



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**Thursday, March 6, 2003**

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**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, March 6, 2003****Members Present**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. McLeod, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

-- Prayer

**DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 31-14(6): 2002 Transportation Of Dangerous Goods Report**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House that later today at the appropriate time I will table the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Report for the year 2002.

I am pleased to report that even with the steadily increasing movements of dangerous goods on our highways due to developments in the resource sector, the consistently low number and minor nature of dangerous goods incidents and the low numbers of summary offence infractions indicates that the trucking industry is moving potentially hazardous industrial cargoes responsibly and safely.

I would like to congratulate the NWT trucking industry for the obvious care it is taking in complying with the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act, 1990 and proving that significant resource industry development does not come at the price of compromising highway safety or damaging the environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. Ms. Lee.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS****Member's Statement On Wise Woman Award Recipient, Flory Dacanay**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues, for letting me speak first here. Mr. Speaker, earlier today in the Great Hall, we celebrated the life and achievements of five women who received 2003 Wise Women Awards from the NWT Status of Women Council. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a recipient from the North Slave region, Florentia Dacanay, affectionately known to many as Flory. Flory passed away on December 31<sup>st</sup> and this award was nominated and given posthumously. Those who knew her well, hold her very much in their loving memory and they're grateful they can honour and celebrate her life through this recognition. Mr. Speaker, for many years now, this prestigious award has been given to women who are positive role models in their community and who are dedicated and committed to improving the lives of other women and families. Flory was certainly all of that and more. Flory did not seek a high public

office or seek recognition for what she did. I am not even sure she knew how much people appreciated what she was to them, but when she took ill and passed away last December, her friends gathered by the hundreds to mourn and remember her and to express their appreciation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe every community needs, and has an elder who is the mother or wise woman to that community and only special people who have the right character and strength can fulfil that role, someone who accepts you for who you are, who makes you feel safe from the dangers and hardships of everyday life, someone who gives you guidance to do the right thing, someone who is so proud of every little achievement you accomplish, someone who does it all with genuine love and care. Flory was one of those special people. Such a wise woman is even more dear to those who leave their homeland behind to make a new life in another country. Flory welcomed and helped many, many people make that transition, many of them who now make up Yellowknife's large and vibrant Filipino community. But it didn't really matter where you were from, Flory was there for everyone, even complete strangers, opening up her home to them, giving them a place to stay and treating them like a part of her own family.

Mr. Speaker, it was in recognition of her service that all seven Yellowknife MLAs submitted a joint nomination of Flory for this award. We were pleased when we learned Flory had been chosen and that the council received a flood of nominations for Flory from the rest of the community. This is just further proof of the impact Flory had on so many Yellowknifers. On behalf of everyone in this House, I would like to take this opportunity to extend heartfelt congratulations in memory of Flory to her loving husband Angel, her daughter Flair and son-in-law Jeff, and her grandson she was always so proud of, Jeremy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Handley.

**Member's Statement On 2003 Wise Woman Awards**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, this is International Women's Week. I would also like to congratulate Flory Dacanay and the other recipients of the 2003 Wise Women Awards. As well, I would like to recognize all of the women who have received this award in past years. In particular I want to acknowledge those from Weledeh who have been nominated over the years and especially those who received the award in past years. These include Florence Erasmus in 1996; Arlene Hache in 1998; and, Ingrid Kritsch in the year 2000. As well as a way of respecting the tremendous work done by the nominees and the award recipients, the awards serve the important purpose of reminding everyone of the role we each can play in promoting

the rights of all women, in fact all people of the Northwest Territories. I am proud to have had a part as an MLA in the adoption of the Human Rights Act and the commitments made in developing family violence legislation. Without the support of the NWT Status of Women Council and numerous other groups and individuals, this would have been impossible. We must all continue to cooperate on these real important initiatives that do make real differences to people's lives in every community. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Delorey.

**Member's Statement On GNWT Training And Support For Boards And Agencies**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to address the topic of board governance. Mr. Speaker, I have thought long and hard about what board governance means and what it means to the people of the Northwest Territories. I have sat on a variety of boards during the course of my life. Mr. Speaker, it has always been my contention that it is truly a good thing when local people have control over their own destiny. Our local people are the best judges of the proper way to expand resources in their own communities.

Mr. Speaker, I feel we must, as a government, continue to recognize and applaud the efforts of these hard working people who continue to devote countless hours on our various boards. However, Mr. Speaker, we need to do more than applaud these dedicated board members. Our government needs to be diligent in providing these people with the tools they require to do their job. Mr. Speaker, a common theme I often hear from board members is they are unsure of exactly what their mandate is and exactly what their parameters are as board members. I believe it is imperative, Mr. Speaker, that board members are provided with adequate training by this government and receive a clear definition of what their roles and responsibilities are. Mr. Speaker, board members often say that they lack the training necessary to effectively carry out their task.

