



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

4th Session

Day 6

14th Assembly

HANSARD

Tuesday, June 12, 2001

Pages 153 – 190

The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	153
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	153
19-14(4): CYAID CULTURAL FEAST (STEEN)	153
20-14(4): RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF NURSES (GROENEWEGEN).....	153
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	154
SKILLS CANADA COMPETITION (BRADEN).....	154
HONOURARY DOCTORATE AWARDED TO ETHEL BLONDIN-ANDREW (NITAH).....	154
PALLIATIVE CARE LEGISLATION (BELL)	154
CONSTITUENCY CONCERNS (KRUTKO)	155
FRONT-LINE WORKERS (DELOREY).....	155
IMPACT OF HIGHWAY TOLL ON OFF-ROAD COMMUNITIES (LAFFERTY).....	156
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN THE OIL AND GAS SECTOR (MCLEOD)	156
REGIONAL REORGANIZATION (ROLAND).....	157
INCOME SUPPORT PROGRAM (MILTENBERGER).....	157
COMPOSITION OF THE TAX ADVISORY COMMITTEE (DENT).....	158
RESULTS OF THE SUPER SOCCER TOURNAMENT (ALLEN).....	159
RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS	159
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	159
ORAL QUESTIONS	160
REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	171
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	173
NOTICES OF MOTION	173
NOTICES OF MOTION FOR THE FIRST READING OF BILLS	174
MOTIONS	174
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	175
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	189
ORDERS OF THE DAY	189

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

TUESDAY, JUNE 12, 2001

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, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Allen. Good afternoon, everyone. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Transportation, Minister Steen.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS

Minister's Statement 19-14(4): CYAID Cultural Feast

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to inform the House that on March 23, 2001, I attended the 2001 Canadian Youth Against Impaired Driving (CYAID) Conference Cultural Feast on behalf of the Department of Transportation, along with my colleague, the Member for Great Slave, Mr. Bill Braden. This event was held in Yellowknife at the new Norman Byrne Gymnasium at the Weledeh Catholic School.

Mr. Speaker, CYAID's 11th annual conference in Yellowknife was attended by over 400 young adults and support personnel. I was extremely pleased to represent this government before such a great group of young people. Every year, residents of the Northwest Territories and many more in other parts of Canada are killed or injured because of impaired drivers who have not yet heard the message and who insist on mixing alcohol or drugs and driving.

The young people of CYAID from across Canada help to convince both this government and all provincial governments to tighten up on impaired driving legislation and introduce new deterrents to this very serious problem. Their message has been very effective at encouraging other students, parents and the population at large into changing their attitudes towards the acceptability of getting behind the wheel after consuming alcohol or using drugs. These caring young people are making a difference through their important work.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that all Members of this Legislative Assembly are truly encouraged by the efforts of our youth who are out there getting involved in changing people's attitudes towards drinking and driving. This change will prevent needless death and injury in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate both organizers and the students for a well run conference and wish them the very best success with expanding their message in getting others to embrace the challenge of reducing high-risk behaviour. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Minister's Statement 20-14(4): Recruitment and Retention of Nurses

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Social Services and health boards have been undertaking a number of initiatives in the area of recruitment and retention of nurses and other health and social services workers.

As we all know, there is currently an international shortage of physicians, nurses and several other health care professionals. This was demonstrated clearly yesterday when an advertisement appeared in news/north offering lucrative financial incentives for northern nurses to work in California.

Mr. Speaker, with our partners in the boards, the college and professional organizations, we are working to ensure an adequate and stable complement of health care professionals. Our Recruitment and Retention Strategy has three broad goals:

- creating a stable workforce;
- increasing the competencies of the workforce; and
- creating a northern workforce.

In order to support these goals, we have undertaken a broad range of activities including, for example:

- establishment of the Northern Development Program, which is dedicated to increasing the number of Northerners in the health workforce;
- development of the Introduction to Nurse Practitioners' Program, which has been made available to all nurses in community health centres; and
- creation of an advertising campaign for health professionals that has received national recognition.

An evaluation of our strategy is currently concluding, and I anticipate that we will shortly have a number of recommendations for further strengthening this initiative. However, one of the strongest incentives for both coming to and staying in the North is the scope of practice and range of opportunity that is unsurpassed anywhere in North America. For those who are looking for the challenge and opportunity,

the NWT truly offers a unique experience that can be a powerful incentive for many professionals.

Mr. Speaker, we place an extremely high value on our nurses and other health and social services workers. We recognize the special skills and commitment they bring to their work and know that, without them, we would not be able to provide Northerners with a quality health care system. Inevitably, there will be some nurses who choose to leave, for whom the incentives offered elsewhere outweigh the reasons for staying. This is inevitable, and we wish them well. However, I believe that most will choose to stay and accept both the opportunities and the challenges the North has to offer. I have committed to continuing to do everything possible to ensure that nursing in the NWT is a challenging and rewarding experience. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Skills Canada Competition

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Two silver and a bronze medal. That is what the Skills Canada Team NWT brought home from the seventh Canadian Skills Competition in Edmonton in early June. Twenty high school students and apprentices from all over the Northwest Territories competed in events such as carpentry, welding, automotive service, web page design, culinary arts, and TV/video production.

Skills Canada is a non-profit organization, Mr. Speaker. Their mandate is raising awareness of trade and technology careers. Through partnerships with industry and government that promote careers to the youth of our government, this has become an extremely important aspect here in the Northwest Territories because of the high demand we have for skilled trades people in times of rapid economic growth and in growing our own workforce. This concern was raised at our Yellowknife MLAs' constituency meeting earlier this year.

The territorial Skills Canada competition took place in Fort Smith and Yellowknife this spring with 72 participants from across the Northwest Territories in a variety of trades and technology areas. Mr. Speaker, along with a host of private businesses, the Governments of Canada, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut have contributed immensely to Skills Canada NWT with finances and in-kind services.

Forty-five businesses and community organizations have contributed to the success of this year's team. The coaching and expert advice supplied by industry experts such as Steve Payne from Essentials Hair Design and Julia Tate of L'Heritage Restaurant has given the skills team a great foundation.

Representing the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, were participants from Inuvik, Hay River, Yellowknife, and Fort Smith. Corey Ash, who works for Hovat Construction, won a silver medal in cabinet making. L'Heritage's Kimberly Novak brought home a silver medal in restaurant service when she impressed the judges with her table service. Mark Campbell, an apprentice electrician with BHP Diamonds, won a bronze medal in electrical wiring.

Mr. Speaker, while Skills Canada is developing the Northwest Territories, I am particularly concerned that there will no longer be federal financial support. While larger jurisdictions have the businesses and financial resources to sustain Skills Canada, our high air travel expenses and small business trades sector will result in Skills Canada NWT being unable to sustain itself. A lack of federal financial support will put future Northwest Territories participation at risk.

Overall, Team NWT should be proud of their successful showing. They are great ambassadors and I hope we will be able to continue Skills Canada next year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Member's Statement on Honourary Doctorate Awarded to Ethel Blondin-Andrew

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize our MP, Ethel Blondin-Andrew, who today has just received an honorary doctorate award for her role as a teacher, a role model, and a political leader.

We all know Ms. Blondin-Andrew, if not personally, we know who she is. Ms. Blondin-Andrew was the first aboriginal woman ever elected to the House of Commons in 1988 when she was elected to Parliament. She was re-elected in 1993 and appointed Secretary of State for Children and Youth, making her the first aboriginal woman to become a Member of the Privy Council. Subsequently, she was again re-elected in 1997 and appointed Secretary of State for Children and Youth, and most recently re-elected for a fourth successful term in the 2000 election, Mr. Speaker.

Ms. Blondin-Andrew played a formative role in creating Youth Service Canada and developing youth employment strategies, and the Aboriginal Human Resource Development Strategy. She is a strong supporter in the development of strong post-secondary institutions in the western Arctic. She is a dedicated teacher, role model and political leader for the people of the western Arctic, and an advocate for aboriginal people, children, youth and people with disability throughout the country.

I would like to congratulate her and wish her the best in her deliberations in Ottawa. I think she is a good role model. I encourage the youth of today to go out and get a doctorate degree, but through the education system. Again, Mr. Speaker, I congratulate our MP.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Indeed, congratulations do go out to Dr. Blondin-Andrew. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Member's Statement on Palliative Care Legislation

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I rise again to talk about the need for palliative care legislation in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. This is an issue that I have brought up in the House and in committee over the past year-and-a-half. I think that in talking about palliative care, Mr. Speaker, it is

about our right to die with dignity. I think this is a fundamental right that we all hold very high, Mr. Speaker.

I think we can see a need, certainly in the Northwest Territories, to develop legislation that will allow us to keep in step with other jurisdictions. In previous questions to the Minister, she agreed that this was certainly something that we needed to get underway.

I know that the department has also looked at the need for long-term care facilities, or hospices. I think when you compare the costs of staying in a hospital to the cost of staying in a long-term care facility for someone who is in their last days, Mr. Speaker, it is about three times the cost for a hospital stay.

I know the department had suggested they would look at palliative care and palliative care legislation in their long-term care strategy, and I believe it is called the Continuing Care Strategy. Today in question period, I will have questions for the Minister on the Continuing Care Strategy and whether or not that is ready and whether we have, as we indicated we would, looked at palliative care legislation and palliative care programs and services in other jurisdictions.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I raised a legislative issue yesterday about the need for midwifery legislation. This is another piece of legislation we need in the health care area. There are two things that can delay legislation: a lack of political will or a lack of horses in the Department of Justice to draft the legislation. I will as well be asking the Minister which seems to be the crux of the delay here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Constituency Concerns

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about some problems I have in my riding. Water problems are still a major issue, not only in the community of Fort McPherson, but it is now apparent in Tsiigehtchic and Aklavik.

The Tsiigehtchic problem, which has been around for several months, is because of the problem with the existing water treatment facility, or the lack of chlorite chlorination in the water treatment plant, and the community had to deal with very bad water. The colour was almost brown.

Also, another major problem the community has placed is the whole area of policing, and the lack of police services in that community because of the size of the community. The whole policing services is still an issue.

Another issue we face in our communities is the lack of infrastructure when it comes to housing for our teachers, our service providers. I think it is important as a government that when we set goals and priorities, we take into account the problems our communities are facing.

In the community of Aklavik, again, there has been a major stress in regard to the problem with *H. pylori*, which is a carcinogen in the water system. It has been called for by a doctor to do a public review and to test the population of

Aklavik to see what the extent of that problem is. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the problem is still there and nothing has been done.

Another area is in regard to the petitions and motions directed to this government asking for a curling rink in Aklavik. There again, their efforts are still not being adhered to.

Another area is dealing with the alcohol and drug program and the people that have to provide the service to the people in Aklavik, where the building they are working out of has been condemned by the Department of Health because of the problem with the frozen sewage system. They are not allowed to hold any gatherings with their clients in the building because of that problem. The working conditions of the people we have in our communities is abhorrent.

Another problem has to do with Fort McPherson, which has come up in my last visit. There is a major problem with the existing recreation complex, which we have put millions of dollars in, yet to date, the problems are still there.

I feel that we as a government have to do more...

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

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

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. In regard to the recreation complex in Fort McPherson, which is a critical building to the community, yet the building has not been allowed to hold any regional events or hockey tournaments because of the safety factor dealing with this building. I think as a government, when we set priorities and goals, we have to ensure that the people in our communities are part of the establishment of supplementary appropriations, ensuring their programs are being adhered to, not being told "Sorry, there is a freeze on. We cannot expend any capital projects", but we have a major supplementary appropriation in front of us and it seems to be no problem when it comes to the government, but what are we doing to ensure the programs are there for the people in our communities? I will be asking the Premier questions on this matter later.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Member's Statement on Front-Line Workers

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on an issue that has concerned me for some time now. The issue, Mr. Speaker, is that of front-line workers: who they are, what they mean to our system of delivering programs and services, and what we mean when we say we want to hear from front-line workers.

My experience over the past 30 years, Mr. Speaker, gives me some opportunity to look at this from different perspectives. When I first joined the workforce, I considered myself a front-line worker. I know the frustration when you try and bring

something to a supervisor that is affecting your job or how you perform your job and having somebody pay attention to those issues.

As a union rep, Mr. Speaker, for 20 years, I addressed issues of front-line workers. I sat in front of corporations, big companies and tried to address front-line workers' concerns. It is very frustrating, Mr. Speaker, to try to get those issues addressed.

As a Member of this Legislature, I have been dealing with what I consider front-line workers for just about two years. I have even been caught, Mr. Speaker, as a parent, listening to front-line workers. My own kids brought up issues to me when they were a front-line worker. When I say a front-line worker, I mean going to school and working on getting their own education. They have come back to me after they have completed their education and say "The problems are still there. I brought them to you when I was going to school. You would not listen." I think we are all guilty of that.

What do we mean when we say we want to listen to front-line workers? I have heard from just about every department in this House that they want to hear it from front-line workers. I have even heard the Premier address issues that we want to go back and listen to front-line workers, and set our agenda by that.

We have heard everything from problems of unfair hiring practices to terrible morale problems in the workplace, yet we want to protect the people at the official level and do nothing for the front-line workers. Education in Hay River, for example, Mr. Speaker. We have heard from students, teachers, principals, board chairs, board members, yet what have we done? We have turned down a petition. We have done two studies that find the system is right. There is nothing wrong. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the problems are still there. Who suffers? I think the students suffer, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Delorey, the time for your Member's statement has ended.

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

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

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, next week there is a Social Agenda Conference scheduled for Hay River and the Hay River Reserve. Again, the topic of this conference is to listen to front-line workers and to set our agenda by it. We have heard that many times, Mr. Speaker. I think there are many problems out there that we have to address and listen to front-line workers. I hope that this time, Mr. Speaker, they are heard and we pay attention to what they are saying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Impact of Highway Toll on Off-Road Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the budget address in February, the Minister of Finance proposed the introduction of a highway user toll on commercial trucking in the Northwest Territories. The revenues raised by the toll would be used to accelerate the construction of a highway system.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize that we are hard-pressed to find ways to generate revenue within our territory. However, any money raised must be measured against the money spent. In this case, what must be considered is the extra money people will lose out of their pockets.

As a result of the toll, we already know that all Northerners will face an increase in the cost of living, whether they live in communities accessible by road or whether they reside in fly-in communities.

