tabled on the 26<sup>th</sup> of May, 2000;
- in Manitoba, volumes 1 through 3 were tabled on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November, 1999, and volume 4 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August, 2000;
- in Ontario, the documents were tabled on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 1999;
- New Brunswick does not formally table their documents;
- Nova Scotia tabled theirs on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, 1999;
- Prince Edward Island tabled volume 1 on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December, 1999 and volume 2 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of February, 2000; and finally
- Newfoundland tabled their document on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December, 1999.

The committee noted that the Northwest Territories tabled its 1998-1999 Public Accounts 15 months after their March 31, 1999 year end. Only Manitoba tabled their 1998-1999 Public Accounts later than the Northwest Territories.

An interjurisdictional survey of the 1999-2000 Public Accounts was also conducted, and is included in Appendix C of this report. As of June 4, 2001, jurisdictions that tabled later than the Northwest Territories -- which tabled on February 27, 2001 -- were Prince Edward Island, which tabled on March 23, 2001; Nova Scotia, which tabled its final Public Accounts component on April 4, 2001; and Nunavut and British Columbia, which have not yet tabled their reports.

In recognition of the additional efforts required to improve the timely submission of the public accounts, the Auditor General's Office suggested that a progressive approach be taken. For example, the 2000-2001 Public Accounts may be submitted by October 31, 2001 and in the succeeding year by September, 2002 and so on. Committee members note that the tabling of the public accounts prior to review of the government's business plans would be beneficial.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight and the Auditor General's Office encourage the government to

increase the readability of its public accounts and to regularly produce a straightforward and user-friendly document based upon performance indicators that will give the public and Members of the Legislative Assembly a clearer picture of where this government stands financially. The government's comptroller general office, which is responsible for the compilation of our public accounts, agreed.

In light of these significant reporting and tabling issues, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, upon the advice of the Auditor General's Office, made the following recommendations:

#### **Recommendation 1**

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight expects the Government to immediately adopt a progressive approach to the timely tabling of its public accounts by having:

- (a) the 2000-2001 Public Accounts ready for tabling by October 31, 2001;
- (b) the 2001-2002 Public Accounts ready for tabling by September 30, 2002;
- (c) the 2002-2003 Public Accounts ready for tabling by August 31, 2003;
- (d) and in subsequent years, to have the public accounts ready for tabling by no later than August 31 of the same year.

#### **Recommendation 2**

The Government of the Northwest Territories regularly produces a brief, timely, accurate and straightforward document that incorporates performance indicators based upon data included in the public accounts to report the financial health of the government.

Furthermore, the document must:

1. Be published once a year initially;
2. Be user-friendly; and
3. Use the same set of indicators each year.

#### **Compliance With Authority**

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight stated in order to improve the effectiveness of the government's overall third-party accountability framework, there must be compatible and user-friendly information databases and easy-to-use communication linkages within and between the government and its third-party program and service providers.

Committee members are also of the position that an effective third-party accountability framework combined with a cost-effective procurement policy would contribute to increased levels of compliance with the Financial Administration Act.

The Auditor General noted that in the past few years, there has always been at least one department that has overspent.

The Auditor General noted three instances of non-compliance with authority. These instances are described on the next two pages.

Mr. Speaker, I would now request, with your concurrence, that the deputy chair of the standing committee, the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, be permitted to continue with the report.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

#### **Health and Social Services**

The Financial Administration Act states a department cannot spend more than its approved budget, including supplementary appropriations. Any overexpenditures are in violation of the Financial Administration Act.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight expressed concern that the Department of Health and Social Services has repeatedly overexpended its budget for the same reasons every year. These reasons are increases in non-insured health benefits, out of NWT hospitals, physician services, children in care programs, and independent living.

The Auditor General's Office noted that these expenditures could be avoided or minimized if the department incorporated models or made educated assumptions that take into account potential or anticipated expenditures. The Auditor General added that the department should extend their outlook and plan in advance of expected expenditures. However, the department has repeatedly replied that it does not know the full extent of all its expenditures until "all the bills are in."