Mr. Speaker, it has always been my contention that boards of any agency are appointed by this government, by the government of the day, but that they should enjoy some autonomy and some sense of an arm's length relationship from government. Mr. Speaker, board members have to believe that they have the right to operate within their mandate without fear of repercussion. Mr. Speaker, I believe it sets a very dangerous precedent when board members from around the North are made to feel that if they come out against any government policy or direction, that they will be fired or replaced. This does nothing to instil confidence in this government for the people of the NWT. Mr. Speaker, I think it's time that we, as a government, decide what it is we want from our boards and do everything we can to give them the tools they need to do their jobs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Roland.

**Member's Statement On Accountability Framework For Boards And Agencies**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I as well would like to speak about the boards and agencies that deliver programs on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, as a government, over the years we've devolved more and more authority to different boards and agencies across the Northwest Territories, we've asked them for input. We've required them to deliver services at a certain level, a minimum standard and Mr. Speaker, what we've heard from different groups across the Territories from time to time is they have difficulty delivering the programs and services that we ask them to do because of short staffing or under resourcing.

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to look at ourselves as the Government of the Northwest Territories. What are we going to look like in future years? What are we devolving out to the boards and agencies and what authority do we have, as legislators, on behalf of the rest of the residents in the Northwest Territories? How can we ensure that those programs and services are being delivered at the level we have set out. Mr. Speaker, we talk about accountability when it comes to these boards and we've heard lots of talk about this third party accountability framework process but, Mr. Speaker, yet today there might be a document floating out there someplace but is it actually being used, is it being implemented to any degree?

No one can really tell us and that is the problem, Mr. Speaker, as we look down the road as a government, developing and evolving and self government tables are settled and we are coming to other claim processes and self government becomes a reality in the Northwest Territories. How are we going to, as the Government of the Northwest Territories, ensure that minimum standards are being met across the Northwest Territories, that residents get the quality education and health care that they deserve in the Northwest Territories?

So, Mr. Speaker, as a government, we have to start putting in place the pieces that will build a future and right now, Mr. Speaker, the puzzle is all over the place, the pieces aren't lined up and that could lead to some serious problems if we don't get our act together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Lafferty.

**Member's Statement On Clarification Of Roles And Responsibilities Of Boards and Agencies**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, throughout the Territories, we have a variety of boards that are dependent on the territorial government. Some of the ones that come to mind are the public utility boards, the health boards and the education boards. These organizations are created to assist the Government of the Northwest Territories in carrying out its mandate.

Knowing this, I am confused as to why some boards are not accountable to the public but are accountable to the Ministers. For example, some of these boards do not hold public meetings. Often internal meetings are held and decisions are

made without consulting the public. The public meetings are not held because the board is only accountable to the Ministers. Because of this, complaints and issues have to be brought to the MLAs and dealt with at the Ministerial level when some of these issues could be dealt with at the community level.

A question that is often asked is who are these boards representing? Why are they located only in the larger centers? If they represent the people, why do some boards answer directly to the Minister instead of the people in the communities? Some boards have Members that are elected; others have Members who are appointed. Again, who do they answer to? The Minister or the public? Mr. Speaker, I think that we need to clarify the role of all territorial boards, who they are representative of or accountable to and how the public can provide input into their operations. Mr. Speaker, there are also boards out there who are operating very well, whether they are funded by this government or not. I think we need to look at all the boards and make changes so we can help all Northerners to do their jobs and they can help us represent the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Braden.

#### **Member's Statement On Authority And Accountability Of Boards And Agencies**

**MR. BRADEN:** Merci, Mr. Speaker. The idea of governing and governance is a big one and sometime in our lives all of us have to deal with it. That may be only to choose to go to the polls and cast a vote once in a while, maybe even choose a side or wave a banner in front of the Legislative Assembly and if you want to live on the edge, some people might even want to make a career of it. But it is a freedom and a right that many Canadians have fought and died for, to be able to have our say and participate in the way we are governed. Some might even say it's an obligation.

Mr. Speaker, I think everyone agrees with the idea that the decisions are best made as close as possible to the people who are directly affected. The same goes for managing and delivering public sector services. So, when we as a public government of the NWT establish boards or committees to help manage and set up systems that deliver our services, we are doing it with all the right intentions.

But over the past 30 years of building the governments of the old and the new NWT, I believe that we have lost a lot of the focus and the purpose and the benefit of creating governments at the local and regional level. Much to our discredit, Mr. Speaker, this Legislature saw the spectacular destruction of one of our most senior corporate boards, the power corporation and the muffled extinguishment of the health system's most senior board, the Stanton, because government was not paying attention to its duty to govern.

Mr. Speaker, we've created dozens of panels, boards, committees, agencies, councils, associations and authorities, enough that the Department of Executive created a booklet to catalogue them all. Many of them exist only on the strength of a contract or mandate assigned by this government. Yet, in many cases, I don't think we have very much of an idea of whether or not they are fulfilling their mandates, of their

accomplishments or their impact. In fact, Mr. Speaker, reporting or auditing of these agencies often focuses primarily on whether money was spent according to the rules and not on what really happened or what they deliver.