As the MLA for the North Slave, three of the four communities I represent are fly-in communities. As these communities are not accessible by road, I have a difficult time supporting the highway toll. The residents will not have the benefit of using the road, but they will have the burden of paying for it through higher fuel costs, higher grocery costs, higher travel costs, and higher gas prices at the pump.

The Minister has proposed a tax credit to help all income earners in the North with the rising cost of living. Unfortunately, there is often little employment in the outlying communities and reliance on income support is very high.

As my colleague for Inuvik Boot Lake pointed out last Thursday, the general situation in the North is that in comparison to larger cities, the smaller and more remote the community, the higher the cost of living and the lower the average income.

Mr. Speaker, the reality is that the majority of my constituents will not benefit from the introduction of a highway toll or from the introduction of a tax credit. Instead, the disparity and the cost of living between smaller and larger centres will continue to grow.

Unless we begin to develop infrastructure within the communities, we will be a have and a have-not territory depending on where we reside. I will be following up on this issue at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Training Opportunities in the Oil and Gas Sector

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today is with regard to training initiatives that this government is offering residents to prepare them for jobs in careers in the oil and gas sector. Mr. Speaker, it seems that training opportunities are not being offered on a universal basis to all NWT residents. There appears to be regional differences in the availability of training. I understand there is

suddenly a great deal of exploration activity in the Beaufort Delta that Aurora College is now scrambling to respond to with appropriate programming. Aurora College is finally implementing oil and gas training programs in the Beaufort Delta, which is, Mr. Speaker, better late than never, as they say.

However, there is essentially nothing being offered in the Deh Cho, where it appears the Government of the Northwest Territories is simply ignoring residents' training requirements. I suggest that a better-planned approach to training requirements up and down the Mackenzie Valley would be a far better way than expanding the ad hoc approach we have now. The present attitude by the Government of the Northwest Territories through Aurora College is a reactive, putting out fires approach that requires the allocation of resources to wherever the latest training emergency is.

This leaves the riding of the Deh Cho without any of the training that is required to prepare for the development period that lies ahead. Why is this, Mr. Speaker? It is not as if we need a crystal ball to foresee the development needs ahead. Every resident of the NWT knows that there is oil and gas potential in the Mackenzie Valley. Surely this government should therefore extend its planning horizon and adopt a longer term, valley-wide approach to oil and gas training initiatives as opposed to its present ad hoc reactive approach.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT is currently trying to promote pipeline development as well as oil and gas exploration throughout the Mackenzie Valley, not just in certain regions. We saw last week in Hay River that support from all sections of the Mackenzie Valley is necessary for development to happen. We are all inter-dependent to a certain degree in the North, Mr. Speaker, and it is my opinion that the residents of my riding would be more inclined to support development initiatives if there was a greater display of commitment by this government to ensure well-paying opportunities for them when development occurs, not just vague promises...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLeod, the time for your Member's statement has ended.

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

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

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, people need to be excited about opportunity. They need to be optimistic about the future. They need to get excited about opportunities for the young people that can result from development. If they see the young people in the community being trained and well prepared for development, they too will lend their support to well-planned commercial resource development.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I suggest a valley-wide community mobilization and training strategy be implemented immediately that will result in training opportunities being offered to every region with equal access by every resident in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Member's Statement on Regional Reorganization

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak on an issue that I questioned yesterday in the area of regional reorganization. Mr. Speaker, in questions to the Premier, I had responses given to me, for example, in unedited Hansard on page 305, where the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi responds to my question on regional reorganization, and he states:

"We have asked the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat to conduct the review and come forward with a report that will be given to us as a Cabinet, which will then be forwarded to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight."

Further on page 305 of unedited Hansard, Mr. Speaker, the Premier states:

"We have asked the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat to develop a discussion paper to guide future discussions on regional reorganization."

Mr. Speaker, when I asked a question yesterday on page 306 of unedited Hansard, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi responds to my question of ongoing work in the area of regional reorganization, and I quote his answer on page 306 of unedited Hansard:

"Recently, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has started to move to setting an autonomous administrative region for the Sahtu by setting up a superintendent capacity in Norman Wells to serve the Sahtu. The Housing Corporation has followed that. Some years ago, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development also set up an autonomous administrative Sahtu region separate from the Inuvik region."

Mr. Speaker, my concern also goes towards planning and preparation. Mr. Speaker, I have heard it said that out of chaos comes order. I question who has that order.

Mr. Speaker, I will be following up with questions during question period with the appropriate Minister. Thank you.

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

Member's Statement on Income Support Program

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to speak about the Income Support Program and the need to look at, review it and revisit the direction it has taken. At the start of the 13th Assembly, social assistance was taken out of Health and Social Services and transformed into income support and moved to Education, Culture and Employment. All social assistance recipients became income

support recipients, including from one end of the spectrum of those unable to work, the disabled, the elderly, the sick, as well as the whole spectrum up to and including those who were employable but who maybe were temporarily just in need of some assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I believe there is a need to look at how well that program is working to meet the needs of the more disadvantaged in our society. I do not think that one size fits all. I do not think the Income Support Program as it is now tailored and designed has the capability to be responsive and to recognize the different conditions that people find themselves in, the different physical states and capacities that people may have.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned for those people who are unemployable, who are disabled, who will never work through no fault of their own, who are too old or are possibly incapacitated through illness. I do not think the system right now meets their needs as well as it could. Later today, I will be asking the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment whether he would be prepared to take a look, after almost five to six years of the Income Support Program, to consult with the various stakeholder groups to see if there is a better way to design the system that is supposed to be a safety net for all our people. In some cases I believe the mesh of the safety net is too big. We have to design a safety net that catches and provides support for all our citizens in the best way possible. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Fame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement on Composition of the Tax Advisory Committee

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in his budget announcements, the Minister of Finance told us that he is going to create a committee to provide him with advice on tax on income. Last week, he named the members to that committee, and I noticed there was a name change of that committee. It is now Tax on Income and Tax Advisory Committee.

Mr. Speaker, the people who have been named to that committee are all highly qualified tax practitioners. I know most of them personally and admire their commitment, and I am certain they will do their best to provide the Minister with good advice. In fact, I know they are all eminently capable of giving good advice to the Minister, particularly in the area of the technical issues to improve our tax system.

However, Mr. Speaker, when I look at the terms of reference for this committee, a lot of the advice the Minister appears to be seeking is not technical in nature. I will give you some examples.

From the terms of reference, it says that in relation to TONI, there are a number of options available to the GNWT in setting rates and credits. It could make its personal tax rates more or less progressive. That is a social issue, Mr. Speaker. That means the tax for lower income earners is less or the upper income earners is less. To change the territorial portion of

credits, like the tuition and education amounts, or to change taxable income brackets.

Another point made in the terms of reference, it notes that changes to these components of the personal income tax system will also reflect the Cost of Living Tax Credit and the NWT Child Benefit, all of which depend on the level of income earned by a taxpayer.

In another area, it says the recommendations to the Minister should focus on the GNWT's need to address the "unique social and economic priorities of the Territories". There we are talking about social and economic priorities. These are not technical issues. Mr. Speaker, this goes on to suggest that when talking about the efficiency of the tax system, incentives should contribute demonstrably to policy goals.

Mr. Speaker, I would argue that much of the advice the Minister is seeking is on tax policy issues, not on technical ones. Policy, many would argue, should be independent of technical issues. I would argue that we should set policy first, and then try to find ways to implement the policy. That may require some very technically able people to make sure the tax system really does reflect the tax policy that we want to implement.

Mr. Speaker, in a non-partisan consensus-style government, if you want to seek policy advice, you should make sure the advice comes from a representative group. It should be gender balanced. It should reflect the population with a representative mix of aboriginal and non-aboriginal people.

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 being no nays, Mr. Dent, you may conclude.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the makeup of a committee to provide advice to this government should reflect the general population. In that, I see a problem with the makeup of this current committee.

Even though half of the Northwest Territories population is female, there is not one female member on this Minister's Advisory Committee. Surely the Minister would agree that women should play an important role in setting tax policy in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, about half of our population is aboriginal, but I only see one aboriginal person on this committee. Again, why not involve a representative cross-section? Mr. Speaker, we talk time and time again in here about the importance of a social agenda. If in fact it is as important as we maintain, why not have representatives from the social side also providing input on tax policy?

Mr. Speaker, as it is currently formed, this committee is not representative of the broad population of the Northwest Territories, and that is wrong. The Minister should expand this committee to make it representative. Mr. Speaker, it is never too late to do the right thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement on Results of the Super Soccer Tournament

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the conclusion of the annual Super Soccer event held in Yellowknife, I am particularly proud to state that two teams from Inuvik were victorious and the other teams played exceptionally well. One of those victorious teams was the 12-and-under girls team from the Inuvik Sir Alexander Mackenzie School, under the guidance of Bill and Maureen Gowans. The team members were:

- Leah Sulyma,
- Alyssa Carpenter,
- Kendra Sittichinli,
- Renel Landry,
- Ellen Binder,
- Jaynita Pascal,
- Joey McCarthy,
- Nicole Lindsay, and
- Shayna Allen.

The other team I would like to congratulate for being victorious in their age category, the 20 and under girls team who represented Samuel Hearne Secondary School. Two dedicated Beaver volunteers, Graham and Oded, coached this team. The team consisted of:

- Dayna Lennie,
- Crystal Debastien,
- Karen Tingmiak,
- Joyce Storr,
- Kristine McLeod,
- Cheryl Kirby, and
- Donna Rogers.

Mr. Speaker, over 1,500 young soccer players participated in this most celebrated soccer event, held annually. I am pleased to acknowledge the tremendous success that this annual tournament produces. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return to Question 21-14(4): Coordination of Government Services

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Braden on June 6, 2001, regarding coordination of government services for the disabled.

On May 6, 2001, I confirmed my commitment to providing support to the NWT Council for Disabled Persons' request for a partnership process to develop a disabilities framework for the Northwest Territories. Such an initiative is in keeping with the national vision on disability issues as described in In Unison: "A Canadian Approach to Disability Issues (1998)" and the recently published "In Unison 2000 Report".

An initial planning meeting on the matter, chaired by the deputy minister of Health and Social Services, was held on May 31, 2001. At this meeting there was agreement that a multi-dimensional framework needs to be developed that includes a vision and principles that clearly define the goals and how to achieve those goals.

The initial partnership will include the Departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, the NWT Council for Disabled Persons, the Yellowknife Association for Community Living, the YWCA, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Dene Nation. Other stakeholders will be invited to participate in later stage activities as required.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for late June 2001 to finalize the draft terms of reference to formalize this process and identify work to be done over the following months.

The desired outcome of this integrated approach is the ability to determine priority areas for improvement, and to fill gaps in services for all persons with disabilities in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce three people. Two are medical students from the University of Geneva, Switzerland. They are in Yellowknife to complete a study session on the development of community and public health services. They are Naomi Wagner, Batini Cohler, and with them is my loyal constituent, Marie Wilson. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased today to recognize Reverend David Elliot. He is the director of Arctic Mission Outreach. This outreach has been responsible for the construction of 40 churches in Canada's northland. With him is Reverend Ken Swagard, who is a very long-time family friend of ours, who has also worked with this outreach in the North. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to say welcome to everyone who is attending your Legislative Assembly. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 60-14(4): Regional Reorganization Planning

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as in my Member's statement, I have questions for the Premier of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, in the area of regional reorganization. More to the fact of planning, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in response to questions in this House, we heard that there is some planning work going on. There is a discussion paper under development that will be forwarded back to committee members of this Assembly for input.

Another response is the fact that there is ongoing work. My question to the Premier at this time is, on one hand we are doing a plan, getting ready for self-government and its impacts on the Northwest Territories. On the other hand, we seem to be implementing our own plan, whether that is a plan of this Assembly or of Cabinet. I would like to know what is going to happen here? Is this work going to be tied to the ongoing work of the Intergovernmental Secretariat? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 60-14(4): Regional Reorganization Planning

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have informed Members that there is a discussion paper that was going to be prepared by the Intergovernmental Secretariat that will be a brought to Cabinet and then forwarded to the Members of the Legislature for discussion purposes, input, and guidance on how to proceed.

The reorganizing of the government can happen on a number of levels. It is something that started happening a number of years ago. There is truth to the fact that it is, perhaps on appearance, a haphazard, ad hoc approach. As I said yesterday, in the Sahtu for instance, there was a Sahtu divisional board that was set up specifically for that region. There was a commitment to set up a superintendent position in the Sahtu, separate from the Inuvik region and reporting directly to Yellowknife, for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Recently, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has set up a superintendent position in the Sahtu. I am not certain that it is totally separate and autonomous from the Inuvik region, but if it is not, the intent is to move towards that fairly quickly. The Housing Corporation also has either set up or is arranging to set up to be separate from the Inuvik Region in that regard.

The Member should be advised that the developments in the self-government negotiations and the implementation and the emergence of very clear, aboriginal regional entities have led in

part to the thinking that if we do not begin to plan, then we will continue to be moved along in an ad hoc, haphazard way. We are moving to come to grips with this process. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 60-14(4): Regional Reorganization Planning

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Premier inform this House if these creations of new positions, whether it be planned for or working for the Intergovernmental Secretariat, have these been approved through the budgeting process? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 60-14(4): Regional Reorganization Planning

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister is taking the question as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 61-14(4): Improving the Income Support Program

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is addressed to the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, and is a follow-up to my Member's statement.

The Social Assistance Program was transformed, as I indicated, into the Income Support Program about five years ago. Since that time, I do not think it has really been looked at clearly. I know there are significant issues with the disabled in comparison with people who are employable, that the range is too wide and the program is too broad.

I would like to ask the Minister whether after five or six years, would he consider working with the stakeholders to take a look at the Income Support Program to see if it is adequate? If it is not adequate, how can it be improved to try to better address the needs of the most disadvantaged in our society? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 61-14(4): Improving the Income Support Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member raises a very good point, Mr. Speaker. It has certainly been on my mind recently as I started to look at the Income Support Program. It is a blanket coverage for all recipients. There is a good point to be made that there are individuals on income support on a continual basis. There are many who are on it short-term. Those who are on a continual basis, perhaps we need to look at the possibility of saying can we redesign this particular program in some fashion to take that into consideration.