#### **Pay Equity**

The Government of the Northwest Territories accrued \$25,000,000 in 1997-1998 and another \$8,000,000 in 1998-1999 as an estimated provision to settle the pay equity dispute. However, in accruing the provision, the government did not comply with the authorization process as set out in the FAA, which requires the government to request a supplementary appropriation within 15 days of tabling its public accounts, which it did not in either year.

The Auditor General's Office recognized the actions of the government were based on practicality, but believes the government should have adhered to the FAA and obtained the necessary authority. Although this was primarily a technical issue, the Auditor General's Office and the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight encourage the government to either follow the FAA in the future or prepare amendments to the act to better reflect the actual operating environment.

During the recent review of the government's main estimates for 2001-2002, the government reported an 83 percent settlement rate of \$27,390,000. The government commented that close to a 100 percent acceptance rate could be achieved if they could locate all remaining employees.

**Northwest Territories Development Corporation (DevCorp)**

The DevCorp may subsidize its subsidiaries' operating costs based on jobs created directly or indirectly, up to an amount prescribed by regulations under the NWT Development Corporation Act. Until recently, no such regulations existed. Since 1989, the Financial Management Board (FMB) had set an upper limit of \$10,000 per annum per job created.

The act also allowed the DevCorp to make an initial investment in a subsidiary based on jobs created directly or indirectly. The FMB had set the initial investment limit at \$100,000 per job created.

The committee was informed that regulations are now in place, but they allow \$25,000 in annual contribution per job created, a significant increase from the previous \$10,000 as the upper limit per annum per job; and initial investment limits per job created remain at \$100,000 per job created.

The corporation for the fiscal year 1998-1999 was not in compliance with the FAA, as it did not collect information on jobs to demonstrate that subsidies did not exceed the maximum set by the FMB. The Auditor's Report on the financial statements for the years ended March 31, 1997 and 1998 was qualified for the same reasons.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight and the Office of the Auditor General noted that the DevCorp has undergone a complete turnover of senior management in April 1999, and the current management is making progress on correcting past reporting and management difficulties. The committee members encourage the DevCorp management to continue its efforts to diligently meet its mandate.

**Public Private Partnerships (P3)**

Originally, the government planned to complete seven P3 projects in the west. The private sector would build the required facility and the government would lease it back with a buyout option at the end of the lease term.

However, only the student family housing facility in Fort Smith has been completed and the remaining projects have been determined by the government to be unsuitable for the P3 approach. From the Fort Smith project, the government has learned that a P3 approach does not necessarily represent cost savings or value for money. The Auditor General's report concluded that the P3 project will cost the taxpayers more money than if the government had built and operated the facility itself.

The government has halted its use of the P3 approach and will take the conclusions of the Auditor General into consideration if it ever considers using the P3 approach again. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight supports the government's decision to put a moratorium on new P3 projects.

Finally, the committee also asked the government if any proponents were paid back on cancelled P3 projects. Committee members were informed that fees to P3 consultants totalled \$900,000 and the proponent involved in the Inuvik Hospital P3 project was compensated in the amount of \$40,000.

**Department of Health and Social Services: Alternative Service Delivery and Accountability****Department and Boards**

There has been a shift in roles between the Department of Health and Social Services and health and social services boards. Boards are responsible for delivering programs, while the department is responsible for policy, monitoring and evaluation. Part of this change involves increased financial contributions to boards, which requires an effective third-party accountability framework for boards and non-governmental organizations involved in delivering health and social services.

Committee members stated that although much of the responsibility for the delivery of health and social services has been devolved to the board and agency levels, the government, the Department of Health and Social Services, Members of the Legislative Assembly and most importantly the public need to know if they are receiving value for money.

