



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

4th Session

Day 18

14th Assembly

HANSARD

Thursday, November 1, 2001

Pages 569 – 586

The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	569
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	569
47-14(4): MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE (KAKFWI)	569
48-14(4): PORTFOLIO ANNOUNCEMENT (KAKFWI)	569
49-14(4): NEW SECURITY MEASURES AT NWT AIRPORTS (STEEN)	569
50-14(4): MEETING OF FEDERAL, PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL MINISTERS OF FINANCE (HANDLEY)	570
51-14(4): VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION (ALLEN)	570
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	571
BACK TO THE FUTURE 2002 PROJECT (BRADEN).....	571
SERVICES PROVIDED BY NWT COURT WORKERS (MCLEOD)	571
BENEFITS OF ARTIFICIAL ICE SURFACES (LAFFERTY)	571
THE THREAT OF TERRORISM (KRUTKO).....	572
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	572
ORAL QUESTIONS	573
PETITIONS	583
REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	584
REVERT TO RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	589
REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS.....	589
MOTIONS	589
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	589
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE.....	589
THIRD READING OF BILLS	590
ORDERS OF THE DAY	590

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, November 1, 2001****Members Present**

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

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Mr. Tony Whitford): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Please be seated. Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 47-14(4): Minister Absent From the House**

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Jim Antoine will be absent from the House today to attend to a personal family matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Minister's Statement 48-14(4): Portfolio Announcement

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the House that effective 5:00 p.m. today, the Honourable J. Michael Miltenberger will take over responsibility for the following portfolios:

- Minister of Health and Social Services;
- Minister responsible for the Status of Women;
- Minister responsible for Seniors; and
- Minister responsible for Persons with Disabilities.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen.

Minister's Statement 49-14(4): New Security Measures at NWT Airports

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to advise the House and the people of the Northwest Territories about the new security measures that are in effect at airports in the Northwest Territories and across Canada following the shocking events that took place on September 11th in the United States. The new security measures may affect people leaving the Northwest Territories, depending on whether they are travelling domestically within Canada or internationally to the United States and other world destinations.

To be perfectly clear, I should point out that the legal authority for these new security measures is with the federal regulator, Transport Canada. The Department of Transportation operates our territorial airports and, like the air carriers, is subject to the federal jurisdiction.

Security measures apply to all public airports in Canada and vary depending upon the federal classification of the airport. For example, airports such as Edmonton, Calgary and Vancouver are designated category 1. These airports have regular international flights and have a highly restricted security environment. Yellowknife is a category 2 airport. The controlled security environment is limited to the terminal and apron area immediately in front of the main terminal building. Normal security requirements continue in all other areas of the airport. All other public airports in the NWT are category 3 and normal security measures continue to be applied. Passengers travelling to or from smaller regional and community airports should experience no change in procedures from before September 11th.

For anyone who is not sure of the security requirements where they intend to travel, they would be wise to confirm them with their travel agent or their air carrier beforehand. For passengers traveling from or through Yellowknife to destinations outside of the Northwest Territories, check-in and security screening processes have been modified to require closer passenger and carry-on baggage checks.

At check-in, air carriers are now required to ask specific questions about the contents, packing and custody of the passenger's baggage. Some airlines apply their own security policies as well to insist that passengers show a piece of photo ID. I would strongly recommend that air travelers carry a piece of photo ID with them if at all possible. There has been some inconsistency between different airlines and airports on the question of photo identification. Photo ID is definitely required for travel to the United States and other international destinations. I recommend that travelers obtain a passport as the best form of photo identification. An NWT driver's licence or NWT general identification card is another form of photo identification and can be obtained from GNWT licensing offices. However, they may not be recognized at all locations as surely as a Canadian passport.

Security personnel are required to search carry-on baggage randomly. Passengers may no longer carry certain items on their person or in their carry-on baggage such as any knife or knife-like object, straight razor, scissors, ice skates, tennis racquets or cork screws. The new security measures give security personnel the broad discretion to prohibit any article that may pose a threat. If they are in any doubt, travelers are well advised to put any sharp or pointed objects that they may have in with their checked-in luggage.

Additionally, passengers will be asked to demonstrate that any electronic equipment that they may have in their carry-on

baggage is working. As with photo identification, the airlines may have their own policies regarding the size, type and number and content of carry-on bags. Airline policy may also permit passengers to send an article in checked baggage that has been removed by security personnel during a carry-on baggage check. However, items left with security cannot be recovered.

Additional airport security personnel are now stationed at the Yellowknife airport and air carriers must follow enhanced security measures concerning the handling of air cargo coming into and leaving the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure the House and the people of the Northwest Territories that the Department of Transportation is committed to working with Transport Canada and the airline industry to maintain public confidence in the safety and security of the northern air transport industry with the least inconvenience and disruption to the travelling public.

I should add, Mr. Speaker, that Transport Canada's inspectors visited the Yellowknife airport on Tuesday, October 16th, and expressed their satisfaction with the way the new security measures have been implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Steen. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Handley.

Minister's Statement 50-14(4): Meeting of Federal, Provincial and Territorial Ministers of Finance

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, October 28, 2001, I attended a meeting in Ottawa with the federal Minister of Finance, the Honourable Paul Martin, along with my provincial and territorial colleagues. The meeting was organized in order to allow Finance Ministers to discuss current economic and fiscal situations and to share outlooks in advance of the December federal budget.

We all agreed on the importance of a coordinated federal/provincial/territorial response to current economic and fiscal challenges. Although Mr. Martin did not share any specifics about his budget, we did discuss the revenue impacts of short-term economic conditions and the need to increase spending on security measures. However, all Ministers agreed that Canadians should be reassured that, while the short-term economic outlook is less certain, Canada's economic fundamentals remain sound. Low interest rates, reduced taxes and sound fiscal management are providing a secure base to build economic recovery.

The Northwest Territories is in a particularly fortunate position as our economy has not been impacted to the same extent as other jurisdictions by recent events and our prospects remain very positive.

The current slowdown is expected to have adverse effects on federal, provincial and territorial budgets. However, Ministers agreed that our common goals in addressing fiscal issues should be fiscal stability and economic security.

From the Northwest Territories' perspective, the links between our formula financing revenues and provincial spending and national economic growth mean that while we intend to

maintain our overall fiscal strategy, we must exercise caution in how we proceed.

Finance Ministers also discussed the need for federal support for the national health care system. While issues of national security are of top priority in the short run, long-term issues such as health care, including federal transfers, cannot be forgotten. We have agreed to meet again early in the new year to discuss these issues further. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Allen.

Minister's Statement 51-14(4): Volunteer Recognition

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, I believe it is important to recognize our many volunteers here in the NWT. The United Nations declared this year as the International Year of Volunteers to recognize the contributions of all volunteers. During this year, we have had many opportunities to recognize the ways that northern volunteers make our communities better places to live.

Recently, I had the opportunity to appear and speak at the Annual Live to Give Volunteer Symposium held in Inuvik on Saturday, October 27th. This was just one of many volunteer recognition events that have been held across the North this year. Many of these events honoured the recipients and nominees of the outstanding volunteer service awards program MACA sponsors.

Personally, my interest in volunteerism goes back some years, thanks to the opportunities I have had while growing up in the Delta. Along the way, I met some very fine people who volunteered for a variety of causes. It was inevitable that I would make volunteerism one of my focal points in the Assembly, along with the achievements, issues and concerns of people, especially the youth. I am delighted to see volunteerism receiving this much attention. It is almost as much as the attention that volunteers give to those they share so much of their precious time to help.

Helping our family, friends and neighbours is a way of life here in the North. Almost every volunteer I have ever met would shun the public spotlight. However, they must all be gratified to see that volunteer work, per se, is receiving the publicity and plaudits it deserves. Hopefully, this will draw others to volunteer. I have yet to meet a volunteer who is not a better, more rounded person because of his or her volunteer work.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleague for Inuvik Boot Lake, Floyd Roland, and myself, I would like to thank the town of Inuvik for taking the time to recognize their 58 volunteer organizations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Back to the Future 2002 Project

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to bring to the attention of the Assembly and give some profile to a very exciting and visionary initiative that has been growing over the summer and the fall, and that is the Back to the Future 2002 Project, Mr. Speaker. I think it is particularly timely to bring this forward. Anybody who may have been watching CBC Television last night would have seen a documentary that was aired on the evolution of the whole pipeline debate in the NWT. The documentary reflected on the positions that were taken in the NWT some 25 years ago and how they have changed.