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

Supplementary to Question 61-14(4): Improving the Income Support Program

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is good to hear of the Minister's concern. I would like the Minister to elaborate, if he could, on how he would intend to proceed to deal with this issue, to take a clear look at it to make sure there is necessary consultation involving the stakeholders, and to do this in a timely fashion. I know I have constituents -- as I am sure every Member does -- who are living under conditions through income support that are not as good as they possibly could be. Could the Minister please indicate how he intends to proceed? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 61-14(4): Improving the Income Support Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity last Friday to meet with some of the NGOs of our community. We discussed this particular issue, of those persons with disabilities who may be on income support, as well as those who are on long-term income support, I believe a permanent basis. We are very interested in discussing that with the various organizations that are out there.

As to timing, you have to bear with us a bit. We are trying to get a number of issues out of the way. I expect that by the fall, we will be into this fairly heavily in terms of trying to find a resolution to this. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 61-14(4): Improving the Income Support Program

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate whether in fact we could anticipate this fall, with the next round of business plans, having this particular issue dealt with and addressed, as well as more specific issues of making sure there is adequate consultation and involvement of the stakeholders, the disabled, and all those affected by this very important program? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 61-14(4): Improving the Income Support Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, it has been on our mind for some time and we are certainly interested in looking at this particular issue. I do not know what the complications are that could arise in terms of looking at a policy change in this area, but we are certainly interested in moving forward to look at all the parameters of this and all the variants that are possible. I expect that we can, in all likelihood, make good progress by this fall, Mr. Speaker, so that we can move forward. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 61-14(4): Improving the Income Support Program

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have constituents whom I know are living below the poverty line with income support. They are struggling to survive. This is a matter of some pressing urgency. While it may be an issue of business for us in this House and in this government, the reality is peoples' lives are affected everyday. I would ask the Minister if he could confirm that yes, there will be something about this in the business plans so the committee and the MLAs as well could provide input and try to bring resolution to this very important issue? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 61-14(4): Improving the Income Support Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in order to develop this particular program, we would need a month or two months to look at the implications of it. Our business plans are under discussion at the moment. We may be too late for inclusion in the business plans, but I can assure the Member that if this looks like a program that can be supported by all of us here in the Legislature, I would certainly be willing to push that forward.

With regard to the guarantee of inclusion in the business plan, because of timing, I may not be able to include it at that time. As I stated, I have assured the Member that we are interested in looking at this program and will be as expeditious as possible with this, because I realize the concern is out there. Thank you.

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

Question 62-14(4): Advisory Committee on Personal Income Tax

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when I look at the terms of reference for the Minister's Advisory Committee on Personal Income Tax, I note that it says:

"The committee will consist of three to five members, largely selected from NWT tax professionals and practicing accountants. However, lay participation in the committee is to be encouraged and other knowledgeable individuals with an interest in income tax policy may be invited to participate. Members will be invited to participate by the Minister of Finance."

My question for the Minister of Finance is, since the Tax on Income and the Tax Advisory Committee is tasked with providing advice on tax policy, why did he not make sure that this committee was representative of the broad make-up of the population of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 62-14(4): Advisory Committee on Personal Income Tax

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, in setting up the committee, I invited MLAs and others to give me recommendations on who should make up the Membership. There are a lot of considerations. If I tried to make it representative of our whole population, I might end up with a committee of 30 people if I include everyone and do not leave anyone out. I certainly took into consideration and I worked from the list that I had. I think I achieved a good regional balance. I did not achieve the gender balance and so on that the Member referred to earlier, but I worked with the recommendations that were provided to me. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 62-14(4): Advisory Committee on Personal Income Tax

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that at least three Members nominated a woman for consideration on this committee. Was the Minister unable to find a woman that he could consider capable of working on this committee to provide advice on tax policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 62-14(4): Advisory Committee on Personal Income Tax

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am sure there are a lot of women out there who are very capable of taking on the challenges that face this committee. In this particular case, I believe there was only one woman's name that was provided to me. It was from Yellowknife. I had to look at regional balance, and in looking at all the factors, there just was not room in this case to do that without enlarging the committee considerably. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 62-14(4): Advisory Committee on Personal Income Tax

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the terms of reference, it indicates that lay participation will be encouraged. Will the Minister consider adding to the committee and making it larger, if necessary, to make sure that there is at least one woman on the committee, and preferably a balance of women?

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

Further Return to Question 62-14(4): Advisory Committee on Personal Income Tax

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to make the committee larger. I think we have a tremendous task in front of this committee. It has a short timeframe to work with. If the Member has recommendations on it, I would certainly be willing

to look at how we can include more representation to ensure that we have input from all sectors of our society and try to work that in so that they have meaningful input to the committee's work. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 62-14(4): Advisory Committee on Personal Income Tax

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While the Minister is probably aware that I did submit the name of a woman for consideration for this committee, I would hope that he would re-examine that recommendation. I know that recommendation was supported by some other Members in this House, so I hope he will in fact follow up on that and consider appointing not only women to this committee, but also other members to the committee to make sure the lay representation balances the broad population of the Northwest Territories.

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

Further Return to Question 62-14(4): Advisory Committee on Personal Income Tax

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the recommendations from the Member. I did look at it. I reviewed it and I re-reviewed it. From the names that were submitted to me, I created a committee. I think it is a very workable committee. It is not just a bunch of people who are, as the Member characterized them, sort of accountants who have no other life. All of these people certainly have a life and make contributions to the community.

They do not represent every sector in our society, but they have an expertise and they have good, broad experiences. I always take advice and look at it, but there are ways of having input into the committee without actually enlarging the committee to make it representative of everyone in the Northwest Territories.

In this case, I will look at it and see if we can do it through other means of making submissions and try to make it as representative as we can. Thank you.

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

Question 63-14(4): Policy on Unpaid Power Bills

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my question is for the Premier in his role as the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, in the outlying communities, many people, for one reason or another, have to leave the community. We have very low unemployment, and for those reasons, there are times, unfortunately Mr. Speaker, when the Northwest Territories Power Corporation is forced to cut the power to people's homes.

When this happens -- sometimes, Mr. Speaker, it may not happen all of the time -- the water that is in the house, in the tanks and the pipes, freezes, causing severe damage to the house and costing individuals and/or this government a lot of dollars. Some of these houses are social housing, Mr. Speaker.

For that reason, I would like to ask the Minister, what is the policy of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation when they have to cut power to people's homes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 63-14(4): Policy on Unpaid Power Bills

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I understand it, your power bills are to be paid within a certain time. If you become behind in your payments, you face the very real possibility that your power will be cut off. I think that is fairly standard for all utilities. This is what happens. People who own their own homes who are going to be away for extended periods of time, they know they are responsible for making sure their home is maintained and secure in their absence. This includes making sure the power bills are paid while they are off pursuing other activities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 63-14(4): Policy on Unpaid Power Bills

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, sometimes you just do not have the dollars, the time, or they do not get around to doing it. I think the Power Corporation should show a little sensitivity and be willing to work with family members of that individual or the Housing Corporation through their boards. Also, that they inform someone before they cut off the power that they should go drain the water to ensure the pipes do not freeze.

Can the Minister commit to this House that they will develop policies such as that so it does not cost people in the communities and this government too much money just to fix up homes that may be unnecessary? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 63-14(4): Policy on Unpaid Power Bills

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Power Corporation in many of our smaller communities, provides the power, passes out the power bills and collects for providing electricity to the homes and businesses. There is no social arm part of the corporation that can provide that. I believe it is important for us to foster and develop the sense of ownership amongst our people, especially in the small communities that have just recently come into developing a sense of ownership over their houses and the many bills you have to pay when you become private homeowners.

I think it is more important to encourage people to be responsible and to plan adequately to ensure their houses are provided for in their absences. If people do not have the money, there are always social services that can be asked for assistance. Income support is there. Everyone has time to take care of their business. I do not accept that sometimes you do not have time to do this. It is simply time management that we

have to learn. For those people who simply do not get around to taking care of their houses, there is a consequence when you walk away and do not provide for the maintenance and security of your home. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 63-14(4): Policy on Unpaid Power Bills

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that the Premier feels the people should take responsibility and if they cannot, be punished for it. I do not disagree with him that people should take responsibility, but sometimes there are unforeseen circumstances where individuals leave the communities and do all the right things, pay for the power, maybe does not pay for the power, but drains his water. Yet because of high turnover rates due to low salaries at the municipal levels in communities, different people are used to deliver water. Without knowing people have left town, they fill up the tank again, Mr. Speaker. As a result, it freezes.

I am just asking for a little sympathy, a little sensitivity from the Power Corporation, that you go and speak to someone before cutting off the power so that they can alleviate potential headaches and very costly repairs to the individual and to this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 63-14(4): Policy on Unpaid Power Bills

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sure people who work for the Power Corporation at the community level would act in a way that is responsible to make sure they do not act or do things that would be irresponsible or disrespectful of the homeowners. I think there is capacity within the community to provide for those things the Member is raising. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 63-14(4): Policy on Unpaid Power Bills

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. I am sure the people working for the Power Corporation at the community level are very responsible people. What I am asking for from the Minister is that there is a policy developed so that they have to be responsible, Mr. Speaker. That is all I am asking for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 63-14(4): Policy on Unpaid Power Bills

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you. I agree.

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

Question 64-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. It has to do with the Social Agenda Conference and is in relation to front-line workers. In view of the fact that there are some 200 delegates invited to this conference, all of which are supposedly front-line workers, and for the amount of time that is allotted for meeting with these 200 delegates, I was wondering how the Minister plans on hearing from all of these delegates with important input? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 64-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are very excited about the Social Agenda Conference. It will involve more than delegates who are front-line workers. It will also be representative of people in leadership at community, aboriginal government, and hopefully leadership at this government level as well.

Part of the agenda of the Social Agenda Conference is to break into small groups with facilitators so that various subjects can be discussed. For example, you would have a smaller group break out with a facilitator and all the groups would be discussing the same subject at the same time. They would bring that information and input back into a larger, plenary session. I expect there will be quite a cross-section of people in the smaller groups. For example, there could be MLAs, there could be Ministers, there could be aboriginal leaders, front-line workers. We will speak with each other and have that dialogue in small groups as well as in larger plenary sessions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary to Question 64-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that this conference, as far as the number of delegates, is now full. I was wondering what criteria determined that we were extended to as many delegates as we can handle at this conference? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 64-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the conference is being held on the Hay River Reserve. The main, large meeting room will be the recreation complex there. There are a certain number of people who can

meet there by standards and codes and regulations. That is what has capped it for us.

We have talked about, because there was such an interest in this conference, of trying to set up some form of closed circuit communication with some buildings, some tents that might be set up on the grounds of the complex, but that is what has restricted us. Unfortunately, we have not been able to accommodate everyone who wants to come to the conference. We do feel we have a very good cross-section. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

Supplementary to Question 64-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in Hay River, we have a seniors' society that is very proactive. In view of the fact that there would be no extra accommodations required, or no extra expense, for that matter, to have the Hay River Seniors' Society involved in this conference, would the Minister consider extending an invitation to the Hay River Seniors' Society? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 64-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the NWT Seniors' Society is certainly on our list of invited delegates. I am not sure how many seats they have, but as the Member points out, one of our other restrictions in how many people we can accommodate has to do with commercial accommodation. I am pleased to say that a number of private homes have opened up and are going to take billets in order to accommodate more people. I hear what he is saying, that there would be no cost associated with accommodation, transportation, or meals if we had local people.

If it comes to be that there is some way of addressing the issue of the number of people who can actually fit in the recreation complex, that may be possible. At this time, I have not had it confirmed to me that there is any communication set up for more than what can be accommodated in the building. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 64-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take it then that the Minister is still waiting for final numbers. If there is an opening, would the Minister consider extending an invitation to the Hay River Seniors' Society? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 64-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have put together a Social Agenda Conference planning team, which has representatives from various NGOs and government departments. I would not want to usurp their management of this conference on the logistics by saying what we can or cannot do. Certainly if it looks like there is availability for people to partake without actually being accommodated in the main building, and there are local people in Hay River who are interested in participating in some fashion, we will do our best. Thank you.

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

Question 65-14(4): Support for Skills Canada Programs

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in reference to a statement I made earlier today on Skills Canada, given this government's concern for capacity building and the fact that as of July 1st this year, the federal government is no longer supporting the program, will the Minister for Education, Culture and Employment look at this program and please advise how it might be adequately funded for its continuance? 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 65-14(4): Support for Skills Canada Programs

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is unfortunate that HRDC is looking at terminating its particular funding. This has been a particularly very good contributor to the skills development and career development of individuals throughout Canada and certainly here in the Northwest Territories. This particular competition has proven to be extremely well participated in the past couple of years. The federal government has contributed about \$200,000, to my understanding, and we are certainly in a position to say we will look at increasing our funding to this. We are also interested in taking some further steps on that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 65-14(4): Support for Skills Canada Programs

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that we are going to at least look at continuing it. It is another example of the federal government starting something very worthwhile and then offloading it. The role of the private sector will be important. I am wondering if this is one aspect that the Minister will be looking into. 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 65-14(4): Support for Skills Canada Programs

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no doubt we will require industry buy-in in this particular program. We are quite prepared to make some approaches to industry to see if we can have industry increase their particular support. I know that they have contributed as well to date, but I think it is a very important recommendation the honourable Member is making, that we approach the various industries to see if support can be increased. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 65-14(4): Support for Skills Canada Programs

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, with that kind of initiative and the support that I am sure the private sector will be able to put behind this, would the Minister make an appeal to the Minister for HRDC reflecting the unique and extreme circumstances we have here in the Northwest Territories, in northern Canada, for federal support to continue our participation? 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 65-14(4): Support for Skills Canada Programs

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we certainly will be contacting the Honourable Jane Stewart in this regard. We feel that this is an extremely interesting project here in the Northwest Territories that contributes substantially to our needs in today's developments. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden. No supplementary. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 66-14(4): Consultation on Highway Toll Initiative

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Finance, the Honourable Joe Handley. In March when the highway toll was being discussed, the Minister stated in the House that there will be as much consultation as possible with the highway users as the toll structure is prepared. I would like to know what consultation has occurred with residents who will not use the highway but will have increased costs because of it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 66-14(4): Consultation on Highway Toll Initiative

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the design and structure of the highway toll is more appropriately the responsibility of the Minister of Transportation. I do not have the answer on what consultation has taken place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. I just caution the Member to make sure they observe the rule about information that is on bills that we have not dealt with yet. However, you are okay on that one. If you have a supplementary question, you may ask it, but it is pretty close, Mr. Lafferty. That is why I am mentioning it. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 66-14(4): Consultation on Highway Toll Initiative

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for reminding me, but this initiative was started in February of this year and it is public information. I would like to ask the Minister, what benefit will it be to fly-in communities, as a result of the toll? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The Chair was aware of that. It is just that I was exercising a bit of caution here, just reminding the Members. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 66-14(4): Consultation on Highway Toll Initiative

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as I said before, these are questions that are more appropriate for the Minister of Transportation. However, I can assure the Member that, as the toll is being designed and put in place and consultation happens, there will be consultation with communities, even the ones that are not on the road but are interested in this issue.