**Third-Party Accountability Framework and Knowledge Management Strategy**

Members of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight suggested that the government establish linkages between their third-party accountability framework and their Knowledge Management Strategy (KMS). The KMS is a Government of the Northwest Territories strategy consisting of a review of information technology organization and operations within the government and boards and agencies. The standing committee is of the position that accurate, coordinated and well-managed information databases and communication linkages will contribute to increased effectiveness for the Department of Health and Social Services as well as improving third-party accountability.

**Budgeting and Evaluation**

A number of territorial boards of health and social services are in a deficit situation. At the time of the public review of the 1999 Auditor General's Report on Other Matters on April 3, 2001, the cumulative net deficit of all health and social services boards was \$3,100,000. Members of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight are especially concerned whether there will be an effect on the levels of programs and services available at facilities managed by boards that have incurred deficits. Further, committee members expressed concern that funding to boards are linked to their traditional spending patterns rather than tied to actual program and service requirements.

Committee members stated that funding concerns must be linked to any third-party accountability framework. Budgeting and evaluation can be enhanced with better coordination of the different information databases used by various boards and the department. Without a uniform system, committee members note it is difficult to obtain accurate and timely information. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight notes some health and social services boards have gone entire years without an approved budget in place.

The Auditor General also noted that the boards' inability to produce a timely budget may be compounded by the lack of a uniform accounting system. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight concurred with the Auditor

General and, in addition, believe that a budget must be established and reviewed prior to the annual allocation of funding for each board.

The Department of Health and Social Services budget represents almost 25 percent of the Government of the Northwest Territories overall spending. Committee members stated that given our limited revenue growth, program and service demands in other areas such as education and housing, and an increasing accumulated debt, responsible budgeting and evaluation and an effective third-party accountability framework become increasingly important.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is of the position that the budgeting, funding, and evaluation, as well as the delivery of programs and services, are a shared responsibility between the department and its boards of health and social services. The committee noted that the boards and the department do not operate in isolation.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight further notes that ultimately, the Government of the Northwest Territories is accountable for the financial health of the department and its boards of health and social services and at the end of the day, the territorial government is responsible for the delivery of health and social services to the people of the Northwest Territories.

#### **Use of Consultants**

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight expressed concern over the number of consultants procured by the Department of Health and Social Services. Committee members stated that various consultants through previous governments and department administrations have studied the same problems repeatedly. The standing committee would like to see less examination of the problems and more implementation of recommendations from previous studies. The problems and solutions have not changed, just their relative magnitude. While the department waits for the results of its most current consultation effort, life goes on. In many cases, these consultation projects have been sole-sourced to southern contractors, even though in some cases, northern consultants are available. In short, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight would like to see more concrete results rather than more consultants' reports.

At this time, Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass the report back to the chairman of the committee. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

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

#### **Northwest Territories Development Corporation**

##### **New Management**

The Standing Committee noted that the NWT Development Corporation (DevCorp) underwent a complete turnover of senior management in April 1999. The investment decisions referred to in this and the Auditor General's report were all made by the previous management.

The committee members recognize efforts by the current management to rectify problems at the DevCorp and

acknowledge that most of the difficulties were due to the previous management. As a result, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight encourages the Northwest Territories Development Corporation to continue vigilant efforts to resolve existing difficulties and deliver its mandate.

#### **Subsidiaries**

The Auditor General's Office noted that the current management had also inherited some subsidiaries from the old Department of Economic Development and Tourism and the original Development Corporation. The Auditor General added that the current management is trying to maintain those original businesses while at the same time trying to develop new ones.

The committee members noted the DevCorp originally had a number of social objectives, such as investment in high-risk ventures, and job creation in small, remote communities and regions.

Committee members suggested that subsidiaries with social objectives should be measured differently than those subsidiaries with strictly business objectives. This would improve the accountability process.

The committee added that if management and technical assistance programs and services were readily available to DevCorp businesses, it would likely result in a greater number of financially successful subsidiaries. Under the current DevCorp structure, once financial subsidies are transferred to their respective subsidiaries, the government's responsibilities are considered concluded.