It is largely from this point of view, Mr. Speaker, that the Back to the Future Project has started. It takes, perhaps from the start, that position and that time that we commonly know as the Berger decision and then sets out to say what has changed, what has progressed, what is different now in the new NWT, Mr. Speaker, and what could we do as a society and as a part of Canada to say what have we become? Where do we want to go and what can we do to demonstrate that not only to ourselves but to our neighbours and to the rest of Canada?

This, I think, is where the idea for the Back to the Future Project is very refreshing and very exciting to me. A personal agenda of mine in the Assembly has been to work on the identity of the new NWT. I think this project will really help to advance that.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to see, has taken an early and a positive position on the work of this group. It is a society with members from across the Territory. It is going to encompass a number of projects and that will be for the society to announce. I do want to bring profile to it, bring awareness to it and look forward to our government's future involvement in 2002, Mr. Speaker, and beyond. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Services Provided by NWT Court Workers

MR. MCLEOD: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to discuss the matter of services provided by the court workers of the Northwest Territories and the responsibility they are given, whether it be by policy or by default, because they are the only game in town.

This is a matter of importance for two reasons. Firstly, because we are dealing with people's lives, both the accused and the victim. Secondly, because of the large number of people being processed through the judicial system and each person's right to fair, just and equitable treatment throughout such a process.

Mr. Speaker, in talking with my constituents with the unfortunate experience of being defendants in our legal process, questions have arisen as to the responsibility and expectation one has of court workers in contrast to the qualifications required for the position. I understand a court worker to be a person who should be trained or experienced in

the judicial system for the purpose of providing non-legal counseling. This non-legal counseling would include providing the individual with the information or services throughout the judicial process to assist in making an informed decision, dealing with cultural and socio-economic diversities between clients, lawyers and court personnel. I would like to find alternate community-based solutions to the criminal justice system where fielding general questions.

However, Mr. Speaker, although I am aware that these areas are routinely dealt with by the court workers, the court worker may be required to provide these services throughout several communities, some accessible only by air or winter road. When in the communities, these court workers are required to operate out of their hotel rooms or in places that jeopardize the accused or the victim's confidentiality.

Furthermore, the clients tend to wait until the last minute before seeking the services of a court worker, who is then expected to dispense advice or hope on the spot.

Mr. Speaker, the court workers often seek advice from legal services staff members on matters they are not familiar with. This advice may not be always provided in a timely manner because of the workload of the staff lawyers. Clients tend to wait until the last minute prior to seeking advice.

On top of all this, Mr. Speaker, the court workers are being required to act as interpreters or agents for clients, or as defence counsel in matters before the justice of the peace. The question is, do they possess the qualifications and experience to provide such a service?

MR. SPEAKER: Your time has expired for your Member's statement, Mr. McLeod.

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

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

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is important to recognize the court workers as a valuable community resource and in many instances a first line of communication with the accused or victims. It is apparent that the role of the court worker has expanded in the services provided and the responsibility placed on them. This makes it all the more important to make certain that each court worker possesses the required qualifications for the position and are provided ongoing training and support from staff lawyers and are monitored to ensure that each has a caseload that can be effectively and efficiently managed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Benefits of Artificial Ice Surfaces

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many Canadian professional hockey players launched their hockey careers on natural ice, Mr. Speaker. They usually spent their first hour on

the ice shoveling the snow off. We were used to seeing guys in sweaters with no padding flying over bumps on natural ice. However, what was good for our hockey legends is no longer there for us now, Mr. Speaker. Having natural ice in September is no longer possible.

What this means is that the window of usage on natural ice is mostly closed. We have some communities that still use natural ice. That is because they have no other choice. In 1983 in Rae-Edzo, we used to have ice from October until the end of April but because of global warming and warmer temperatures, now we are lucky if we get ice in December and it is gone by the first of April.

Our kids are running around the community with nothing to do because we have a big empty building sitting unused for nine months of the year. We put sport infrastructure into the communities, but the communities' needs are not met. This is not an effective use of resources, Mr. Speaker. A facility in Rae can only be used maybe three months out of the year due to the changes in the weather. Teams cannot compete because it is such a short season and there is no time to practice.

What some of our communities in the North need is artificial ice so we can stretch the season to be able to compete and keep our kids off the streets. I will have questions for the Minister of MACA later, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on The Threat of Terrorism

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have not had an opportunity to speak on what has happened to myself regarding the events we see today, the terror that has come to all of us in the world, especially the United States. Mr. Speaker, life as we know it can change in a split second. As free as we are, yet not knowing when terror will strike, or being in a situation where everything that you know is out of your control. Not knowing what will happen next, not realizing exactly what is happening or how serious the threat is around you.

Mr. Speaker, my experience in Washington D.C. on September 11th has changed my whole view on freedom as we know it. Myself and several northern delegates were in Washington D.C. to celebrate the Wilderness Week in Alaska, which included Mr. Joe Tetlich, the chairman of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board; Lorraine Peter, the MLA for Old Crow; Chief Joe Linklater, the Gwich'in First Nation Chief; Ken Smith from Inuvik, a youth delegate; and Yukon Member of Parliament Larry Bagnell, along with myself.

We were in Washington on September 11th. That day we had meetings scheduled all day with staff and different senators at their offices. Mr. Speaker, when the word to evacuate was ordered, we were not sure what was meant by evacuate as we had never been put in that situation. It was clear something had definitely happened when you see people running all about, policemen with guns, hearing an F18 flying over Capitol Hill and realizing on our way out there was a loud bang from which you could feel the ground shake.

Mr. Speaker, that event will always be in my mind. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From there, Mr. Speaker, the decision was made that we, along with my other colleagues from the North, would get together at a hotel where the majority of members were staying. We made our phone calls, tried to figure out what was happening. We called the Canadian Embassy and were told to stay put at the hotel for a couple of hours until things settled down. From there, we were told to go to the Canadian Embassy where we had an opportunity to be briefed by the Ambassador.

It was an eerie feeling sitting in the Ambassador's office with all the shades closed in case there was an explosion and the glass blew inward. At that point we were assured by the Ambassador that everything was well in regard to the Canadian citizens and they were going to work on getting us out. Knowing that there was no means of transportation, all airlines were closed, the transportation system, buses and trains were all shut down.

Mr. Speaker, from there we spent a couple of days at our hotels doing what everyone else was doing, being glued to the television wondering what was going to happen next. Through the efforts of the Member of Parliament from the Yukon, he managed to get the northern delegates on a Canadian bus that was chartered from Ottawa to Washington to pick up other Canadian citizens who were there at a health conference at Georgetown University.

From there, we took the long ride back to Ottawa. Mr. Speaker, there was a loud cheer as we crossed the Canadian border, realizing we were home. Regardless, Mr. Speaker, are we really home? Knowing that the threat is not a threat only to the United States, but a threat to what we are as Canadians. I believe we have to take the time to realize how important life is, realizing we are under threat. Thank you.

-- Applause

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, Denise Burlingame, an official with BHP here in Yellowknife.

-- Applause

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize Denise. I worked with her a lot on BHP issues and I have always appreciated the relationship. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Any further recognitions of visitors in the gallery? The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, I believe he is still there. I would like to recognize Vern Jones, the executive director of the Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre in Hay River.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the Legislative Assembly, members of the media and visitors from the public. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 185-14(4): Security in NWT Airports

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions at this time will be directed to the Minister responsible for Transportation. In his Minister's statement, he spoke of new security measures at NWT airports. My question is in the area of security at airports here in the NWT. I will use my community as a specific example.

Mr. Speaker, the same jet that flies into Yellowknife and brings passengers here then continues on to Norman Wells, then up to Inuvik. It then returns from Inuvik, Norman Wells and then here to Yellowknife and then back south.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know, why is it that passengers who get on the same plane that comes here to Yellowknife and further south, in Inuvik or Norman Wells, specifically Inuvik, then have to come off the plane here, take all their carry-on luggage back out and go through security in Yellowknife? Why is it only in Yellowknife and you do not have those measures at other major airports? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 185-14(4): Security in NWT Airports

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe that is a measure put in place by the airlines and not by the department or Transport Canada.

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

Supplementary to Question 185-14(4): Security in NWT Airports

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the passenger screening and so on, for example, occurs here in Yellowknife at the airline's discretion? Thank you.