Certainly a highway toll will free up money that can be used to ensure that we have winter roads and so on. I do not think this will be an issue. We will just be beginning the consultation phase following this session. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 66-14(4): Consultation on Highway Toll Initiative

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I asked the Minister of Transportation a question on this and he referred me to the Finance Minister earlier in the life of this House. So because of this, I am asking the Finance Minister what benefits outlying communities would have.

I would just like to ask the Minister if he is going to be working with the Transportation Minister to see if all the residents of the Northwest Territories will benefit? As the Finance Minister, he has control of the dollars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 66-14(4): Consultation on Highway Toll Initiative

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, certainly as Finance Minister, I will work with all the Ministers in ensuring that we have good business plans, good budgets and good initiatives and so on. However, once the budgets are determined and are within the mandate of individual Ministers, they are the ones who will take the lead on that.

With regard to the benefits to all people in the North, I think improved highway structures have benefits for everyone. If we take the North Slave communities, for example, then whether those communities are on roads or not, they will benefit. The off-road communities will benefit because the highway toll structure will free up dollars that can be used to build winter roads, as I mentioned before.

Many people who have access to communities by winter road use the all-weather highway during the winter when they drive out of their communities. I think there will be benefits in terms of travelling more reliably on better roads, eventually.

I think this is a benefit to everybody and in the long run, everyone will see that they are benefiting, whether they are on a highway or not. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 66-14(4): Consultation on Highway Toll Initiative

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the Minister of Finance has made a little bit of commitment, which I could not get out of the Minister of Transportation. I would like to ask the Minister of Finance, what portion of the highway toll is industry paying for and what portion is residential? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 66-14(4): Consultation on Highway Toll Initiative

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, that is a difficult one to analyze. It depends on how we define industry, but certainly in terms of homeowners, if I can call them that as being the private sector, will pay roughly, we estimate, \$2.7 million total across the Territories in increased costs as a result of the toll.

The other balances are picked up largely by big industry, but by other industry and businesses as well. That would have to be broken out very carefully, I suppose, to try to break it into industry versus the retail sector and so on. Thank you.

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

Question 67-14(4): Community Infrastructure Improvement

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. The Premier has probably heard the problems that originate in a lot of our communities from his community tours and his meetings with the community leaders.

Those problems are not specific to any community, but I think the problems that we see with community infrastructure, providing delivery of community programs and also to ensure that we have the resources which, for the longest time because of the deficit situation, communities did not have the abilities to either fix existing facilities or improving the programs.

So I would like to ask the Premier, would the Premier consider the possibility of a one-time, you can call it a capital project, or some sort of a project to assist communities to improve the existing facilities in our communities? We are not talking new facilities, so the communities can prioritize what they want to have developed in their communities? For the Premier to put out such a call letter to see what the interests of the communities are and find the resources to do that?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 67-14(4): Community Infrastructure Improvement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will look at the suggestion the Member is making. I am not certain how, presently, we support communities. Some of the municipalities own and manage many of these facilities and there are agreements and expectations that have been set out. In light of that, we will consider the suggestion the Member is making.

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

Supplementary to Question 67-14(4): Community Infrastructure Improvement

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we as a government realize the problems that communities are having just maintaining the facilities they have. When you have problems where you have breakdowns such as the chlorination system, or water treatment breaks down, the resources are not there to fix them. We have problems in our communities, such as facilities that communities, because of building codes or violations that we as a government are breaking. We need resources to bring those buildings up to code.

That is why I am asking the Minister to find a way to have communities identify those problem areas, which are not presently in the capital planning process, but are outside the scopes of those projects. I would like to ask the Minister, will he seriously consider looking at those areas which need special attention, which presently are not being attended to by this budget process?

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

Further Return to Question 67-14(4): Community Infrastructure Improvement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will discuss this issue with the Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs and get his advice on it. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 67-14(4): Community Infrastructure Improvement

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is something that was done in the 13th Assembly because we did have a deficit situation. There was a letter sent by the Premier

at the time to the communities so they can identify and prioritize projects specific to those communities so they can try to develop community projects that the communities want to see, not what the department would like to see. I would like to ask the Premier, will he take this into consideration seriously and carry it out by letter to the communities?

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

Further Return to Question 67-14(4): Community Infrastructure Improvement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, I will consider this suggestion the Member is making. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 67-14(4): Community Infrastructure Improvement

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in light of the new cash flow we received with regard to the adjustment for our financial arrangements with Ottawa, there has been some \$60 million put back into our system. I think that, because of the financial situation we find ourselves in, this is a project that could go a long way to helping all communities, not just one particular community over another. I would like to ask the Premier again to seriously consider, knowing that we do have the financial resources in-house.

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

Further Return to Question 67-14(4): Community Infrastructure Improvement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members have pointed out, we have just passed the budget a few months ago. That budget was prepared well over a year ago. We have a supp before us and we are, as soon as the session is over, going to begin the business planning process to prepare next year's budget. We will be having the specialists meet with the Ministers and with the Minister of Finance on how to best budget and use the resources available to us over the coming year, as well as planning for the next year. In that context, we will take the Member's comments. Thank you.

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

Question 68-14(4): Continuing Care Strategy

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are about palliative care and are directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I am interested in the Continuing Care Strategy. As I indicated earlier, I had high hopes that this would address palliative care issues, both legislative and in the area of programs and services. Unfortunately, it seems that the department has characterized the strategy as under development, but it has been under development I think for the past few years. Mr. Speaker, I am hoping that is not a euphemism for sank without a trace.

Mr. Speaker, could the Minister indicate where the Continuing Care Strategy is at this point? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 68-14(4): Continuing Care Strategy

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Continuing Care Strategy is actually characterized as the Continuing Care Framework in my notes. The current status of it is that the steering committee has been established, the terms of reference and draft framework developed and constitutional boards. The framework includes three strategies: home and community care, supported living and facility living. Standards for home care programs, long-term care facilities and children in adult group homes.

Evaluations of all programs will be completed. Results of needs assessment of persons with disabilities will assist in the development of a framework, and the working groups established for each strategy with a mandate to review existing programs and gaps and the ability to identify the required resources, and also ongoing stakeholder consultations. I think that is probably the operative point in here, that there are ongoing consultations and work done on each of these important areas. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 68-14(4): Continuing Care Strategy

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can appreciate that there is ongoing consultation, but at some point we are going to have to take that consultation and make some decisions. This cannot go on indefinitely. I wonder if the Minister has a time line in mind. Can she tell us when she will bring this strategy to committee? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 68-14(4): Continuing Care Strategy

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have those time lines available here. I do have extensive information on the Continuing Care Framework, but I do not have timeframes around when this work will be completed per se. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 68-14(4): Continuing Care Strategy

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have constituents who are very interested in this issue, and I myself am very interested, so I wonder if the Minister will commit to writing a letter to my office indicating what the timeframes would be for this strategy, and specifically when it will be delivered to committee. Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 68-14(4): Continuing Care Strategy

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will seek that information and provide it to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 68-14(4): Continuing Care Strategy

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, in this area we have the hurdle of legislative priorities, and it is difficult to know how to get something bumped to the front of the agenda. As I indicated earlier, it can be a matter of a lack of political will, or it can be a lack of resources to do the drafting. In this case, can the Minister indicate where possible holdups might be in bringing forward legislation on palliative care? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 68-14(4): Continuing Care Strategy

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the implementation of support programs and services around palliative care do not actually require specific legislation. There are some things related to personal directives and powers of attorney that do require legislation. The powers of attorney legislation -- there has been notice given of a motion in this House to adopt that.

The work on personal directives is being talked about right now as we have a group that is doing community visits and talking to seniors about this. The Department of Health and Social Services has 27 pieces of legislation currently in existence. Most of that is in need of some form of amendment or update, and legislation is required to be drafted in a number of new areas that have been identified as well. Perhaps I could also provide the Member with our legislative schedule for the next while. It is usually planned at least five years in advance. Thank you.

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

Question 69-14(4): Tax Advisory Committee Membership

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are again for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, I believe I heard the Minister say earlier today that he thought there were other ways for women to have their own personal tax advisory committee. I believe, in fact, that he suggested they could make written submissions. Mr. Speaker, saying that a woman can make a written submission to a group of men who will then decide what recommendations to pass on to the Minister is far different from being a voting member of that committee.

The point of view brought to the table is different. Mr. Speaker, this committee was named just five days ago. There is time to fix this. Will the Minister commit now to name women to this tax advisory committee? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 69-14(4): Tax Advisory Committee Membership

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, no. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 69-14(4): Tax Advisory Committee Membership

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By that, I can only assume that the Minister is saying that women's opinions about tax policies do not carry equal weight with men. I think it is unacceptable to keep women from membership on this committee. Does the Minister say that women's opinions on tax policy do not carry the same weight as men? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 69-14(4): Tax Advisory Committee Membership

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, in the Member's last series of questions on this matter, I said I would listen to whatever advice was given, and I will take it into consideration. I am not prepared to make a commitment to add to the committee today. My answer to adding women or adding seniors or adding youth or anyone else to that committee today, I will not make that decision today.

Certainly women have valuable insight, information, expertise and so on, on these issues, just as valuable as anybody else does, but I cannot just right now make a commitment to add to that committee. If I begin, as I explained, adding on representatives of all interest groups who would want to be on the committee, I would end up with a committee of 30 or 40 people. I am open to looking at ways that we can do this. I have not dismissed entirely the notion of adding to the committee, but I am not prepared to make that commitment today. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 69-14(4): Tax Advisory Committee Membership

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to hear that the Minister will at least consider making such a change. I think it is imperative that he not only consider it, but that he follow through and add women to the committee. Otherwise, its recommendations will, I have no doubt, be seen as flawed by a significant proportion of our population.

What timetable will the Minister take in order to make this consideration? He himself has spoken of the short time that he

has to get these recommendations. Five days now into their mandate, how long will he take to make this decision?

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

Further Return to Question 69-14(4): Tax Advisory Committee Membership

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take as long as necessary to get good information. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 69-14(4): Tax Advisory Committee Membership

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister commit to tell the House by Friday whether or not he has agreed to expand this committee?

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

Further Return to Question 69-14(4): Tax Advisory Committee Membership

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, no, I cannot make that commitment by Friday. Thank you.

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

Question 70-14(4): Representation on Tax Advisory Committee

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Status of Women. It is along the same line as the questioning that my colleague Mr. Dent has. In the area of taxation, this is something that women are very much affected by, no less than anyone else. I was going to ask the Minister whether there is anything we can do to bring pressure to bear on her colleague, the Minister of Finance, to include women on this committee. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 70-14(4): Representation on Tax Advisory Committee

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we consider drafting policy, legislation and direction for this government, we try to look at things through a lens which does take into account the interests of a broad variety of people, not the least of which of course, is women.

When we talk about representation on committees and boards and ad hoc advisory councils, although it is desirable to have women on here, I must point out that there are quite a number of committees and such groups where women are exclusively the participants. I think of things such as the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board, which is 100 percent women, which is a Yellowknife organization.

Of course we are interested in women's perspectives being brought to light. However, this can sometimes be accomplished. The general population's interest can be sometimes accomplished by not necessarily having a mix of gender on that committee. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 70-14(4): Representation on Tax Advisory Committee

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, in the terms of reference for the committee, one of the recommendations or one of the requests is that recommendations to the Minister should focus on the GNWT's need to address the unique social and economic priorities of the territory. Mr. Speaker, I would advocate that the role of women in our society is indeed very high and very strong. Would the Minister responsible not agree that a woman's voice in this committee would indeed reflect the very terms of reference the government has outlined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 70-14(4): Representation on Tax Advisory Committee

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Member responsible for appointing Members to this committee has agreed to consider the requests and the concerns that have been raised here today with respect to representation on this committee.

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

Supplementary to Question 70-14(4): Representation on Tax Advisory Committee

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are kind of dancing around an issue here that is very straightforward. I would ask the Minister responsible, will she work with her colleague, the Minister of Finance, to quickly find a way to ensure that women's voices are heard on this committee? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary to Question 70-14(4): Representation on Tax Advisory Committee

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will consult with my Cabinet colleague on that matter. Thank you.

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

Question 71-14(4): Social Well-being in Northwest Territories Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. It is in regard to the whole idea of having self-reliant individuals, families and communities, and working with government towards improving the social well-being of our communities.

Mr. Speaker, I have a real problem when we make that type of statement, yet today a lot of communities do not even have the basic resource people in our communities. The community of Tsiigehtchic does not have a social worker or a police officer located in the community, but they have some major social problems that have arrived lately, like suicides. Mr. Speaker, it is a problem and it has to be dealt with.

I would like to ask the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services exactly what her department is doing to ensure that communities receive that self-reliant, and to improve the social well-being of our communities by ensuring every community has the resources and the people in those communities to carry out those responsibilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 71-14(4): Social Well-being in Northwest Territories Communities

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is the mandate and the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure that resources are committed to regions and communities in a fair and equitable manner.

With respect to a social worker in the community of Tsiigehtchic, I would have to look into that matter and find out whether there is a commitment to a placement and it is vacant, or if there is not a dedicated position for that community. I would ask the Member to allow me to look into that. It is a fairly specific request for information, and I will get back to him. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 71-14(4): Social Well-being in Northwest Territories Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that this government does revitalize its policies and principles to ensure that all communities have a similar base of program delivery and have the resource people in our communities. Will the Minister also look at the possibility of considering making such a change so everyone receives similar resource people in our communities? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 71-14(4): Social Well-being in Northwest Territories Communities

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, I will commit to finding out how the needs of the people of Tsiigehtchic are met in terms of the services provided by social workers, whether there is a resident position or visits made on a regular basis. Also, determine with the department whether it is sufficient given the level of need in that community. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 71-14(4): Social Well-being in Northwest Territories Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister for that commitment. I believe there may be need for identifying new resources to ensure that they do have a full-time position. Right now, they do not have anyone there. I would like to ask the Minister, will she also consider looking at the possibility of identifying resources to ensure they have a full-time position in Tsiigehtchic?