#### **Role of DevCorp**

Committee members and Mr. Fred Koe, president of the Northwest Territories Development Corporation, discussed the role of the DevCorp at length. In the end, the standing committee agreed that until the government's initiative to examine the potential for combining the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation (BCC), the Business Development Fund (BDF) and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation is concluded, it would not be appropriate to recommend structural change. The committee expects to be briefed by the government as soon as the study is concluded.

#### **Conclusion**

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight requests that the Executive Council table a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days in accordance with Rule 93(5) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Report of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General to the Legislative Assembly for the Year 1999.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Committee Report 1-14(4), be received by the Assembly and moved into committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and have Committee Report 1-14(4) moved into committee of the whole for tomorrow.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and have Committee Report 1-14(4) moved into committee of the whole. Are there any nays? There are no nays. The report is forwarded to committee of the whole for tomorrow. Thank you. Item 9, reports of standing and special committees. Item 10, tabling of documents.

#### ITEM 10: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

##### **Tabled Document 1-14(4): Annual Report Respecting Members' Indemnities and Expenses for Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2001**

At this time, in accordance with section 35 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Annual Report Respecting Members' Indemnities and Expenses for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2001.

##### **Tabled Document 2-14(4): Amendment to Section 6 of the Indemnities, Allowances and Expenses Regulations**

I would also like to table the following in accordance with section 42 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. I wish to table a copy of the Amendment to Section 6 of the Indemnities, Allowances and Expense Regulations.

##### **Tabled Document 3-14(4): Members Declarations Respecting Residency**

In accordance with section 19 of the Indemnities, Allowances and Expense Regulations, I wish to table the Members' declarations made under section 14 in respect of residency during the previous fiscal year.

##### **Tabled Document 4-14(4): Annual Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the Period July 15, 2000 to April 30, 2001**

In accordance with section 99 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the Annual Report of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner for the period July 15, 2000, to April 30, 2001. Item 10, tabling of documents. Item 11, notices of motion. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 12: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I have four notices of motion for first reading of bills.

##### **Bill 1: An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 7, 2001, I will move that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

##### **Bill 2: An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 7, 2001, I will move that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

##### **Bill 3: An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on June 7, 2001, I will move that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

##### **Bill 4: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2001-2002**

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 7, 2001, I will move that Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 2001-2002, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. Item 12, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 13, motions. Item 14, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 1. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 14: FIRST READING OF BILLS

##### **Bill 1: An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act, be read for the first 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, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 1 has had first reading. Item 14, first reading of bills. Item 15, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 1. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may continue, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 15: SECOND READING OF BILLS****Bill 1: An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill increases the limit for loans, bond guaranteed loans or indemnified bonds that may be made to or in respect of one business enterprise and any related business enterprise to \$2 million. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to the bill that is in front of us, I would like to know whether that also includes the present guaranteed loans for the secondary diamond industry, where they have a loan guarantee of a million dollars? Is this going to be part and parcel of this new bill?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the principle of the bill. Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the change in the limits with the Business Credit Corporation affects any businesses that would be applying for loans. Currently, the loan guarantees that are with the diamond manufacturing companies are not through the Business Credit Corporation, so there will be no impact on them with this.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, is meant to help industry, particularly in the oil and gas area where they are wanting to make investments, buy equipment and so on. With the cost of that equipment, \$1 million is not a sufficient level. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Handley. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 1 has had second reading and is therefore referred to a committee. Item 15, second reading of bills. Item 16, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

**ITEM 16: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There will be a meeting of the Standing Committee on Social Programs at adjournment today, at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, at 10:30 a.m. of the Rules and Procedures Committee, and again at 11:30 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 6, 2001:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Minister's Statement 1-14(4), Sessional Statement
  - Committee Report 1-14(4), Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General to the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly For the Year 1999
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 6, 2001, at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