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

HON. VINCE STEEN: I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I missed that question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Roland, if you would just repeat the question for the honourable Member.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us that the passenger screening that occurs here at the Yellowknife airport is at the discretion of the airlines? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 185-14(4): Security in NWT Airports

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 186-14(4): Artificial Ice in NWT Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, the Honourable Roger Allen. I would like to ask the Minister if he would look at funding artificial ice in communities that do not have it; communities like Rae-Edzo where facilities have already been put in place when the weather was permitting them to have natural ice at the early part of the year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 186-14(4): Artificial Ice in NWT Communities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had some initial discussions with many communities. Although it is a costly undertaking, we are still looking at some feasibility studies. Nothing has been determined to date and we will continue to work in that perspective. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 186-14(4): Artificial Ice in NWT Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me when their feasibility studies will be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 186-14(4): Artificial Ice in NWT Communities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are currently finishing up some work on the technical details. I cannot give him a firm date, but it is an ongoing task and we will continue to work to finalize those details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 186-14(4): Artificial Ice in NWT Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the department goes into my communities, can the Minister get his department to work with the MLA? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 186-14(4): Artificial Ice in NWT Communities

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, we will work with the Member to set out the scope of work that he feels is required to finalize the report and we will continue to keep him advised accordingly. Thank you.

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

Question 187-14(4): Airport Gravel Contract in Inuvik

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation, regarding a contract that was let by the Town of Inuvik to access the gravel pit in the Inuvik airport. There was a letter sent to the Minister from the mayor on August 8th. Along with that, as part of the contract, there was a request from the Department of Transportation to also consider crushing 10,000 cubic metres of stockpile into supply for the Inuvik airport.

Mr. Speaker, a phone call was received by the Minister. I quote:

In questioning the Minister, along with the deputy minister of Transportation, in the area of the status of a tender, we were told by the Minister: "Bob called me at home last night and I will not compete against it with Bob."

I would like to ask the Minister, what was meant by "I will not compete against Bob?"

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The question is directed to the Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Steen. The Chair is having a bit of difficulty with it because you are quoting from a document that I am not sure whether the honourable Minister has. If the honourable Minister knows about the subject, perhaps you may wish to respond. Minister Steen.

Return to Question 187-14(4): Airport Gravel Contract in Inuvik

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not clear which document he is quoting from either so I will take the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister has taken the question as notice.

-- Interjection

MR. SPEAKER: Minister Steen, the Chair thought he heard you were taking this question as notice. Are you taking the question as notice?

HON. VINCE STEEN: That is correct, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 188-14(4): Criteria for Community Arenas

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs a question along the same lines as my colleague, Mr. Lafferty, regarding arenas. I wanted to ask the Minister if he could tell me, according to the standards and criteria, what population size does a community have to be to be eligible for an arena? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 188-14(4): Criteria for Community Arenas

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the question was how large do the communities have to be. I do not think there are any specific requirements. It varies from population to population. I think the dimensions of the rink is determined by population size. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 188-14(4): Criteria for Community Arenas

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I am not clear on the Minister's answer. He said it varies by population to population. Does that mean all the communities in the Northwest Territories are eligible for arenas? That is my next question for the Minister.

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

Further Return to Question 188-14(4): Criteria for Community Arenas

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope I did not give the wrong impression, although I think there has been a past practice where arenas were allocated to the communities, but again it varies from ice surface sizes. That was the purpose of my answer. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 188-14(4): Criteria for Community Arenas

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is making me use all of my supplementary questions up but I am asking him if, by his

answer, does he mean that all the communities of the North qualify for arenas? That was my question and he stated it varies from population to population.

I ask again, what is the criteria for an arena? If he is saying it is population by population, does that mean that everyone qualifies?

MR. SPEAKER: The question is, do all communities...Mr. Allen.

Further Return to Question 188-14(4): Criteria for Community Arenas

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will clarify my point. Mr. Speaker, previously we allocated arenas based on population and community sizes. I believe that practice has now ceased and we will have to re-evaluate the overall process. I am going to try to get the proper answer back to the Member.

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

Supplementary to Question 188-14(4): Criteria for Community Arenas

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I am still not clear on what the Minister is saying. I will ask my final question. Are there any communities in my riding that qualify for arenas and do not currently have one? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 188-14(4): Criteria for Community Arenas

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with each community on whether they do qualify or not so I will provide that detail. Thank you.

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

Question 189-14(4): Impacts on GNWT Fiscal Strategy

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for Finance. In his Minister's statement, he states that from a Northwest Territories perspective, the links between formula financing revenues and provincial spending and national and economic growth mean that while we intend to maintain our overall fiscal strategy, we must exercise caution on how we proceed.

I would like to know from the Minister what caution he is speaking about and are there changes coming to the way we do business as we now know it? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 189-14(4): Impacts on GNWT Fiscal Strategy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, what I am referring to is the economic downturn that we are facing across Canada right now and that we see in the United States as well. The provincial and federal spending as well as the national GDP have a direct impact on our financing formula.

Right now, based on preliminary information, it is looking like we could be seeing somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$8 million to \$12 million less in revenue from the federal government. That figure is very fluid. It is based on a lot of assumptions and I think it is being analyzed daily across the country. That is the kind of information that we have to work with and we have to exercise some caution in case things continue to worsen. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 189-14(4): Impacts on GNWT Fiscal Strategy

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us as to what impact this has on our debt wall? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 189-14(4): Impacts on GNWT Fiscal Strategy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, every time we lose revenue or spend additional money, it has an impact. Right now, if nothing changed, if things just stayed the way they are right now, we would begin to exceed our borrowing limit, if I can put it that way, some time in 2004-2005. So every time we lose revenue or we spend money faster than we are bringing it in, we move that closer and closer.

A loss of \$8 million to \$12 million in revenues probably moves that debt wall closer by months and I have not calculated how many it would be, but probably a few months. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 189-14(4): Impacts on GNWT Fiscal Strategy

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well, he mentioned that caution would have to be exercised. What type of caution is he referring to?

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

Further Return to Question 189-14(4): Impacts on GNWT Fiscal Strategy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am referring to expenditures, particularly that we have to be very careful on any new investments we may take on. I am particularly concerned about any new costs we assume that have ongoing

implications that would mean we are committed to it for multiple years.

What we need to do starting now is look very carefully at any new commitments we make that may have ongoing implications. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 189-14(4): Impacts on GNWT Fiscal Strategy

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister be referring to -- he did talk about new commitments, so initiatives, strategies, those are things that he would be looking to curtail? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 189-14(4): Impacts on GNWT Fiscal Strategy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I think all of those. As I say, I am more concerned about commitments that have ongoing implications, so if we are looking at increasing subsidies on any particular thing we do as a government, then that has an ongoing implication that we do not want to subsidize things that take it away. If we are looking at new capital projects, those we have to look at very carefully.

We are not at the point, Mr. Speaker, where I would want to say no, we have to stop spending or make dramatic changes. I am saying let's stay on with our fiscal strategy but let's keep our ear to the ground and listen to what others are saying and doing, what reaction other provinces are taking and respond accordingly. I do not think, Mr. Speaker, we have reached the point where we have to take any dramatic action at this point. Thank you.

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

Question 190-14(4): Impact of Low Dollar on NWT Economy

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question too is for the Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley, as a bit of a follow up to my colleague, Mr. Roland. We all know it is depressing news that the Canadian dollar is on a slide. It is at an all-time low. As of an hour ago, it was at 62.76 cents, a drop of about a quarter of a cent of yesterday's record low close.

My question is, Mr. Speaker, what impact does the low Canadian dollar have on the economy and business in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 190-14(4): Impact of Low Dollar on NWT Economy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, the immediate impact is, in terms of industry, it is to their advantage in many ways to have a lower Canadian dollar because the price of our products, which are mined or harvested using Canadian labour and Canadian products that are offered in Canadian dollars, is relatively less compared to where they may be selling it. There is a short-term advantage in that sense.

If the Canadian dollar were to stay low and we had to see purchases from outside of the country, or business done outside of the country with other currencies, then it could be a disadvantage.

Overall, a lower Canadian dollar is generally not a big kind of disadvantage to our kind of economy. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 190-14(4): Impact of Low Dollar on NWT Economy

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly our export products would tend to benefit. I am wondering, is there anything here we could take advantage of and look at as an opportunity to potentially continue marketing that advantage to outside buyers? Is there anything we can do in this area? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 190-14(4): Impact of Low Dollar on NWT Economy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I am sure there are areas where we could take advantage of it. I am not sure if some of the industries that are established, such as mining, for example, can do things that would change or help them in the short term. I do not think they are designed to be able to change their business plan that quickly.