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

Further Return to Question 71-14(4): Social Well-being in Northwest Territories Communities

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is something we would need to do in consultation with the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board, as they would be the organization that would put forward a funding proposal for such a position. They would also be responsible for ensuring the staffing of such a position.

I have committed that we will speak with the department and with the Inuvik regional board to find out what the level of need is and the level of service is to the community of Tsiigehtchic. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 71-14(4): Social Well-being in Northwest Territories Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the whole idea of sharing resources and having people identified outside of the community, that is the problem. We have a very major problem with identifying social workers in the region, never mind in the communities. I am asking the Minister, will the Minister commit to ensuring the community of Tsiigehtchic has their own social worker to assist with the social problems of that community?

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

Further Return to Question 71-14(4): Social Well-being in Northwest Territories Communities

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to make that commitment here today because I am not certain as to how the services of a social worker are delivered in Tsiigehtchic right now. As I said, it is a level of detail that I am not familiar with off the top of my head. Certainly, as I stated, we are concerned about the fair provision of services to all Northerners. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. That concludes the time allocated for question period. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to the opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 4-14(4): Response to the Report on the Human Resources Management Study

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Introduction

On June 22, 2000, the Legislative Assembly adopted Motion 5-14(3) Establishment of a Public Service Commission. As a result of this motion, in the fall of 2000 the Government of the Northwest Territories contracted the firm of Grant Thornton LLP to:

- carry out a comprehensive study on the state of human resource management across the Government of the Northwest Territories, and;
- recommend options for improvement including affirmative action results, and consideration of a Public Service Commission model.

Grant Thornton and Associates submitted their report to the Government in December 2000.

Committee Review of the Report

The Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Premier, transmitted the Draft Human Resource Management Study Report to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight on January 15, 2001 for comment. The Committee met to consider the report on April 4, 2001 and again on June 11, 2001. Witnesses included The Honourable Jane Groenewegen, Deputy Premier; Mr. John Holdstock and Ms. Elaine Todres, Grant Thornton and Associates; Mr. Lew Voytilla, secretary to Financial Management Board; Ms. Liz Snider, secretary to Cabinet; Ms. Lynn Elkin, senior human resource advisor, Department of the Executive, Ms. Sylvia Haener, director, labour relations and compensation, Financial Management Board Secretariat, and Ms. Sheila Bassi, executive assistant to Mrs. Groenewegen.

The Committee understands that Cabinet has not yet formally responded to the recommendations in the Draft Human Resource Management Study and therefore this document is a general response to the Grant Thornton report only.

Recognizing the importance of the work to date, and desiring to seek continued examination of options, the committee has already provided general comments through letters to the Premier and the Chairman of the Financial Management Board. The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight looks forward to reviewing the government's response to the recommendations in the near future.

The committee notes that the Draft Human Resource Management Study, completed by Grant Thornton and Associates, recommends an independent appeal process, but suggests it does not need to be a Public Service Commission. They further recommend continuation of a decentralized approach to human resource functions with some increase in coordination and monitoring by central agencies:

"In our view, the concerns expressed to us and the problems identified with the appeals process, support the need for an independent and more visible appeals function. However, we do not advocate establishing a separate agency for all other human resource functions, since experience in the GNWT and in jurisdictions elsewhere suggests that, increasingly, these functions are more effective if managed in a decentralized environment, albeit with some central coordination and monitoring. As a result, a Public Service Commission is unnecessary primarily for the appeals function." (Thornton, 2000, p. 93)

The Thornton Report (2000) reinforces their recommendation that an independent commission or directorate is needed:

"Nevertheless, given the degree to which the employment process in the GNWT is clearly important to so many Northerners, we believe there is merit in establishing an autonomous appeals function where there is a trust in the efficacy and impartiality of the function. This could be accomplished by establishing a separate Appeals directorate or commission with an independent head and appeals officers." (p. 94)

While Members support the recommendation that a "separate appeals directorate or commission with an independent head and appeals officers" be created, we are not yet convinced that such a body should focus only on appeals. The report appears to conclude that there is no significant organizational change needed other than the establishment of an independent appeals entity. If a Public Service Commission or Appeals Directorate is established to focus only on appeals then Thornton appears to feel that a new approach to human resource management can be accomplished within existing departments. This approach will likely not address Members' concerns related to coordination of human resource management practices throughout the public service. Further, we have not been convinced that increasing the role of Financial Management Board Secretariat and the Executive will necessarily solve concerns that Members have heard from their constituents about human resource issues.

If there is to be accountability and government wide implementation of human resource management policies and programs that advance Legislative Assembly priorities, there must be an entity that acts in the public interest. Such an entity must show that this Assembly is committed to a civil service that is professional, non-partisan, and representative. The report suggests that enhancing the role of corporate human resources would improve overall performance and compliance with existing policies. There is not sufficient detail provided to show how this would address the government's ability to effectively coordinate the human resource needs of the public service any better than our government has done since Personnel was disbanded. Nor does the recommendation deal with the need for adequate reporting, monitoring and accountability by the Government of the Northwest Territories to the public.

To move the process along, the report recommends that a task force comprised of deputy ministers develop a detailed implementation program for the direction proposed by the study. Members are not supportive of such an approach until there is a mechanism to ensure ongoing involvement of the Members of the Legislative Assembly to provide a political oversight function. At the very least, detailed terms of reference should be developed to guide the task force. One possible approach might include setting up a working group of Cabinet and Regular Members to work on a draft response to the Thornton report for review by Cabinet and standing committee.

The Premier has proposed that a committee of Members travel to different jurisdictions this fall to examine how they handle their human resources functions. At this time, Members of the standing committee feel they can gain sufficient understanding of practices in other jurisdictions through briefing materials but welcome the Premier's offer to work with the standing committee. Since there must be some mechanism to involve political oversight of the process as it proceeds:

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that a working group consisting of Members appointed from the Executive Council and Members appointed from the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight be established to set a framework and oversee the implementation of a human resources policy and program.

Given committee support for an independent body to oversee the appeals process, whether that is through a body called a Public Service Commission or something else, and with a similar recommendation found in the Grant Thornton report, we think the Government should commit to some more detailed work examining how such a body might fit into our human resources plan. At the same time, since Members have not agreed that overseeing the appeals process should be the commission's only role, the work should look at other areas that might fit within the role of the body.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight recommends that the Government, through an established joint working group, continue to work toward the establishment of an independent body that would be responsible for safeguarding the values of a professional civil service;

And further, that such a body or commission would be established as an independent, arms length entity to hear appeals and to report to the Legislative Assembly annually on the Northwest Territories public service;

And furthermore, subject to further direction, that body or commission would assume such other human resources roles assigned to it.

In general, Members are supportive of the reasons cited for an Employment Equity Policy. We believe that employment equity is a commitment that eliminates discrimination in employment and achieves and maintains a representative workforce. Such a commitment requires the participation of stakeholders in the development of equity policies. In addition, successful implementation requires that the Legislative Assembly recognizes employment equity as a priority and is committed to an effective program. It remains unclear to Members how this priority will be reflected in the accountability framework of the Department of the Executive, and in the specific business plans of the departments. We are also concerned about the process of reframing the Affirmative Action Policy to an Employment Equity Policy. The committee welcomes further discussion on this aspect of the report.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, the committee feels that we should continue to move toward establishment of an independent commission or body to hear appeals. This body should report to the Legislative Assembly on an annual basis. However, Members are not yet convinced that the other recommendations in the report will improve human resources management throughout the public service. We need to set up a process to further examine how to improve human resource reporting, monitoring, and accountability by the Government of the Northwest Territories to the public.

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight looks forward to continued consultations with the Premier and Cabinet to ensure that these issues are addressed.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, on our response to the Human Resources Management Study.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. We have 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? Thank you. The motion is carried. Committee Report 4-14(4) is moved into committee of the whole at the appropriate time. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 14-14(4): NWT Development Corporation 1999-2000 Annual Report

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled Northwest

Territories Development Corporation 1999-2000 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Tabled Document 15-14(4): Building the Northwest Territories: NWT Housing Corporation 1999-2000 Annual Report

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled Building the Northwest Territories: NWT Housing Corporation 1999-2000 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 4-14(4): Appointment of a Special Committee on Conflict Process

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 14, 2001, I will move the following motion:

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that the Legislative Assembly, in accordance with Rule 88(1), hereby establishes a special committee to be named the Special Committee on Conflict Process;

And further, the following Members be named to the special committee:

- Mr. Brendan Bell, Member for Yellowknife South;
- The Honourable Joseph L. Handley, Member for Weledeh;
- Mr. Leon Lafferty, Member for North Slave;
- Mr. J. Michael Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha; and
- Mr. Floyd Roland, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

And further, not withstanding Rule 88(2), that the following Members be named as alternate members to the special committee:

- The Honourable Jim Antoine, Member for Nahendeh; and
- Mr. Michael McLeod, Member for Deh Cho.

And further, Mr. Speaker, that the Legislative Assembly establishes the following as the terms of reference for the Special Committee on Conflict Process as follows:

1. The special committee shall have the authority and is directed to consider all aspects of the application filed by the Member for Hay River South, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen, with the Board of Management on May 7, 2001.
2. The special committee shall have access to such persons, papers and records necessary to the conduct of its business.

3. The special committee shall conduct such hearings and meetings as required to consider all aspects in relation to the application.
4. The special committee is authorized to engage legal counsel and employ such staff as may be necessary to carry out its responsibilities.
5. The special committee shall report to the Legislative Assembly with its findings and recommendations no later than July 23, 2001.
6. The special committee is authorized to provide its report to the Speaker if the Legislative Assembly is not in session. The Speaker shall cause the report to be tabled at the first practicable opportunity.

And furthermore, the Legislative Assembly directs the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to suspend any further actions, including but not limited to the submission of the report on the matter of the complaint filed against the Member for Hay River South, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen, until the special committee has reported to the Legislative Assembly and the report has been considered by the Legislative Assembly.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR THE FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 12: An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 14, 2001, I will move that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with Motion 4-14(4). Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Braden. You may proceed.

-- Interjection

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Hay River South, on a point of order.

Point of Order

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would just like it recorded that I will declare an interest in this matter before the House and I will leave the

House and not participate in the discussions or the vote. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Madam Groenewegen is officially leaving the House. Mr. Braden, you have permission to proceed with your motion.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 4-14(4): Appointment of a Special Committee on Conflict Process (Carried)

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has enacted the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has the inherent power to control its own proceedings, privileges or prerogatives;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has established the Board of Management to be responsible for the overall management and direction of the Office of the Legislative Assembly and to comply with its statutory requirements;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly may establish such standing and special committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has the power to discipline its Members and the right to regulate its own internal affairs;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has provided for the obligations of Members that they shall perform their duties of office and arrange their private affairs in such a manner as to maintain public confidence and trust in the integrity, objectivity and impartiality of the Member;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories the appointment of Statutory Officers to exercise powers and perform duties as provided for in Statutes of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly recommends the appointment of a Conflict of Interest Commissioner;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with its authority contained in the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, the Board of Management was considering the matter of the application filed with the Board of Management by the Member for Hay River South, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen;

AND WHEREAS there is a question as to the capacity of the Board of Management to continue consideration of the application;

AND WHEREAS the Conflict of Interest Commissioner has requested the direction of the Legislative Assembly concerning the release of her report in the matter of the complaint filed against the Member for Hay River South, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen;

AND WHEREAS it is in the interests of the Legislative Assembly to resolve the matter;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that the Legislative Assembly, in accordance with Rule 88(1), hereby establishes a special committee to be named the Special Committee on Conflict Process;

AND FURTHER the following Members be named to the special committee:

- Mr. Brendan Bell, Member for Yellowknife South;
- The Honourable Joseph L. Handley, Member for Weledeh;
- Mr. Leon Lafferty, Member for North Slave;
- Mr. J. Michael Miltenberger, Member for Thebacha; and
- Mr. Floyd Roland, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake.

AND FURTHER not withstanding Rule 88(2), that the following Members be named as alternate members to the special committee:

- The Honourable Jim Antoine, Member for Nahendeh; and
- Mr. Michael McLeod, Member for Deh Cho.

AND FURTHER that the Legislative Assembly establishes the following as the terms of reference for the Special Committee on Conflict Process as follows:

1. The special committee shall have the authority and is directed to consider all aspects of the application filed by the Member for Hay River South, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen, with the Board of Management on May 7, 2001;
2. The special committee shall have access to such persons, papers and records necessary to the conduct of its business;
3. The special committee shall conduct such hearings and meetings as required to consider all aspects in relation to the application;
4. The special committee is authorized to engage legal counsel and employ such staff as may be necessary to carry out its responsibilities;
5. The special committee shall report to the Legislative Assembly with its findings and recommendations no later than July 23, 2001;
6. The special committee is authorized to provide its report to the Speaker if the Legislative Assembly is not in session. The Speaker shall cause the report to be tabled at the first practicable opportunity;

AND FURTHERMORE, the Legislative Assembly directs the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to suspend any further actions, including but not limited to the submission of the report on the matter of the complaint filed against the Member for Hay River South, the Honourable Jane Groenewegen, until the special committee has reported to the Legislative Assembly and the report has been considered by the Legislative Assembly.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Braden. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters. Ministers' Statements 1-14(4), 3-14(4), 4-14(4) and Bill 4, with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call committee of the whole to order. We have a number of issues to consider. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that we consider Bill No. 4 first, and then, depending on whether we conclude that in a timely manner, we might also consider Minister's Statement 1-14(4).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Chair will call a short break and then we will come back and consider Bill 4.

-- Break

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I will call the committee of the whole back to order. We are discussing Bill 4. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, directorate and corporate services, primary and acute care programs, \$7,282,974. Mr. Minister, do you want to bring in any witnesses?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me is Mr. Lew Voytilla, secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Health and Social Services, operations expenditures, directorate and corporate services, primary and acute care programs, \$7,282,974. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, today in her statement, the Minister of Health and Social Services talked about recruitment and retention of nurses in particular. I note here that we are talking about \$1.4 million to stabilize the recruitment and retention of physicians. In her statement, the Minister talks about the quality of life in the North, and I think we would all agree that most of us who live here would say that the quality of life is certainly one reason that people should want to live here.

There is nothing in here that talks about recruitment and retention of nurses, and I am just wondering if we could find out

-- are we not expecting to see any increase in the cost for the recruitment and retention of nurses? If so, if it is not in the supplementary, are there plans to bring it forward in, say, a subsequent supplementary appropriation?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, no, we do not at this time anticipate anything that we will have to put into these sups, but certainly as we get into collective bargaining, there may be increases there. We cannot predict that. There are already a number of activities, as the Minister outlined today in her statement, which are underway. There are no additional dollars in here for recruitment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you. Mr. Chairman, the Minister's statement today also talked about an advertisement that advertised a meeting in Yellowknife for a southern firm to try and attract nurses to move to California with lucrative financial incentives. Are we going to make sure that we have someone attending this meeting and paying some attention to what the offers are, so that we can be proactive with our retention strategy, if it requires us to react with what the offers are that are out there? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I expect that the department will be monitoring it. I am not sure if it is a public meeting or interviews with interested candidates, but I expect anything that is public, the Department of Health and Social Services will be monitoring what is happening. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to now ask some questions about the \$3.9 million for forced growth and Health and Social Services Boards. Can the Minister advise us how many of these boards have approved budgets -- that is budgets that have been formally approved by the Department of Health and Social Services -- for this current fiscal year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, these boards are working with the department on their budget. The funding in here is part of the exercise. So assuming that this is improved, they would have approved budgets shortly. Mr. Chairman, I will refer to the Minister of Health and Social Services, but I do not believe that any of them have "approved budgets."

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mrs. Groenewegen.

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: I am sorry, Mr. Chairman. I did not hear what it was that the Minister of Finance said, or FMBS said. What was that? I am sorry.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I had just pointed out that I do not believe that any of the boards have approved budgets. This exercise is one where our staff are working to finalize and refine these budgets.

This amount of money that is in here is what is necessary to be able to complete the exercise of finalizing budgets. However, I turned it over to the Minister of Health and Social Services in case she has different information. I do not believe that any of them have approved budgets.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mrs. Groenewegen, did you have anything to add to that?

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: No, nothing to add.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I understand it then, the Minister is saying that once we approve this supplementary appropriation, the department will approve the budgets submitted by all of these health boards? Is that what I am to understand from his comments?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the staff are working with the boards. They are basically doing three things. Number one is implementing a standard chart of accounts for the boards. Second is to undertake a base review of all the board operations and their financial requirements. Third is to build budgets for this fiscal year that are consistent in format and reflect their actual operating requirements.

We expect this amount of money here should enable the staff to be able to work with the boards and finalize budgets, and then have approved budgets.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are now some two-and-a-half months into the fiscal year and, from what the Minister says, no board has an approved budget. We need to approve this amount in order for them to work to finalize the budgets. Are we working to a fairly firm timetable as to when the boards will have budgets that are finalized? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the department is working full-steam on this thing. It is difficult to predict when they would be able to have the exercise completed for all boards, but I would hope that happens within the next couple of months.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is a concern, because I know the Stanton Board pretty well went through a full fiscal year without ever having their budget approved by the Department of Health and Social Services. It is difficult to find people to work on these boards as it is, but if you task them to do a job where there is no way to bring it to resolution because they cannot get a final budget approved, and they do not know whether or not the activities they propose in terms of cost reduction or new programs are approved because budgets are not approved throughout the course of a full year, it makes it very difficult for them to do their jobs.

I think we owe the people who work on the boards and the public a commitment to finalize the budgets for all of the health boards in the Northwest Territories in a reasonable period of time. What I am looking for is a commitment that we will not go for even six months without having some finality to the program. We are already two and a half months into the fiscal year. We already know that none of the boards have approved budgets. I think that is too late. I think the process should have been started much sooner so that boards could know exactly what they had to work with during the course of the year.

Now that we have gone this far, is there a commitment from the government that we will ensure that adequate resources are brought to bear to make firm the commitment that certainly by September at the very latest, all boards will have approved budgets?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we want to have the budgets finalized as quickly as possible as well, but there is no point in rushing forward and finalizing budgets that are not based on good information, otherwise we are right back in trouble again. We need to have good information.

I understand the department has been basically pulling out all the stops in getting on with this exercise. We want them to do that. We asked them to do that. I would hope that within the next two months, we can see that completed but I cannot give assurance that we will arrive there. While this money probably covers 98 percent of what is needed by the boards, there are still going to be details and issues that have to be worked out. I think we are a lot better off as a result of this exercise than we have been in the past.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will pursue this during oral questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Primary and acute care programs, not previously authorized, \$7,282,974.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go on to children's programs, not previously authorized, \$1,221,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to ask a question about how well-defined the plans are now. I know that Members in the standing committee received a bit of a briefing in January that outlined some of the broad brush strokes these programs might encompass. At that time, we were promised a detailed briefing on the program before the end of that fiscal year, but it did not come to pass. I am interested in knowing, since we are approving monies here, how well defined are the programs in advance of having been even discussed with the standing committee?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the information I have is that these programs are well-defined, generally completed and the department is ready to get on with the implementation of them.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think all Members have indicated a significant amount of support for early childhood development programs, but I am surprised to hear that the programs have been extremely well-developed when the government had offered to brief Members in advance of moving on them. It now appears that we have not been involved in the setting of priorities or having any sort of discussion about the programs themselves.

If I could ask the Minister what happened that the process seems to have not been followed as we were told it would be, coming back to Members for further discussion?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: My understanding is that the department is and has been trying to get a meeting with the committee. This is largely a timing problem, in that in order to get it into the sups, we had to have it done for today. We are probably moving ahead more quickly with the requests for approval than the briefing with the committee.

It is a timing issue. The department wants to meet with the committee, but has not been able to set that up. I assume they are ready to give a briefing at any time the committee can make the time available.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I want to reinforce that I think all members are in support of this moving ahead, but I am disappointed that we have not had more of an opportunity to provide advice on the development of these programs.

The Minister will know, as he heard a number of us speak earlier this week when we were talking about the energy strategy, of our concerns that a program that was developed very quickly and without a lot of consultation may have had some flaws in it.

That is our concern. Without that adequate consultation taking place, without the discussion around the table that we had expected that we would hear on this, we may be missing the boat in some way, shape or form that we could better have dealt with if we had a better consultative process.

My point is that we have to move forward with this. It is too important to stall. I am going to support this expenditure, but I am certainly looking for a commitment from this government that when we are told there will be a consultative process, they in fact will follow through with that and make sure it does not become a time issue, that we set things up so that there is a process. Members are involved in the consultation and then we can all be confident in the role of the program, that we are not going to find problems in it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you. The Member's advice is heard and I am sure the department will be ready to brief the committee as soon as possible.

I might point out that this is a three-year commitment, a three-year program, so I hope as we move along over the three years, there will be many opportunities to refine and re-refine the various activities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Service programs, not previously authorized, \$1,221,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Just in regard to \$1,221,000, are any of those dollars going to be expended in southern institutions?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, no. None of the programs would be delivered in southern institutions. They are all Northern programs, mainly at the community-level, or the department level, but I do not see anything that would be southern. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: The reason I ask, I believe the total budget, there are some \$2.4 million which is spent in foster homes in Alberta. If anything, I think we should be ensuring that we develop the capacity in the North to retain those children in the Northwest Territories and not send them to southern institutions.

The Minister mentioned that it is spent in the North. Are they spent at headquarters? At the regional level? You mentioned that they are spent in the communities, but I would like to know exactly where and in which communities those expenditures are made.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Most of it is being spent in the communities. Going through it very quickly:

- Healthy Family kits are presented to parents of children at birth and so on. That would go to all families in all communities;
- Read Me kits are provided to all families in all communities;
- Public awareness campaign, targeted all communities;
- Child Talk Program will be piloted in selected communities. I am not sure which ones;
- The Speech Aid Program is for all communities;
- Speech language services, which would be hiring one speech pathologist for the Northwest Territories;
- Languageness, which would be at all communities; and
- Screening and intervention tool is targeted at children in all communities.

When I go through the list, it looks like pretty well everything is either for all communities or if it is being piloted, it will be for selected communities. All of it is in the North and practically all of it is in the communities and not in headquarters. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Children's programs, not previously authorized, \$1,221,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, \$9,703,974.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go on to Justice, operations expenditures, service to governments, not previously authorized, \$10,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have one question in this area. This is an ongoing process, this Grolier School Residential School claimants. I am just wondering why this would come forward this early in the fiscal year. Would we not go through the process and as the department is running low on funds, then come forward with this requirement? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, for clarification, this is not for settlements, but it is to enable the government to participate in the alternative dispute resolution process. It may go on for a number of years. From here on, it may be built into the base, but for the time being, it has appeared here.

In addition to the \$10,000, which is for GNWT legal counsel to travel, the ADR process, there is also another \$190,000 that is included in here which is for travel for claimants and for mediation services. Again, that is an ongoing cost as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is my point exactly: it is an ongoing cost. This is not a new process. You would think that whether it is for travel for GNWT legal counsel or for claimants, that because it is an ongoing process, there would be some money built into the budget. We know it is going to be ongoing, whether it is this fiscal year to another fiscal year. It is an ongoing process. Why would it come in at this time? Why was it not put into the main estimates? Why is it in? I guess if it is going to come through as a supplementary appropriation, why would it come in so early in the fiscal year? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, at the time we were developing our business plans and budgets, we did not know what progress would be made. Since that time, we have found that the ADR process has been positively received by the claimants and hearings have been scheduled and in some cases, they have been held. Our hope would be that this process would be completed fairly quickly, but depending on how much progress we are making, it may not have to appear at all in next year's budget, or we may have to budget for it again. Since it is negotiated, it is difficult to predict what the expenditures or the needs will be from year to year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The other part of the question is why would it come in so early in the fiscal year? Is the department already in a state where they are tight on

funding that it needs to come forward this early in the fiscal year?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Department of Justice has looked at their budget and they do not see any surplus at all within their budget and feel a need to have this approved early. They have no surplus to work with.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Service to government, not previously authorized, \$10,000. Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Community justice and corrections, not previously authorized, \$850,000. Agreed.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, not previously authorized, \$867,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go onto Education, Culture and Employment operation expenditures. Advanced education and careers, special warrants, \$1,737,000. Not previously authorized, \$1,619,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Special warrants, \$1,737,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Mr. Chairman, are we referring to advanced education culture and careers, special warrant for \$1.2 million and then the \$500,000 above that?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We are on advanced educating careers, \$1,737,000, special warrants. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, in this area, special warrants, I have the figure, again approved April 5th, one for Maximizing Northern Employment, to do with Executive Council direction and the Aurora College Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith, fuel spill. Can we get more information on those, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the \$500,000 is money that was budgeted to fund the Northern Employment Support Program as part of the Maximizing Northern Employment initiatives. That money was needed in order to enable us to get on with providing employment. It is essential to do that early in the year to maximize the benefits, and second is to take advantage of the fact that many people were returning from university and college in the spring. That was the \$500,000.

The \$1,237,000 is to fund the clean-up of an environmental contamination at the trades complex. This one goes back to 1996, when a fuel tank was taken out of the ground at the Thebacha Campus and was found that the ground around that tank was saturated by leaking fuel. There were tests done over the years, and it was found that there was a fair bit of seepage

of the fuel in the ground at Fort Smith. The decision was made in early April that we had to contain the contamination and begin the clean-up process.

Again, that was an item that was brought to our attention. It is fairly urgent that we get on with it. The longer we leave it, the more it spreads. Plus, it could contaminate the water sources. That one was fairly urgent to deal with as an environmental clean-up. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there a potential here for further expenditures in the area of the fuel spill? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, with any of these kinds of fuel spills, there is always the potential for it to be greater than we thought. We are doing some excavation. We are doing it as economically as possible using the college heavy equipment operator students to do a lot of the work. As we do the excavation, then hopefully we do not find too many surprises. At this point, we estimate that the cost for this could be as high as \$2.7 million.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I did not catch the last part of the Minister's response. Did he just quote the fact that at this time, it is estimated at \$2.2 million or \$2.7 million? If I can get that clarification, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley, clarification.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Cleaning up this project will go over a number of years. We estimate, from what we know of the spill and the leak and the contamination right now, that over the next ten years it could cost as much as \$2.7 million because the spill is old. It was discovered in 1996. It was happening for some time before that. Given the nature of the soil in Fort Smith, it seeped a long ways. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Although this is a trades complex, Aurora College Thebacha Campus, it is an environmental issue. Would that not be dealt with through RWED? Or is it because it originates from an education facility, that is where the budget is being identified?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, RWED has responsibility for environmental protection policies and plans and so on, but if there are spills or clean-up that is necessary, then it is the responsibility of various departments and it fits within that department.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is an example of what special warrants would be used for. It is an environmental situation that needs to be addressed in a very quick manner. We also heard the Minister talking that this could go on for quite a number of years. Is there going to be a figure or estimates placed in budgets for upcoming years?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the department will put in their best estimate each year as they do their main estimates. Of course, that is revised as we collect more information, do more excavation. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the same matter with regard to the whole area of liability or insurance, was there any insurance? Also, did you check to see what the legal ramifications are of this, in case someone else was liable for the fuel spill?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, no, there was no insurance. Since it is a spill on our property, then as the GNWT, we are liable for it. I suppose there could be some question of whether the federal government would share some of it from years ago when that facility was theirs, but at this point, the main attention has been to clean up the spill, not argue these legal battles, and then clean up later on. We have to get on with it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Just from the Minister's Statement, where he stated this was a federal property taken over by the government, does the federal government have any obligations by way of liabilities? Knowingly, they transferred us something which may have been contaminated. They have responsibility, knowing we took on something that is costing us as a government from trying to recoup some of those funds from the federal government, because there should have been some sort of an arrangement of transfer, through a transfer agreement or what not, that they will be responsible for any environmental hazards that may come along with that facility?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, it has been a number of years since the federal government owned that land. It would be very difficult, in fact, impossible for the department to now prove when the spill actually started and who the liability rests with.

While we do not want to give up on the possibility, I am very sceptical that we would get any assistance from the federal government because, one, we cannot prove when the spill started and second, they may argue that when we took the

transfer of the land, then we accepted it as is. It would be a long, long argument, but the main difficulty is just to prove that the spill is actually that old.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, the Minister stated that this had come to their attention in 1996. I would like to ask the Minister exactly why has it taken that long for this to come to a point where you are having to use a special warrant to get the funds to do the clean-up? Why was it not put into the business planning process so that we could have had a chance to review it and see what the history was, through the committee stage and also through the budgetary stage? Why has it taken so long from the time that it was identified in 1996, where we are now dealing with it through special warrant?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I pointed out, the spill was discovered in 1996 when an underground fuel tank was removed. Following that, Public Works & Services at the time contracted a local firm to investigate the extent of the contamination and to recommend a clean-up and environmental remediation plan.