The area that I see immediately as one where we can exploit the advantage of a lower Canadian dollar would be tourism, where we could become an increasingly attractive destination for people from other countries who can take advantage of our low dollar, come here and enjoy the experiences that we have in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 190-14(4): Impact of Low Dollar on NWT Economy

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has really honed in on the area that I was hoping he would. I think this is something that should be encouraged. Mr. Krutko, in his Member's statement, gave us a very real and sobering and personal experience that he has had. I am wondering in the area of tourism, if you will allow me to go this far with my question, Mr. Speaker, where we have perhaps a dual advantage -- good value compared to other currencies and a

safe destination. Is this an area that the Minister would consider as a short-term advantage, going out and marketing these NWT advantages? Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 190-14(4): Impact of Low Dollar on NWT Economy

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Certainly they are areas that I hope we can continue to support the industry in. I was recently in Vancouver meeting with a lot of the booking agents for Japanese tourism. Again, exactly those messages, that we have a great natural resource here that tourists enjoy, the aurora borealis, plus the remoteness, plus the peacefulness of the North. We are a safe destination. Second, with the Canadian dollar as low as it is, this is a good buy for tourists anywhere.

I will continue to work with the NWT Arctic Tourism Association. As Members know, they received a considerable increase in their marketing money this year. They were going to go to Europe in the fall. They are now looking at some time in February. Anything we can do to support them in doing that and attracting more tourists here, then I am all in favour of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden. No supplementary? Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 191-14(4): Contract for Supply of Crushed Gravel

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in August, there was a contract let, in which the Department of Transportation requested some 10,000 cubic metres and to access the Inuvik airport quarry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, the contract was issued and then later pulled. Can the Minister explain why the contract was pulled?

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

Return to Question 191-14(4): Contract for Supply of Crushed Gravel

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have that information in front of me right now. In order to answer the question properly, I am going to have to take it as notice again, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 192-14(4): Policy for Use of Departmental Gravel Pits

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation, the Honourable Vince Steen. I would like to ask the Minister, what kind of policies do they have on usage for gravel pits that are under

Transportation for the general public or for the municipalities' usage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 192-14(4): Policy for Use of Departmental Gravel Pits

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I understand the question correctly, the policy governing the use of our equipment is for the benefit of the department.

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

Supplementary to Question 192-14(4): Policy for Use of Departmental Gravel Pits

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will redo my question. My question was on the policy for the usage of gravel pits that are under Transportation for the general public or for municipalities. 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 192-14(4): Policy for Use of Departmental Gravel Pits

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the Member. I thought he said gravel trucks, not gravel pits. The material in the gravel pits is normally for the benefit of the Department of Transportation.

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

Supplementary to Question 192-14(4): Policy for Use of Departmental Gravel Pits

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate his answer but that does not answer my question. My question was for the usage by the municipalities or by the general public. What kind of policies do they have in place for that? 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 192-14(4): Policy for Use of Departmental Gravel Pits

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to stand a little bit on my second answer and that is again that the material in the pits is for the department's use. I believe the municipalities have the option of establishing their own pit through Public Works and MACA. The general public may have access to those pits, but as a general rule, the Department of Transportation's material in the pits is for Transportation's use. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 192-14(4): Policy for Use of Departmental Gravel Pits

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if the general public or the municipalities have been able to use the gravel pits that are under the Department of Transportation in the past? 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 192-14(4): Policy for Use of Departmental Gravel Pits

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any use by the public. I do know that the department has made the pits available and the material in the pits is what I am talking about, not the pit itself. The material in the pits is available to the municipalities. Thank you.

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

Question 193-14(4): Tourism Information Centre Retrofit

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. I would like to ask him if he could give us a status report on what the decision is on the retrofit for the tourist information booth on the Alberta/NWT border?

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

Return to Question 193-14(4): Tourism Information Centre Retrofit

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would have to take that as notice. I do not know offhand exactly where we are with the retrofit of that particular facility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 194-14(4): Municipal Requests for Quarry Access

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Transportation, regarding a request from the municipalities to have access to or use existing quarries and pits, such as airport and transportation quarries that are being used. In the past, they were accessible by the public. What is the process for a municipality, a mayor who writes you a letter and requests the usage of the pit? Is there a process in place in how requests are received and basically handled?

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

Return to Question 194-14(4): Municipal Requests for Quarry Access

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think I know where these questions are leading to now. I know what it is related to. If I am correct, we are discussing the use of the quarry pit in Inuvik and the letters that the department received in relation to this request from the town to use our quarry pit in Inuvik. We responded that although this was done in the past, and we allowed the community to use that particular quarry site in the past, it was with the understanding that they were using it during the same time we were using it. In other words, while this contractor was crushing for us, the department, the municipality had the option to use the contractor to crush some material for themselves as well.

In this particular situation, the town is asking us to use this pit even though we have no crushing activity going on within that pit. We responded that we would have to review the use of that pit, the material in the pit and get back to the town as to whether or not we in fact have surplus material they can use. We are still considering that.

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

Supplementary to Question 194-14(4): Municipal Requests for Quarry Access

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government, realizing that gravel materials are pretty hard to come by in most areas and municipalities depend on gravel as one of the means of upgrading the roads, especially in the case of Inuvik where there is a lot of growth and expansion going on. They need gravel. So I would like to know exactly what is the process for departments who have gravel to share that resource with municipalities, who may request it by means of a letter or what not?

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

Further Return to Question 194-14(4): Municipal Requests for Quarry Access

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department would take the request into consideration, as I have informed the Member, which we are doing now. However, there are other things that come into play as well as just general need. The Department of Transportation holds the permits and therefore we are responsible for maintaining the pits from an environmental point of view. As well, we have to ensure that there is material in that particular site sufficient to address our needs. This may not just be a yearly or annual need. We have to look to the future as to how long we expect to have to rely on that particular pit to service our own needs. That is what we are doing as far as the study is concerned. We are going to get back to the community on that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 194-14(4): Municipal Requests for Quarry Access

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister is do they have any idea as to how long the pit, the gravel source in Inuvik, will be off limits to the public?

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

Further Return to Question 194-14(4): Municipal Requests for Quarry Access

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, after we have done our evaluation, we will then get back to the town. We have not received any requests from the public at this point for using that pit. The request was from the town.

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

Supplementary to Question 194-14(4): Municipal Requests for Quarry Access

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me if he has responded to the request from the mayor of Inuvik with regard to their ability to access that quarry?

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

Further Return to Question 194-14(4): Municipal Requests for Quarry Access

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we replied to the mayor of Inuvik on August 23rd by letter, which basically outlined what I have said here today. Thank you.

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

Question 195-14(4): Accommodating Elders and the Disabled

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Again, Mr. Speaker, I bring up the document Towards A Better Tomorrow, our vision for a prosperous future, and there are several bullets under this, Mr. Speaker. I would like to go to the one area where we talk about safety, security and respect for all citizens with a focus on women, children, elders and persons with disabilities.

I would like to speak directly to the elders and persons with disabilities for transportation purposes, Mr. Speaker. In all our communities, except for the major regional centres, community roads are not paved. There are no sidewalks. Elders have a hard time walking around, especially in the spring when it is very muddy out in the streets. People with disabilities cannot commute at all. What is the Minister and his department doing to alleviate that problem, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Return to Question 195-14(4): Accommodating Elders and the Disabled

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the concepts of allowing more flexibility in the community government funding is for the communities to set out some priorities. One of the priorities is community roads and community infrastructure that meets the ever-growing needs of their citizens. I see this new community-based funding policy allowing those communities to re-assess their needs and re-establish those priorities. Perhaps community roads would be one of them. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 195-14(4): Accommodating Elders and the Disabled

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I understood that with the new financial agreement with the GNWT, some communities have increased and other communities have decreased. Is there enough funding available to the communities to address this particular issue? My understanding is that the money they get from the Government of the Northwest Territories right now just meets the needs they have today, not what they could and not what they want to do. Are the financing agreements that the communities have with the Government of the Northwest Territories enough to achieve this goal? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 195-14(4): Accommodating Elders and the Disabled

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not have any specific details on the actual costs or assessments, but the principle is to get our regional superintendents to begin to communicate with the communities and help them work through it. We are also trying to work interdepartmentally with other departments to try and buddy-up or cost share on several of the initiatives that we can. I will give an example: the community roads. People may want to work with the Department of Transportation when they are doing some rehabilitation to roads and we will continue to keep those communities that Transportation or ourselves are in, to allow them to begin some formal discussions. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 195-14(4): Accommodating Elders and the Disabled

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad that the Minister is willing to look at it. Can I receive a commitment from the Minister that perhaps his department could look directly at finding resources and deal with communities that want to deal with the road infrastructure, or even sidewalks, so that elders or persons with disabilities can utilize that system? I have a constituent who cannot walk around. He has been asking Health and Social Services and different organizations in government for financial assistance so that he could buy

himself a four-wheeler because he cannot walk around. Snowmobiles are not an option and those wheelchairs that are provided to people will not run in his community because of the road.