The results of that showed that the contamination had spread to a fairly extensive area but had not yet seeped into the adjacent residential areas. The plan was put together and moved on as quickly as our government became aware of it.

I cannot really speak to what happened between 1996 and 1999 or 2000, when we became aware that this was a major issue. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Does the Minister have any idea of what is the cost to date that has been expended on this thing since the time that it has been identified to doing the studies and seeing how big of an area is covered? There has to be expenditures already on this particular thing. Do have an idea of what the expenditures have been to date on this particular problem?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, no, I do not know what has been spent to date. If the Member wishes, we can try and dig back in the records and find out what was spent. However, there has not been any meaningful amount of excavation done until this time. I doubt that it was more than testing and planning.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the problem. We do not really know what the total cost of this is going to be. If it continues to accumulate and we find out that the problem is going to be costing us...until we can nail it down and see what the overall cost is and what the long-term feasibility cost of cleaning this up is going to be, I think it is important we have some sort of a mechanism so we can identify those.

One of the concerns was raised in regard to the whole area of the Auditor General report and the whole area of environmental liabilities, is these types of problems that we come across, where we have to start having a better inventory of exactly what the assets are that this government owns, and what are the conditions of the properties and the liability that come along with these properties when we take them on, or we dissolve them to somebody else to take on.

I think that we as a government have to realize that once these costs start appearing, it could be tens of millions of dollars, if not hundreds of millions of dollars, in the future. I think that we have to do a better job of pinpointing these things and nailing them down and get a better number so we can see exactly what the total costs of these really are.

So I think that we do have to do more in that area. So I would like to ask the Minister, could he somehow compile that information to see exactly what the costs are that have been spent to date and a general idea of how long it is going to take to clean this site up? What are the total costs of this specific project? I feel that this is just the tip of the iceberg, where there are going to be a number of other areas creeping up, similar to this one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we are pushing ahead with having departments identify any environmental liabilities that they may have and that is an area of a fair bit of emphasis during the business planning process. In this particular one, the important thing in my view is that we get on with cleaning it up. It is not going to improve on its own. In fact, it will spread.

As I said before, we estimate that we will spend up to \$2.6 million over the next ten years with the bulk of that money being spent this year. Those are all based on estimates from what we can tell.

Like all spills that are underground, it is difficult to know exactly what you are dealing with until you are practically finished with the job. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think it is good to know when those tanks were installed and by whom. Who installed those tanks? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure who installed the tanks or when they were installed, but we can get that information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you. It would be good to know. I am just wondering if this is a deficiency on the tanks or a deficiency in how it was installed? If that is the case, we should determine that. Who knows if the same organization, company or government department used the same method or same material in other areas in the Northwest Territories? The government has not gone around to replacing these things. We might have an environmental catastrophe on our hands without knowing it.

The other area I wanted to speak on is why are we spending approximately \$2.7 million when according to the Minister, we are using Aurora College students to clean-up the site and excavation and so on?

Mr. Chairman, we had a Caucus meeting in Fort Smith about a month ago. The mayor of the community and the leaders of the community emphasized a need to create employment in that community. Why are we using students when there are people in that community who need employment? Since we are spending the money, we might as well employ people. This is a suggestion I would like the Minister to comment on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, first of all, with regard to the tanks. As I said, we will determine when those tanks were put in and have a look at them, if we can. It may be very difficult six years after they were dug out to determine exactly what the cause was, unless somebody made notes at the time. It is very likely that it was just a matter of aging. We will find that out.

In terms of why use students for this, there are two reasons. One is that it is a heavy equipment operation that is required here. We have a heavy equipment operator training program, so rather than the students just moving dirt back and forth on the field, this is a good practical exercise that fits well with our training. The second reason is that by using students to do the work, we are saving ourselves an estimated \$2.5 million. It is basically a good training opportunity. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the first note that it may be difficult to determine when and who built those tanks, we should determine who built those tanks. If it is the same material that is used in other parts of the Territories, we have a reason to worry.

On the second part, students are students. They should not be used as free labourers. Train them, but there are people in that community who need jobs. If we do not give them jobs and we give them income support, it is going to cost this government money out the back door anyway. That was the suggestion. It is great that we can use the students as cheap labourers and they learn from it, but there are people in that community who need jobs. Why can we not give them jobs on the money we spent already instead of keeping them on income support? I understand the Minister's argument, but I have another argument, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very much.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I said, we will find out who installed the tanks, when they were installed and so on. With regard to the issue of using students, giving students good, practical training on real exercises, I guess we have different views on that. I think it is worth it to have the students working in real situations rather than just moving dirt back and forth on a field. The other thing I would point out is that this is heavy equipment work. It is not something you can just hire someone from down the street to do. There are good reasons to use the students and at the same time save ourselves some money that could be used for other training purposes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Mr. Chairman, I guess we need to have some fuel spills in our communities so we can get students over there as well. There are people in the community of Fort Smith who could do with a little bit of training as well, and get the employment. Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to point that out. It is good training ground, but what happens once it is cleaned up? Back to pushing dirt around? I do not agree with that argument, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the students at the college come from many different communities, not all communities. It is not as if this was just for Fort Smith students. Secondly, we are always looking for good, practical, real exercises for the students. If there are not any available, then they do push dirt around in the field. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know this is a little off topic, but in Lutselk'e, they have been working on building a road from Lutselk'e to Austin Lake to open up the whole east side to tourism. Terrain is very similar to the tundra where the mine is. If the Minister wants to invest money in training, then build that road and train people from all over the North in real terms, using the same material as the materials used in most of our northern communities. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): That was a comment more than a question. We are on Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditure, advanced education and careers, special warrants, \$1,737,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Not previously authorized, \$1,619,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under not previously authorized, \$1.6 million, we have some explanation here. It is broken down a little further. It says \$500,000 for the development of an expanded northern teacher education program in order to increase the number of available enrolments for the program to make it more accessible to NWT residents in all regions.

Mr. Chairman, I am aware that this has been an initiative that has been ongoing for a number of years. The Education Act was amended to ensure that teachers who went through TEP, the Teacher Education Program, were required to pursue a certificate or a degree after a number of years. That has been ongoing. Is this \$500,000 that is identified in this area to address an increased enrolment or an increased demand on this sector? Can we have some information on that? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will refer this one to the Minister responsible for Education.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This \$500,000 is to ensure that we can offer the Teacher Education Program at all three campuses, the Aurora Campus, the Yellowknife Campus and the Thebacha Campus, with an intake every year at those particular campuses.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So this money is in fact for the Teacher Education Program? Is it for the three-year program? Can we get some information on it? Is it a newly expanded program? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is correct. We are expanding the program at the Yellowknife and Inuvik campuses to have an annual intake and to offer access programs at each of the campuses every year. When the Member referred to the need for teachers to obtain their bachelor's program, that is the next item on there for \$339,000. That is to give an opportunity for teachers to be able to access and get support to obtain their degrees, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is a very important area and I support the initiative. Again, this is an ongoing one that has been in the works for some time to ensure that we have teachers from the North for the North. As well, the ones who have gone through the Teacher Education Program have the ability to go on and get their degree. My question is why has it not been built into budgets? This is not a new item. Why has it not been addressed through the business plan process? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, in the budget, we have a fund that is jointly administered with the Teachers' Association, which enables us to give teachers sabbaticals to go back to university and further their education. This \$339,000 is a special fund above that one, in order to have more teachers and teachers we select be able to go and continue with their education. If we just rolled it into the regular one, then we would have to negotiate with the Teachers' Association on who would be eligible, who would be the recipients of the sabbaticals and so on. This is on top of the regular sabbatical program we have with the NWTTA.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can I interpret that to mean the department did not want to negotiate with the union?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, you can interpret that as being that we have a target group that we want to see continue with their education, and that this is for a very specific group of northern teachers.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I think this is an important issue and I am trying to understand the process. The Minister stated for a very specific, targeted group of people. Are they ones who are already in the program? Can you elaborate on what you mean by a specific group? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, this funding is for TEP graduates, to enable them to go and complete their degree or further their education. That is the specific group. The other fund is for all teachers in the Northwest Territories. They might have a masters degree already and get it, but that is not part of the group we want to target. We want to target TEP graduates, northern people who were raised here and will live here all their lives and need to finish a degree. That is the group we are targeting.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I state that this has been an ongoing one. The act was amended so that students who had gone through the Teacher Education Program, received their certificates and were teaching in classrooms in the North had to go to the degree program. This is not a new initiative. Why has it not been identified in the main budgeting process? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I can shed some light on this. There has been a requirement for teachers who are at the diploma level and who are in the workforce already to obtain their degree within a five-year period. As long as they are making progress towards the degree, then that is recognized by us as movement.

There have been some concerns about the ability of people to do that within the timeframe because they have families in communities, the cost of going back to school and so forth.

What we decided as part of the Maximizing Northern Employment Program was to specifically identify a budget of this nature to allow approximately 20 teachers per year to obtain their degree with support from us. That can be done by a one-year leave, full-time at the Thebacha Campus to obtain their degree, or it can be done by long distance. We will financially support those teachers who wish to pursue that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, not to draw question to what is being done because it is important. It is more of the process. It is an ongoing process that was initiated through past Assemblies. I think all Members would agree to that. We have heard the government talk for ages about the importance of northern-trained individuals who can go on to work in and with the government. It is the question of why it was not addressed through the normal process. Why does it

have to come forward as not previously authorized? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Previously, we did not identify any funding in this area. There was never a support program. It was done by a policy to state that teachers need to obtain their degree. We have decided to make it part of Maximizing Northern Employment. We want to start immediately with that, Mr. Chairman, hence the reason for putting it into the supplementary appropriation at this particular time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like more clarification from the Minister. I am aware that this program has been in existence because it has caused a problem, especially with teachers who are going back for their bachelors' degree who may have taken the Teacher Education Program but do not have their bachelor's. This program has been in place for a couple of years. I do not understand why the Minister is saying this program did not exist. This fund has been available to teachers in the community of Aklavik, where there have been students who have taken a year off and gone to the college program. I would like more clarification on that from the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While there was a requirement for teachers to obtain their degree within five years or show progress towards the degree, there was never an identification of funding for that, Mr. Chairman. We wanted to ensure that funding was identified for this particular program. That is not to be confused with the program that is worked out with the NWTTA. That has a limited number. I am not sure of the number of individuals who can take leave and pursue education. It was very limited in that area. We are continuing with that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Do we have any idea of how many teachers have to get their bachelors degree in education within that five-year timeframe? Do we know how many teachers are in our system now who have to meet that requirement?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have that information with me. I can get that information for the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked the question is because I believe there are a lot of teachers who are now stuck in that dilemma. Sure it is a great program, but the problem we are running into, especially from what I have seen in the last year, is that a lot of teachers are having to either take a year leave from their jobs to go to school, find funding sources elsewhere. They may be accessing it through the Inuvialuit or the Gwich'in so that they can continue their education.

Right now, the program you have is insufficient. I believe they are limited to one teacher per school, per community. I think for us to meet the requirement that is needed for all the teachers to obtain their degree within that five-year timeframe is unrealistic. We cannot do it with the resources we have. If anything, we have to put more resources in it and keep the teachers who are homegrown in their home communities. Also, they have to be able to exceed in their education by getting their degree. It is a problem.

I know for a fact that teachers have accessed funds and they took a year off of teaching so they could try to meet that requirement, but they had to go elsewhere to get the funds to do it.

We should not find ourselves in that situation where we are not only putting a burden on our schools because the teacher has left, or else on the teacher where they have to go elsewhere to find the required dollars to do it.

I think if anything, we should try to pinpoint this down, either with the NWTTA to find out how many teachers require these funds. For us to do it at a rate of 20 a year, I do not think we are going to meet that goal that we have imposed on teachers. I think it is important that we nail that down.

I would like to ask the Minister if he has any idea where those 20 students are going to come from, considering we have 33 communities?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, we will have to provide the information on where those 20 students are likely going to come from. The \$339,000 may not be enough to get everybody back who needs to go back, but at least it is a beginning. I think as we go through the year, we can do an assessment of what additional money may be necessary to achieve the objectives Mr. Krutko outlines. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Another concern I have is the whole idea of northern. When you talk northern teachers, are you talking teachers who reside in their home communities, or are you talking just northern teachers in general, where a teacher shows up in a community and they teach, they are from down south and taught in the community for one or two years and decide they want to go back and get their degree because they did not have it when they arrived. Can they apply for this program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, these are individuals who have graduated from the TEP program. They are northern in the sense that they went to school here, received their TEP certificate, are teaching and are now going back. It is not for teachers who have moved here from the south.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: There is \$180,000 to establish student success centres. Where are you looking at establishing those centres? Is it Yellowknife?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, these success centres will be established in each of the Aurora College campuses. Each campus will get one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are on advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$1,619,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$611,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Can we get some sort of a guarantee from the Minister that those 20 students who will be able to access that \$339,000 will be distributed equally to all regions and communities so they can access those dollars? It is not centrally located or one region gets more over the other? I think that is going to be a battle, trying to allocate those funds. I think to be fair to all the communities, there has to be a fair means of distributing that program.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We are beyond that. We are on education and culture, \$611,000. Do you have a further question, Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO: I would like to go back to the \$1,619,000 not previously authorized.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Mr. Krutko requests to go back to advanced education and careers. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go back to advanced education and careers. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: In regard to my earlier question, can the Minister give us some assurances that the \$339,000 will be distributed fairly and equitably to all regions and schools in the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley, you are indicating you will refer the question?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will refer the question to Mr. Ootes.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The program will be by application, of course, so it will depend to some degree on where applications come from. We will ensure that there is an across-the-board, across-the-territory fairness in this whole thing and that it is not concentrated in one or two particular communities, if we get the applications from the various communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Can the Minister state exactly where these applications will have to be filed and who will approve the applications?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not quite sure of the process, but I believe there will be a committee of the department and, in all likelihood, the representatives from the SPAR committee may take part in this. I stand to be corrected, but I will check that out for the Member to see who exactly will be a participant in the selection process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Maybe the Minister could clarify what the SPAR committee is? Is that a fencing committee or a sparring committee?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Ootes.

HON. JAKE OOTES: The SPAR Committee is an acronym, and pardon me for using that. It is the School Program and Resource Committee. It is made up of representation from the various regions of the district education councils, as well as the department. I believe the Department of Health and Social Services has a representative on that as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Advanced education and careers, \$1,619,000, not previously authorized.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$611,000. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I was wondering if we could get a bit of a breakdown on how this \$611,000 is proposed to be expended, what the programs are and some descriptions of them, whether or not the money is going into schools or will be expended through NGOs, for instance? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, it is broken down into the education and awareness activities, speech language development activities, and community support activities. We will have to get details on exactly where the money is being spent, whether it is in the school or in the community. I cannot tell from the information I have exactly what goes where.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think that goes to highlight my earlier comments when we were talking about the early childhood expenditures in Health. It is difficult for Members of this House to approve expenditures without having some clear idea of how those monies are going to be expended. We are asked here to basically trust the department to do the right thing. The Early Childhood Development Action Plan is a good enough initiative and important enough that we have to support it, but it is very frustrating to sit here and not have good information in front of us about how this money is going to be spent. I wanted to see if there were any more details. Since there are not, it is disappointing. I certainly look

forward to hearing a much better explanation of this program in committee. I hope we hear it soon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, while Mr. Dent was speaking, we did break out some of those that are education. First of all, there are the Read To Me kits that are presented to parents of all children. They are provided to families in all communities, \$185,000.

The Language Nests are to develop and enhance early childhood programs that immerse toddlers in preschool in aboriginal language and culture. That is an ECE one. It is at a cost of \$170,000. It will be going to all those situations where we have aboriginal language and culture situations, virtually every community.

In terms of community support, there is the child and family resource centres. That is to build on existing best practices and provide incremental funding to bring together resources at a community level. This is work with the communities who express a desire for support. That is at \$75,000.

Then there is a parenting and literacy program. That is to work with the NWT Literacy Council to develop community level programs that encourage early literacy and parenting skills. That is \$181,000.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can take it from that to mean the Minister did have some more detail. His first response indicated he did not have that level of detail. There is some better detail that has been provided. Again, it is important that we get this discussed at the committees and moved out into the field very quickly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I have a problem. They seem to be using the same drafters in regard to the way you drafted the particular item compared to the children's program. Line for line, the only thing that is different is the amount. The last clause there, community support activities, the \$256,000. I would like to know how this program will be distributed, what communities will have access to it and what amount they will be able to access.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, with regard to the \$256,000, that is a community support activities. First of all, there is the child and family resource centres. That one will work with communities who express a desire for support. The communities will put together their letter of interest or proposal. It is up to the communities to do it. This is a program we have made known to the communities. They can apply if they are interested.

Then there is the parenting and literacy. That one is one in which they will work with the NWT Literacy Council to develop community level programs to encourage early literacy and parenting skills. There is \$181,000 to do that. I am assuming that the product from that, the community level programs, will be made available to all communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In most communities, you do not have child and family resource centres. You may have a youth centre or something to that effect, or an alcohol and drug centre. Will using the term youth centre fit within the criteria of this program?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: I think the youth centre could be the beginning of it, as long as it is more than a youth recreation centre. These are meant as educational programs. I think in every community, there is the opportunity to combine some of the resources they already have, whether it is working with new mothers or working with youth or working with a program out of the band office, and put together a community child and family resource centre, with the objective of helping people work more with their children on the educational side. This is not a recreational program. The opportunity is there for practically every community.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I asked is if you limit it to the criteria of children and family resource centres, a lot of the communities will miss out because they do not have that. A lot of our smaller communities do have youth centres that could meet the requirement of this, sort of a learning centre or program centre for the youth, and also to allow for families to take part in those different programs. What I do not want to see is communities that are somehow turned away because they do not meet the criteria of this program because they may have a youth centre, but they do not fill the requirement the department may ask for. That is why I think it is important to change the wording to reflect that. Will the Minister consider adding that they will also consider youth centres as facilities to administer this program in communities where we do not have children and family resource centres?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned, this is meant to be incremental money on top of what is already in the community. It is meant to help communities to integrate the services they have right now. I do not see any reason why a youth centre, assuming it is more than just a recreation centre, could not become the core for this new, integrated family and child resource centre. A community does not have to have a child and family resource centre in place in order to qualify for this money. This money is meant to help them put that in place.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Just another question in regard to the speech and language development activity. I believe I had asked earlier and you mentioned that you do have a speech therapist of some sort, or you identified one person. Is this funding for a similar person in the department in the area of education?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: I am not sure of the question, but there is \$150,000 identified for one additional speech or language pathologist in the Northwest Territories. This would primarily be a Health and Social Services position. When it comes to speech and language services, Health and Social Services and Education work very closely together. In fact, these people sometimes work in the schools.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I will ask the question again. This position for \$170,000 does not include a position for a speech therapist?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the \$170,000 is for the Language Nests, which is money that is meant to develop and enhance early childhood programs that immerse toddlers and preschoolers into aboriginal language and culture. That is only for money that is spent directly in support of those children. It is not for the speech pathologist.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: You mentioned there is coordination between the children's program and this program through Education, Culture and Employment. I am just wondering why it has not been put in through the main estimates so it could reflect that under the planning stage? Why does it have to come through a supplementary appropriation where it is not previously authorized?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it is because it is part of the early childhood initiative. It is an enhancement of existing services and a provision of new services and programs.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. We are on education and culture, not previously authorized, \$611,000. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will try to be brief on this one. I have a couple of questions here in the area of speech language development activities. In response to Mr. Krutko, the Minister stated there is a lot of cooperation and working closely together between Education, Culture and Employment and Health and Social Services. Hopefully with these new dollars, that will happen.

However, I have a copy of a letter sent to the district education authority by the Minister of Health and Social Services specifically to address the issue of speech pathologists. Basically, the district education council was told by Health and Social Services that this was not their area. It was in the area of Education, Culture and Employment.

I hope the Minister can substantiate the comments and then show that in fact -- it seems like we are developing and the

wording is identical in both, except for the fact that in this one, it talks about community support activities instead of, for example, screening and intervention tools, which is under the health area -- that in fact with this, we will definitely see a closer working relationship. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am optimistic as well that we will see closer cooperation. A lot of special needs teachers and special needs assistants need training in teaching speech. It is a common problem for children. Part of the speech pathologist's responsibilities with Health is to assist in the training of people who are going to work with children who have speech problems. There has to be that cooperation. We cannot send children to the clinic to be trained or to help with their speech problems. I hope that, as we have this early childhood initiative develop over three years, we will see a lot of cooperation in areas where there may not have been as much as we would have liked in the past.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In the area of speech language development activities, my understanding is that there will be an increase in the number of pathologists in the NWT and support development of speech aid training, which the Minister is talking about. Where will this be located and how will they work with communities? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I am not sure where the speech pathologist will be located. I will refer it to Mrs. Groenewegen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mrs. Groenewegen.

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My colleague for Nunakput tells me it will be located in Tuktoyaktuk, but actually, Mr. Chairman, I am not certain where it will be located.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are asking for approval of this funding for an additional speech pathologist. It would be nice to know where they intend to put this position. Once we approve this budget, it can go anywhere. Do they have a plan in place that would address this? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I know it is difficult to separate out from the brief explanation you have, but the speech pathologist position that Mr. Roland is referring to was part of the \$1,221,000 that we went through on page 9, on children's programs. This \$170,000 for speech/language development activities is for the language nests that are being established for toddlers and preschoolers to learn aboriginal languages. I think we will have to get back to you on where this

additional speech pathologist would be located. Just for clarity, that was dealt with on page 9. This \$170,000 is for the Language Nests Program. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: No further questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$611,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Total department, special warrants, \$1,737,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Not previously authorized, total department, \$2,230,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): We will go on to Transportation, operations expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$85,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We referred to the Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy number 7, in regard to the Mackenzie Valley development planning. Could the Minister tell us exactly how much money has been spent to date and if all of the strategies have been implemented?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, if the Member is referring to the Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy and asking how much of the money that was proposed has been spent, I would have to get back. I do not know off-hand how much of the Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy money we have received from Indian Affairs and how much of it we have contributed ourselves.

This particular one is asking for a total of \$2.4 million to be spent in support of the Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The reason I ask is this strategy has been here for some time. I am just wondering why it is that we are having to bring the recommendations or the strategy through a supplementary process, which should have been done through a business planning process. We knew exactly what was required. Also, why did we not do it through the main estimate process instead of using this avenue? Why did we not use the regular planning process, knowing this strategy has been around for a while?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy was developed over a year ago. We then went into consultation and had it out as a

consultation document until this past January. It was not a finalized document until just a few months ago. This was not included in the capital plan because we did not have the document, the Non-Renewable Resource Strategy, until well after we were into the business planning-main estimates process.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Through the strategy, we have looked at bridges in the Sahtu, in which that came through by a program from the federal government that we had to match it. I believe that came through the main estimates. We knew ahead of time that these things are out there. Everybody has to go through the planning process. We have dollars identified for all the different airports and what not in the Territories. There is work that has been done over the last number of years in different airports. Knowing that this had a direct effect on a departmental area, airports, why could it not have come through that process, for us to say some programs are in and some programs are out? I would like to know why we have not done that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy was a strategy we developed as a proposal to the federal government to rationalize our request for some \$230 million, and a commitment on our part to spend \$100 million. The federal government made it clear to us that we were not going to get a cheque for the whole amount, but they would make money available project by project.

Last fall, I met with Minister Nault. It was probably in late September, early October. He had approved the bridge. He agreed to the bridge money. Then it took a few months to finalize where the money was going to come from. That money came to us late last year, late in the last fiscal year.

Now we are moving into this fiscal year. We did not have the strategy approved in time, but we want to get on with some of these projects in order to prepare for the oil and gas activity. What we see here are items that came to us after the business planning-main estimates process, but yet they are items we feel are essential to get on with if we are going to have oil and gas development up and down the valley.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, how many other initiatives under the strategy do we see having to come forth, say in the fall session, under the same argument, where we say we require it immediately because we did not have time to put it into the business plan? I feel we knew well in advance what these issues were. Again, I would like to ask the Minister how many other initiatives such as this one do we see coming through a similar process like a supplementary appropriation because it is not in the main estimates?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, if everything stayed the same as it is today and there were no new developments, then likely, we would have none coming forward. The oil and gas activities are speeding up very quickly. We are not at all sure what is happening with the Aboriginal Pipeline Group and their application.

We do not know what arrangements communities may come up with, or regions may come up with as partnerships with oil and gas companies. We do not know what investments companies might choose to make in areas like training. There are a whole bunch of unknowns out there.

It is very difficult to predict what may come forward in the next few months or come forward at times when we cannot fit it into our business cycle. When these things come, we have to take advantage of them. We cannot wait a year to build them into a business plan or we will lose the opportunity. It is practically impossible to predict what might come in the future.

If the Aboriginal Pipeline Group goes ahead and we get an application for a pipeline, then things could move very quickly.

Through the Non-Renewable Resource Strategy and our Economic Strategy, we do have an overall approach that we are taking, but we cannot predict each of these expenditures.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: The Minister stated the federal government is committed to paying us a certain amount of money for the strategy. How soon do we feel that the federal obligation will be adhered to? We have been down this road before where we thought the whole incremental costs for division was going to be taken care of by the feds and it did not happen. We followed along hook, line and sinker, knowing it is out there, but when will we see some of the federal dollars committed to this strategy?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I have mentioned before, the federal government has been clear with us. They are not going to give us a cheque for \$230 million. Rather, they will fund these things project by project. I expect we will continue to receive support from the federal government, whether it is in training, infrastructure support, or wherever it may be. It will come in small pieces. At that time, we may be expected to cost-share in it. Some will come to us directly. Some will come to us through aboriginal corporations, aboriginal governments. It is very difficult, as I said earlier, to predict exactly when and how much we are going to be expected to contribute. Hopefully, it will continue to come to us over the next number of years as oil and gas develops.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to know how the Norman Wells airport development plan became part of this strategy. You mentioned the pipeline and what not. The community of Tsiigehtchic has been fighting for years just to get a heli-pad. If anything, with the activity in the Delta, the pipeline and what not, that is one community that is going to be

impacted. How did they get their requirements put into this strategy, saying we require just as much attention as the Norman Wells thing? You are talking pipelines. How does a community get funds put into developing infrastructure such as airports, terminals, whatever in the communities that do not have them?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the departments are continually doing an assessment of where the greatest impact is going to be and where there is going to be a need to move quickly in providing a service, upgrading a service and so on.

In the case of the Norman Wells airport development, it was felt that given the amount of activity in the Norman Wells area and the Colville Lake area, it was necessary to get on with a new Norman Wells airport development plan. Mr. Steen may have more to add to that, I do not know. We have to choose where the priorities are based on the amount of anticipated activity. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Steen, did you have anything to add to that?

HON. VINCE STEEN: No, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. We are on Transportation, operation expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$85,000. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I would like a little more elaboration on exactly how these prioritized items come to be. The Norman Wells airport looks pretty good to me. They have a brand new terminal, a runway where jets are in and out of there, yet some communities require more attention than this airport and will probably be greater affected in regard to the developments and not having the ability to attract planes, or little things like a helicopter pad, which is still being developed. The amount of dollars we are looking at is not even registering on the government radar where they determine what is important and communities have to live with what they have.

I feel that when you just pull an item out of the air and basically state that it fits the criteria of a certain strategy without taking into consideration other communities that have just as much, if not greater, requirements than this particular project here.

I would like more elaboration on how the Norman Wells airport development plan met that criteria.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I will refer it to Mr. Steen.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Norman Wells airport has not had any renovations to any of the leased areas where airlines and helicopter companies operate out of. There was also some identified need for expansion in those areas. There was an identified need for security improvements to the airport. It is all

relative to the activity that is taking place in the Sahtu area, the oil and gas activity. We have some expansion plans already for the Inuvik area. Those are ongoing through the ACAP program. I do not want to get the two projects confused, because they are a totally different type of funding. ACAP is a federal program. This particular project is strictly territorial funding.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Steen. The Chair recognizes the clock. Time has run out. I shall rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. DELOREY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2001-2002, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Thebacha as seconder. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. Item 22, orders of the day. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, meetings for tomorrow at 8:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, 9:00 a.m. of Cabinet House Strategy, 10:00 a.m. of Caucus, 10:30 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 13, 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
 - Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act
 - Bill 7, Powers of Attorney Act
 - Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Act
 - Bill 9, Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act
 - Bill 10, Public Highway Improvement Fund Act
 - Bill 11, Architects Act
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
 - Minister's Statement 3-14(4), Fiscal and Economic Update
 - Minister's Statement 4-14(4), Update on the Social Agenda
 - Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act
 - Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2001-2002
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 13, 2001, at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:05 p.m.