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

Further Return to Question 195-14(4): Accommodating Elders and the Disabled

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I see the direction taken, that I should communicate with the Minister responsible for Disabled Persons and also the Minister responsible for Seniors. The importance here is that yes, I am prepared to further that discussion with him and see if we can somehow help facilitate those improvements. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 195-14(4): Accommodating Elders and the Disabled

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister be able to commit right now to a pilot project of one of the communities in the Northwest Territories that could be an example for the rest? I am afraid that if we go through the departmental process, we are going to wait another two years before anything gets done and my constituent will be sitting at home for two years, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Further Return to Question 195-14(4): Accommodating Elders and the Disabled

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If it is directed to a specific community, I am prepared to direct the staff to go in and begin the discussion process and see if they can help the community identify extraordinary funds or additional funds that would be required. Until we get to that stage, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to continue this ongoing discussion. Thank you.

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

Question 196-14(4): Arenas as a Planning Priority

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to go back to my line of questioning for the Minister responsible for MACA regarding arenas. I think it is important that we get to the bottom of this, as to the status of arenas in the North. We have seen our capital planning process change in the last while. I would like to ask the Minister if he could tell me if arenas still rank in terms of priority for the communities to expect to be able to obtain an arena for their community?

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

Return to Question 196-14(4): Arenas as a Planning Priority

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I could advise the Member that under the new government-wide planning process, the arenas no longer remain high on the priority list due to the fact that the water and sewer programs and the environmental liabilities such as sewage lagoons and fire protection are priorities over and above arenas. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 196-14(4): Arenas as a Planning Priority

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for that answer. It leads to the concern that I have about the status of the arenas not being a high priority anymore. I would like to ask him if he could tell us the status of the arenas that were in the system prior to the system for capital planning changing. More specifically, what is the status of the arena as planned for Lutselk'e and the one for the Hay River Reserve? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 196-14(4): Arenas as a Planning Priority

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the arena is still in the business plans for Lutselk'e. I am not clear whether it is still in place at the Hay River Reserve, although I will not be too confident if it was not. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 196-14(4): Arenas as a Planning Priority

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he can commit to speaking to the people in the Hay River Reserve regarding the status of their arena? I believe it was scheduled for 2004. I would like to have confirmation. I would like to ask him if he would commit to meeting with the people of the Hay River Reserve.

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

Further Return to Question 196-14(4): Arenas as a Planning Priority

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, since I am frequently in Hay River and the vicinity, I am more than prepared to meet with the chief and council again. Thank you.

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

Question 197-14(4): Public Tendering and Contracting Process

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, regarding my questioning today, there is due process that takes place when contracts are let. The successful bidder gets a contract through a public tendering process. There is always the effect of people opposing the decision, because they are not satisfied that their bid, realizing they were not the lowest bidder, interferes.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, through that process, there are also the political channels that can be used, where people can get a hold of the MLAs and in some cases, talk directly to the Minister. In this case, the Minister was contacted by a contractor who was the competitive bid on this contract.

I would like to ask the Minister, what role did that play in the decision of the department not to allow access to that gravel pit?

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

Return to Question 197-14(4): Public Tendering and Contracting Process

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think I can understand where the Member's original question came from now, where he referred to a phone call. As the Minister, I did receive a phone call from a contractor in Inuvik asking us if the department was competing with them in the crushing business. I told him that as far as I am concerned, as far as I know, the department is not interested in competing with him. That was the content of the phone call.

As far as what relation that phone call had on whether he got the contract or not, that contract had nothing to do with us, the Department of Transportation. That was strictly a contract between the contractor and the town, as far as I know. It related to whether or not he or someone else could have access to our quarry site.

It is my understanding that the town tendered that particular contract with reference to our quarry site. We did not have any input into whether or not the town had contacted us before they put it in the quarry site.

We therefore -- the only involvement we got in at that point was whether or not there is access to that particular quarry site. Therefore, we went and reviewed whether or not we could allow someone, who is a contractor for the town, access to that particular quarry site for crushing. That is where we responded to the town with a letter saying we denied him access to the pit because we have not established whether there is enough material in that site to serve the needs, the long-term needs of the department.

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

Supplementary to Question 197-14(4): Public Tendering and Contracting Process

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Minister is on the right wavelength regarding my

questioning. Mr. Speaker, the individual who called the Minister at home also crushed gravel in the same pit three years earlier. So what makes it different in this case where he had the ability to crush gravel in this pit that we are talking about and three years after the fact when the town of Inuvik requested to be able to crush gravel in the same source, was rejected? Why was the Town of Inuvik rejected from accessing that pit when in other years the other contractors had access to that pit?

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

Further Return to Question 197-14(4): Public Tendering and Contracting Process

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, the only access the town had previous to that, or any contractor had previous to that particular pit other than the Department of Transportation, was when we were crushing. The town indicated their need for material at that time and we denied anybody use to the pit. We did not allow anybody use of the pit because we had not completed a survey as to our future needs in that particular pit. Thank you.

This particular instance is totally different. We were not approached by anyone to use this particular pit. The only time we became aware that people were identifying a need to use our pit was because the town tendered a contract identifying our pit as a source. Therefore, we became involved at that time and we denied anybody use to the pit. We did not allow anybody use of the pit because we had not completed a survey as to our future needs in that particular pit. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 197-14(4): Public Tendering and Contracting Process

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the superintendent of the Inuvik transportation division, Gurdev Jagpal, on August 15th requested that they crush an additional 10,000 cubic metres from that pit for the Department of Transportation.

So on one hand, the public is requesting crushing and the department is requesting crushing 10,000 cubic metres of gravel from the superintendent of Transportation in Inuvik. That was part and parcel of the contract that was let, that that was also going to be crushed in this contract.

Again, can the Minister clarify his statement? He stated the only way they will allow crushing to take place is if it was in the interest of the Department of Transportation and the additional contractor, which was the Town of Inuvik. I would like to ask the Minister to clarify that point. The department requested 10,000 cubic metres of gravel.

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

Further Return to Question 197-14(4): Public Tendering and Contracting Process

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of the department requesting crushing of 10,000

cubic metres of material so I am going to have to take that portion of the question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. That part of the question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 198-14(4): Projects in the Capital Plan

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I want to go back to the questions regarding the arena. I want to direct my questions to the Minister of Finance this time.

Under the new government-wide capital planning process, I want to know what the status is of honouring commitments of projects that were already in the capital plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 198-14(4): Projects in the Capital Plan

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, in the capital plan, we have projects that have started and are partly underway. It might be in the planning stage. It may have been the first year of a multi-year investment and so on. We have other projects that are in the capital plan, but there has not been any work done on those ones.

In the case of the ones where we have done work, then there is certainly a strong obligation on our part to continue them unless we have compelling reasons to stop it. In the case where we have not begun work in a project, that is, for example, in the fifth year of the capital plan, then those of course would have to be reconsidered. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 198-14(4): Projects in the Capital Plan

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand what the Minister is saying, that any contracts that have not been started or have not been signed, any projects that are not on the verge of starting will be reconsidered and may no longer be in the plan. I would like to ask more specifically in terms of the Hay River Reserve arena -- which is scheduled, I believe, for 2004 -- according to the Minister of MACA, arenas do not rate very high in terms of priority. What will become of this project?

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

Further Return to Question 198-14(4): Projects in the Capital Plan

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, each year our capital is voted, year by year, so something that is in the plan in 2004, for example, would need to be considered at that time. It would be up to the Legislative Assembly in 2004 to make that decision on whether or not they are going to move ahead with it. If there is any money that is in the plan for 2003, it would be looked at at that time. We only vote our capital year by year,

except in multi-year projects where, of course, the commitment is made for multiple years. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 198-14(4): Projects in the Capital Plan

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Then I will ask the Minister if he could tell me if it would be safe to say that from now on, any communities that are expecting arenas should not be holding their breath because it does not rank high as a priority at this time and will not be considered.

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

Further Return to Question 198-14(4): Projects in the Capital Plan

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, if a project is ranked high enough, then it gets into our capital plan. That is a five-year planning horizon, then it certainly has some ranking, for sure. Each year we have to go through all of our capital projects and decide which ones we are going to be able to afford to fund for that particular year.

Just the fact that it is in the five-year capital plan does not mean that a community should say, "That is firm, we know absolutely, regardless of what may happen financially around the world or in the Northwest Territories, that particular project is going to happen." It really does not get approved until it is approved by this House each year. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 198-14(4): Projects in the Capital Plan

MR. MCLEOD: Well, I really question then, Mr. Speaker, are we dealing with five-year capital plans anymore or are we dealing with an annual plan? How do communities plan for the long term? We do not seem to know what will fit the criteria at this point.

I have asked a number of questions to two Ministers, stood up three times now and I still cannot get an answer on the status of arenas. I ask him, what does he say to the communities in terms of long-term planning?

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

Further Return to Question 198-14(4): Projects in the Capital Plan

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, nothing has changed from previous years. We only approve a budget on an annual basis. That includes both operations and capital. We do a plan, a five-year plan that is based on input from communities, from departments and so on. That plan says "Here is what we plan to do." That is different from saying "Here is what we are absolutely committed to doing."

The 2004 projects will not be voted until the budget for 2004. That is the same way it has been done for as long as I know in this government. Thank you.

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

Question 199-14(4): Ranking Arenas and Campgrounds

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to have a tag team here, Mr. McLeod and I. I am going to ask the Minister of Finance if he can tell me how he rates arenas compared to campgrounds. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return to Question 199-14(4): Ranking Arenas and Campgrounds

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is a bit of a hypothetical question but on the other hand, maybe it is not. I do not have the rating system with me right now and that is an exercise our deputies would look at. I would expect that arenas could be argued to be of a higher rating than would a campground, but again I do not know which projects we are talking about so I have to deal with it a bit in the abstract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary to Question 199-14(4): Ranking Arenas and Campgrounds

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Regular Members on this side can convince the Minister on how the rating with campgrounds and arenas, which are more needed in the communities, will the Minister look at putting arenas in instead of campgrounds?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, you have a choice. You can answer, not answer or take it as notice.

Return to Question 199-14(4): Ranking Arenas and Campgrounds

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to answer, I do not know if I can answer to the Member's satisfaction, but we will definitely consider that. If a community wants to have an arena and puts forward their case and they would prefer having an arena than to having -- speaking a bit hypothetically -- a campground in their community or in their area, then certainly we would look at it.

The way the capital planning process is set up, communities tell us what their priorities are, what their needs are as they see them. We take that into consideration and build it into a capital plan. Then we sit down and say okay, which things are most urgent in terms of the government's mandate and the government's obligations? It may very well be an arena.

We have, as we have explained to Members, as a last final filter, the review of main estimates here that looks at what are the considerations? What are the political needs? What are the

economic needs? What are all of our needs? To figure out what do we need here?

Members get an opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to review the capital plan, the business planning stage, which we are doing right now. They will also have an opportunity to review it again when we get into main estimates. Every Member has a right to go to a Minister and say, "This is what I think I need for the communities in my area." Those are all taken into consideration.

Briefly, to answer Mr. Lafferty's question, yes, we will consider whatever Members want to bring to us. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 199-14(4): Ranking Arenas and Campgrounds

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if a community can justify more need in the community for an arena, would the Minister take that out of a different riding? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return to Question 199-14(4): Ranking Arenas and Campgrounds

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, our capital plan is not set up by ridings or constituencies. Our capital plan is developed with the departments. We will break it down by community. We will break it down by region. If there is a greater need for a project in one community than there is for some other project somewhere else, then yes, we would consider taking a campground, to use Mr. Lafferty's example, from here and using the money to do something else over there.

That is very possible with Members' advice and if the community can justify it, as Mr. Lafferty asked. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

Petition 5-14(4): Proposed Amendments to the Wildlife Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Premier Kakwi, I would like to present a petition dealing with proposed amendments to the Wildlife Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. 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 7-14(4): Report on Modernizing our Electoral System: the Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Election of the 14th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, 1999

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to present the Report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures on Modernizing our Electoral System: The Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Election of the 14th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, 1999.

Subsection 164(1)(e) of the Elections Act provides that the Chief Electoral Officer, the CEO, may make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on any matter that would assist with improving the administration of future elections. If in the opinion of the CEO it may be desirable for the better administration of elections to make amendments to election laws, he may recommend such amendments through a report to the Legislative Assembly.

The report of the CEO was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in July, 2000. On October 9, 2001, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures conducted a public review with the Chief Electoral Officer. Written submissions were solicited from NWT residents throughout the summer. Two written submissions were received by the committee and are included as appendix 1 in the committee's report. The committee would like to thank David Hamilton, the Chief Electoral Officer, and Glen McLean, the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer of Elections Northwest Territories, for appearing before the committee to discuss the recommendations in the report.

The Chief Electoral Officer made a number of specific recommendations for change to the current electoral system. The committee's responses to the CEO's recommendations and the committee's recommendations to the Legislative Assembly are presented in this report.

Eligibility of Electors

Subsection 29(5) of the Elections Act provides that a person does not lose his or her residence by leaving his or her home or dwelling for a temporary purpose. The act does not define what a temporary purpose is or the length of a temporary absence. During the 1999 general election, a number of instances arose dealing with electors being temporarily absent from their home or residence and whether they were eligible to vote in a specific electoral district.

The Chief Electoral Officer recommended that the Elections Act be amended to prescribe the purpose and length of time for which an elector may claim a temporary absence from his or her electoral district.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures agreed that the purpose and length of time for which an elector may claim a temporary absence should be defined. However, in the absence of any definition of "ordinarily resident", members were reluctant to recommend a prescribed time limit on temporary absences. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures will be offering no recommendation at this time and will be seeking legal advice on setting time limits on temporary absences.

Members, Spouses and Dependants

Residency is one of the fundamental aspects in determining whether a person is eligible to vote in an election and in what electoral district that person is able to cast their ballot. All eligible electors must vote in the electoral district where they reside, except for incumbents and their families.

Under our current legislation, incumbents choose where they want their residency for electoral purposes. The CEO believes that this practice currently gives current sitting Members an advantage over other candidates and provides them with an option not open to any other elector and that this practice should be discontinued.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures is in agreement with the CEO.

Recommendation 1

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that section 32 of the Elections Act be repealed and that Members, their spouses and dependants be enumerated and vote in the constituency in which they reside.

Permanent List of Electors

Presently, enumeration is conducted through the appointment of enumerators who go door to door to record the names of those persons who are eligible electors. The enumeration is carried out over a nine-day period and employs approximately 100 enumerators. The cost to conduct enumeration is estimated at over \$35,000.

A number of jurisdictions including, Canada, Alberta, British Columbia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland, Ontario and Quebec, have established a permanent list of electors. These jurisdictions use a number of ways to update their list of electors including, when required by their respective Elections Acts, a door-to-door enumeration. Manitoba, Nova Scotia, PEI, Nunavut, Saskatchewan, Yukon and the Northwest Territories depend solely on the door-to-door method to produce a list of electors.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures notes that significant opportunities for savings could be realized with the development of a permanent list of electors. It is also noted that information contained in the permanent list of electors, with appropriate privacy safeguards, could be shared with municipal and aboriginal governments.

Recommendation 2

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that Elections NWT develop a permanent list of eligible electors with appropriate privacy safeguards.

Automated List of Electors

The office of the Chief Electoral Officer used a modified version of Elections Canada's automated preliminary list of electors program to create an NWT preliminary list of electors, statement of changes and additions and the final list of electors. The capital system is not Y2K compliant and needs to be replaced. Elections Canada has developed a new

automated system, but it would require extensive modifications to meet the needs of Elections NWT. Discussions with the CEO indicate that the enumeration system used by Alberta could be adapted to meet the needs of Elections NWT.

Recommendation 3

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that Elections NWT develop an automated enumeration data entry and retrieval system.

Nomination Period

The Elections Act provides that nomination day shall be 2:00 p.m. on Monday, the 35th day before polling day. This provision allows for a 10-day nomination period. However, nominations are normally presented to returning officers during the weekdays, reducing the days for filing to seven days. A reduction in the nomination period would contribute to a shortened electoral event and allow for an earlier production of ballot requirements. In most cases potential candidates have already made up their minds if they are going to run well before the nominations open.

During the 1999 general election, 66 nomination papers were filed with 48, or 73 percent, being filed in the first week that nominations were accepted. Committee members have no objections to shortening the nomination period given that the persons who are interested in running for the Legislative Assembly should be aware of the four-year mandate of each Assembly.

Recommendation 4

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections Act be amended to reduce the nomination period to five days.

Exceptions to Ineligible Candidates – Various Grounds

Paragraph 51(3)(a) of the Elections Act provides that every person who accepts or holds any office, commission or employment, permanent or temporary, in the service of the Government of the Northwest Territories, to which any salary, fee, wages, allowance, emolument or profit of any kind is attached during the time that he or she is holding the office, commission or employment is not eligible to be a candidate.

Paragraph 51(4)(d) provides an exception by allowing an employee of the Government of the Northwest Territories to seek a leave of absence from their employment but does not provide the same privilege to a person who is appointed to a board or agency of the government.

The CEO has recommended that all persons named in paragraph 51(3)(a) would be eligible to be a candidate in a territorial election provided that they took a leave of absence from their duties.

Subsequent to the presentation of the report, the CEO sought and received a legal opinion that indicated that the territorial government would not be able to legislate boards and agencies outside of its immediate control to allow candidates to run. Consequently, the CEO asked that this recommendation be removed from consideration by the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures. Committee members agreed with the

CEO's assessment and did not consider offering an opinion on this recommendation.

Withdrawal of a Candidate

Mr. Speaker, the Elections Act provides that candidates may withdraw their nomination up to 8:00 p.m. on nomination day. The Northwest Territories and Nunavut are the only jurisdictions that provide for a late-hour withdrawal on nomination day. Other jurisdictions vary on the time that candidates may withdraw their nomination paper. As an example, Canada allows a withdrawal up to 5:00 p.m., PEI until 4:00 p.m. and Nova Scotia until 1:00 p.m. on nomination day.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures notes that there is an associated cost with keeping electoral offices open late to accommodate an 8:00 p.m. withdrawal time. It had no problem with eliminating late hour withdrawals.

Recommendation 5

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections Act be amended to provide that a candidate may withdraw their nomination up to 5:00 p.m. on nomination day.

Fixing Revision Day

The Elections Act provides that eligible electors have, from the issue of the writ of the election to the day established by the CEO as revision day, usually the 28th day before polling day, to make revisions to the list of electors. On revision day the returning officer, or the assistant returning officer, is required to be in their office until 8:00 p.m. to receive these additions, changes or deletions.

The standing committee notes that the time period provided by the Chief Electoral Officer is sufficient for electors to make additions, changes or deletions. Consequently the requirement for returning officers to be in their office for an extended period on a specified day is no longer required.

Recommendation 6

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the requirement for the Chief Electoral Officer to designate a specific day as revision day be repealed and be substituted in the Elections Act with the designation of a revision period.

Form of the Ballots

Section 74 of the Elections Act provides that all ballot papers be in the prescribed form and each ballot paper must state the names in alphabetical order of the surnames, numbered sequentially, and must have a counterfoil and stub.

Section 76 of the Elections Act provides that the Chief Electoral Officer shall produce photo placards in the prescribed form containing the names of the candidates in alphabetical order of the surnames, and numbered sequentially, and a photograph of each candidate if provided, and the address and occupation of the candidates. The electorate complained that the photo placards are not always discernible as they are not always close to the voting screens.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures believes that the inclusion of candidates' photographs on the ballot will assist all electors, especially those with low literacy levels and those who have difficulty in identifying the candidates, thus eliminating the need for photo placards.

Recommendation 7

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections Act be amended to provide that the photographs of candidates, who supply photos, appear on the ballot. Furthermore, that the requirement to provide photo placards be discontinued, Mr. Speaker.

Voting by Special Mail-in Ballot

The office of the CEO received only one complaint with respect to voting by special mail-in ballot. A student in Calgary noted that it had taken ten days for her mail-in ballot to arrive and wondered how long it took other students to receive theirs. The mail-in ballots were mailed between the 16th and 19th of November, allowing over two weeks for the ballot to be received by the registered elector and to be returned to the office of the Chief Electoral Officer by the December 3^d deadline.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures agrees that the two-week period may be insufficient depending on the location of the registered elector. The committee believes allowing voting by special mail-in ballots to commence at the close of nominations by offering write-in ballots until such time as regular ballots are available would provide additional time to send out and receive ballots cast by mail.

Recommendation 8

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections Act be amended to allow the Chief Electoral Officer to provide write-in ballots for voting by mail.

Advance Polls

The introduction of voting in the office of the returning officer makes holding advance polls unnecessary in communities where the returning office is located. A total of 664 electors cast their ballot in the offices of the returning officer. Advance polls were conducted in 22 communities at an estimated cost of \$13,000. Removing the requirement to hold advance polls in communities where the returning officer is located would reduce the estimated cost of holding advance polls by approximately \$10,000. The standing committee notes that there will still be advance polls in those communities that do not have a returning officer and that there are further cost-savings to be realized by reducing the hours that an advance poll is open.

Recommendation 9

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that advance polls no longer be held in communities where the returning officer is located and that the Elections Act be amended to provide that advance polls be held between the hours of 12 noon and 8:00 p.m.

Proxy Voting

Significant changes were made to proxy voting provisions in 1997 when the Elections Act was amended in an effort to prevent some of the problems that occurred during the 1995 territorial election in the electoral district of Thebacha and some of the other districts.

Unfortunately, even with the additional restrictions put on proxy voting, this method of voting remains open to abuse. The Chief Electoral Officer identified problems in filing applications and with the issue of the proxy certificates themselves. For the most part, proxy voting was hardly used in the majority of electoral districts. However, major irregularities and questionable practices occurred in the electoral district of Tu Nedhe, which were of particular concern to Elections NWT.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures notes that with the addition of voting in the office of the returning officer, voting by special mail-in ballot and the recommendation to introduce special mobile voting stations, the need for proxy voting no longer exists and should be discontinued.

Recommendation 10

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections Act be amended to eliminate proxy voting.

Voting by Returning Officers

The Elections Act provides that a returning officer is not able to vote at an election. This provision is there to promote a spirit of non-partisanship and independence of the position of the returning officer. Previously, the act provided the returning officer voted only to break a tie following a judicial recount. However, the Elections Act was amended and now provides that should a tie result after a judicial recount, a by-election would be held.

Further constitutional concerns have been raised with respect to elector rights provided under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the possible infringement of those rights respecting returning officers.

The new Canada Elections Act includes a provision that would allow returning officers to vote at a federal election. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures believes that in light of recent changes to territorial and federal legislation, returning officers should have the right to vote in territorial elections.

Recommendation 11

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections Act be amended to permit returning officers to vote at territorial elections.

Special Mobile Voting Stations

During the course of the election, returning officers in the electoral districts of Hay River North and Thebacha identified a number of eligible electors who were unable to go to the polls due to a medical condition and/or mobility problems.

The Chief Electoral Officer provided approval, by way of an instruction, for returning officers to transport the ballot box used

at the office of the returning officer to electors who were confined to their homes, hospital or care facility. The Local Authorities Elections Act has a provision that allows a returning officer to establish a mobile voting station.

Recommendation 12

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends the Elections Act be amended to allow the returning officer, with the prior approval of the Chief Electoral Officer, to establish a special mobile voting station for eligible electors residing in a hospital, health facility, senior citizen's home or confined to their home for medical or mobility reasons.

Sale of Liquor on Election Day

Section 213 of the Elections Act provides that no person may, during the hours that the polls are open on polling day, sell, give, offer or provide liquor as defined by the Liquor Act at a licensed premise or other public places. The Northwest Territories and Nunavut are the only jurisdictions in Canada that require the closure of liquor outlets during voting hours on polling day. The office of the Chief Electoral Officer is of the opinion that closure of licensed premises during voting hours is paternalistic, outdated and that the rationale offered to establish such closures is no longer valid and recommends that section 213 be repealed.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, while understanding the rationalization presented by the CEO, could not support the repeal of section 213 of the Elections Act. Members of the committee pointed out that even though there were no instances of complaints of persons being drunk at a polling station in the last election, the potential for trouble does exist if access to alcohol is readily available.

Higher voter turnout indicates elections in the Northwest Territories are still a significant event. Residents are very interested in the outcomes of elections. Members of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures do not believe that the banning of the sale of alcohol for ten hours once every four years places any significant hardship on business owners or tourists.

Elections are important and a time for thought on how to exercise your franchise to best benefit you and your family. Members know that alcohol can influence people's judgment and cause them to make decisions they would not make if they were sober.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures does not support the Chief Electoral Officer's recommendation to allow the sale of alcohol while the polls are open.

Return to Candidate Deposits

The Elections Act provides that the \$200 deposit shall be returned to the elected candidate and to the candidates who receive at least 50 percent of the votes polled in favour of the elected candidate. Those candidates receiving less than 50 percent of those votes lose their deposit. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures believes that the return of the deposit should be tied to the filing of returns respecting election contributions and expenses in order to influence timely filing of the required return.

Recommendation 13

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections Act be amended to provide that candidates who file their return respecting election contribution expenses within the required 60-day period have their deposit refunded.

Election Financing

The standing committee agrees with the CEO that the Elections Act fails to provide comprehensive direction with respect to election financing and reporting. There is a need for more detailed information, including specific definitions need to be provided to candidates and official agents to assist them in dealing with campaign contributions and expenses.

The Chief Electoral Officer is reviewing election financing in other jurisdictions and will be providing the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures with recommendations on election financing at a later date.

Length of the Electoral Event

A number of candidates and electors raised concern with respect to the length of the 45-day electoral event. The candidates felt the period should be reduced but does not put forth any suggestions as to what would be a reasonable period. Returning officers have suggested that the electoral event be reduced by at least one week. The period of an electoral event in other jurisdictions ranges from a low of 21 days to a high of 45 days. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures agrees that the electoral event is lengthy and should be reduced. Committee considered a number of issues that need to be taken into account in arriving at an adequate election period. The impact of a permanent list at the time required for mail-in ballots and supplying election material through remote communities all need to be considered.

In reviewing the Chief Electoral Officer's other recommendations relating to the electoral event, the standing committee believes the initial recommendation to shorten the electoral event to 35 days could be further reduced to 28 days.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures instructed the Chief Electoral Officer to develop a 28-day electoral event calendar for examination by the committee. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures has reviewed the timeline for a 28-day event and sees no reason that it would not be successful.

Recommendation 14

Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections Act be amended to provide the length of an electoral event should be 28 days.

General and Technical Recommendations

In addition to the specific recommendations the Chief Electoral Officer made in his report, he also raised a number of issues of a housekeeping, technical and consequential nature that need to be addressed. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures has reviewed and discussed these recommendations and recommends adoption by the Legislative Assembly. These recommendations are as follows:

- That the Elections Act be amended to provide for the establishment of a central polling place in any community with multiple electoral districts.
- That the Elections Act be amended to provide that the Chief Electoral Officer may authorize the establishment of a central office or provide for the sharing of an office by two or more returning officers in a community with multiple electoral districts.
- That the Elections Act be amended to provide that an alphabetical preliminary list of electors be provided by electoral district, in any multi-electoral district community and posted in a central location within the community.
- That the Elections Act be amended to provide that candidates receive a copy of the official list of their electors for their electoral district.
- That the Elections Act be amended to provide that elected Members of the Legislative Assembly receive a copy of the final list of electors for their electoral district.
- That the Elections Act be amended to clarify when a candidate may erect or post an election sign and broadcast or advertise an election announcement.
- That the Elections Act be amended to provide that a candidate is prohibited from erecting, posting or placing a election campaign sign on the premises or property where a polling station is located.
- That the Elections Act be amended to provide that all election signage must be removed within 10 days following polling day.
- That the Elections Act be amended to provide mandatory access to apartment complexes by enumerators, candidates and their representatives.
- That the Elections Act be amended to provide that a returning officer may, with the prior approval of the Chief Electoral Officer, appoint an additional enumerator to a polling division.
- That section 38 of the Elections Act be amended to provide that a notice of disabled elector be given to the Chief Electoral Officer.
- That the Elections Act be amended by providing that the maximum number of electors contained in a polling division be no more than 450.
- That paragraph 52(4)(c) of the Elections Act be amended by deleting the requirement that a candidate must indicate his or her occupation.
- That section 57 of the Elections Act be amended to provide that the candidate may provide his or her photograph by electronic means.
- That paragraphs 27(3)(d), 51(3)(c), 198(1)(c) and section 208 of the Elections Act be amended by deleting the words "the Yukon Territory" and substituting the word "territory".

- That paragraph 92(2)(b) of the Elections Act with respect to advance polls be repealed.

Additional Recommendations Not Included in the Report

Mr. Speaker, in addition to the specific and the general and technical recommendations, the Chief Electoral Officer provided the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures with a number of other recommendations that were not included in the report.

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures has reviewed these recommendations and concurs with the rationalization presented by the Chief Electoral Officer. These recommendations are as follows.

- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends the provision for the appointment of a Deputy Chief Electoral Officer being included in the Elections Act.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Elections Act be amended to provide that the appointment of a returning officer expires 365 days following polling day.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer have the option of reappointing a returning officer.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the preliminary list of electors no longer be posted in a public place.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that mail-in ballots may be available upon issue of the writ; and further, that a mail-in ballot may be received up to one week following polling day, provided the envelope was postmarked on or before polling day.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that candidate returns no longer be tabled in the Legislative Assembly and instead be available for public inspection at the office of the Chief Electoral Officer.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that an elector may decline to vote and have that refusal recorded on the ballot and in the poll book opposite their name.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that an elector must either swear or affirm their eligibility to vote as opposed to simply producing identification.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that an elector may vote in the polling division in which they are resident on polling day, notwithstanding that their name appears on another list of electors. Further, that the elector will be required to complete and take an oath of eligibility and provide their former address.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that an elector must be ordinarily resident in

the Northwest Territories at least six months prior to polling day.

- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that section 51(3)(a) of the Elections Act be repealed, along with all references to exceptions to ineligibility.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that only the poll clerk shall witness the deputy returning officer when providing assistance to an elector in marking their ballot.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that special voting opportunity is changed to "special ballot" and that a new regulation covering the use of "special ballots" is developed.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that an eligible elector, who is incarcerated, shall vote by a special ballot. Polls will no longer be conducted at correctional facilities.
- The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that in the case of a by-election, an eligible elector must be resident in the electoral district from enumeration day, or a day determined by the Chief Electoral Officer, until polling day.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that the report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures be received by the Assembly and moved into the committee of the whole for consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5 on the orders of the day.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for North Slave is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Lafferty.

REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Richard Bonnetrouge of Edzo. He is the fire chief and he is a long-time employee of Mr. Vince Steen.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the Gallery. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Bill 8: An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act

Bill 12: An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development has reviewed Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, and Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, and wishes to report that Bill 8 is ready for consideration in committee of the whole as amended and reprinted, and Bill 12 is ready for consideration in committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 13-14(4): To Move Tabled Document 42-14(4) into Committee of the Whole

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Tabled Document 42-14(4), Report of the Independent Commission on Members' Compensation, be moved into committee of the whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. We have a motion on the floor. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Tabled Document 42-14(4) is moved into committee of the whole. 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: Bills 9, 10 and 14; Tabled Document 51-14(4), with Mr. Lafferty in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Mr. Dent has asked that we report progress. The motion is in order. It is not debatable. All those in favour? Opposed? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake seconds the motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 6: National Aboriginal Day Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. Bill 6 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Bill 11: Architects Act

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 11, Architects Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. We have a motion. 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. Bill 11 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Bill 15: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2000-2001

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 15, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2000-2001, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 15 has had third reading. 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, a meeting of the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause at adjournment, tomorrow morning at 9:00 a.m. of Cabinet House Strategy, also at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

Orders of the day for Friday, November 2, 2001:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 9, Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act
 - Bill 10, Public Highway Improvement Fund Act
 - Bill 14, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2001-2002
 - TD 42-14(4), Report of the Independent Commission on MLA Compensation
 - TD 51-14(4), Investing in Roads for People and the Economy: A Highway Strategy for the Northwest Territories
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 Friday, November 2, 2001 at 10:00 a.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 3:39 p.m.