We should be committed, Mr. Speaker, not only to the idea of government getting value for money but to the idea that when we ask people to come forward to serve on our boards and agencies, they want to make a contribution that will be of value. They want to put their time and talents to the best possible use. My plea today is for our Government of the Northwest Territories to press ahead with an accountability structure for boards and agencies that will set out clear direction, enable people to deliver desired results, and report results and performance in ways that really will help us to better govern, in ways that are as close as possible to the people affected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement On Potential Liability Of Boards And Agencies**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do have some concerns with respect to boards, more specifically with respect to the liability of board members who make decisions in the course of their duties. Most of the boards established by this government are made up of volunteers and training is very limited as to how to perform their duties. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if they get a full orientation of what their responsibilities are and what risks they take when they make a decision, especially if that decision has an impact on other people's lives.

Are board members liable for decisions that they make, Mr. Speaker? Some boards clearly have a provision that speaks to liability and the legislation that established them. For example, Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there is provision in the social assistance act that speaks to the liability of members on the social assistance appeals board. Mr. Speaker, if there ever was a legal challenge to some of these decisions, are these people who serve as board members protected? Will they have to defend themselves in court or will the government pay for their legal costs?

Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the government provides enough support and resources to these boards so they can investigate properly and obtain all the information necessary to exercise due diligence. Mr. Speaker, I'm not just talking about the minimum amount of funding to provide a service or hold a meeting. I mean enough money and departmental support to ensure that the decisions made are based on all the facts.

Mr. Speaker, if the Government of the Northwest Territories establishes these boards, can the government be liable for breach of duty if we fail to properly support our boards? Mr. Speaker, I raise these issues today because I believe that if the government establishes a board, then the government has a responsibility to ensure that board can do its job properly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Bell.

### Member's Statement On Accountability And Reporting Of Boards And Agencies

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleague in also talking about accountable governance and I would first like to start with a quote from the Auditor General of Canada, Ms. Sheila Fraser. She made this statement in an address to the school of accountancy at the University of Waterloo. On the subject of accountability, she said, Mr. Speaker, "accountable government requires that Members of Parliament be able to approve the governments' plans for spending and scrutinize the results of that spending" and I think it is very important to keep that in mind.

We know in our system, typically the business plans and budgets of government departments are presented in some detail to the standing committees. We review them, discuss them, debate them, certainly when the main estimates are tabled. The GNWT has also developed and established various boards, health and social services authorities, education authorities, local housing organizations and these assist in the delivery of programs and services on behalf of this government. It's important to keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, they are spending public money to achieve results.

In some instances such as the WCB or the NWT Power Corporation, two good examples, there is a provision made for legislative scrutiny because there is a requirement to table annual reports and audited financial statements. In other instances, Mr. Speaker, education and health authorities for example, respective departments show a line item for a contribution. There is no detail provided on how these entities plan to spend their money and there is no opportunity for the Legislature to scrutinize activities to see if results are being achieved. Mr. Speaker, presumably the Minister receives this detailed level of information. We know the Financial Administration Act requires it and requires that audited statements be provided.

Mr. Speaker, I think the key is people in the Northwest Territories believe that anybody delivering a government service is part of the government. Ultimately if people aren't happy with the service levels, they blame the Government of the Northwest Territories. The buck does stop here, Mr. Speaker. While responsibility and authority can be delegated to boards and other entities delivering programs and services on our behalf, the responsibility for the Legislative Assembly to approve and scrutinize public spending can't be delegated away. I think that's an important thing for us to keep in mind. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Nitah.

### Member's Statement On Development And Support Of Boards And Agencies

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the document Towards a Better Tomorrow, the document that guides this government's actions and visions, says that this government has a vision of healthy, self-reliant communities. Part of being self-reliant is the ability to take charge of your own affairs, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the government dissolved the Lutselk'e and Deninu health and social services boards, the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board

assumed the responsibility for programs and services in these communities.

Mr. Speaker, two things happened when these boards were dissolved. First, local people were no longer representing the people as trustees. Secondly, an opportunity to build capacity in the community was lost. It's not consistent with the document Towards a Better Tomorrow. The people were told they would still have a say in how things were going to be run. The two communities are supposed to have a seat on the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board and their funding will be channelled to Yellowknife. People still feel that they aren't in the best position to provide advice to the Minister on what the community needs and priorities are. They want to do that without having their voices filtered through another layer of regional administration.

Mr. Speaker, when the boards were dissolved, an opportunity to develop community capacity was lost. Perhaps if more support was provided by the department, all would not have been lost. Mr. Speaker, this government could have provided continuous training to board members on their roles as trustees. They could have provided training to administrative support positions, adequate funding to provide necessary programs and services could have been provided, and perhaps the capacity of these communities to look after themselves would have been developed.

Mr. Speaker, if the government wants people to become self-reliant and live in healthy communities, the government should look at ways to develop community services boards, to take control of programs and services and to help create an economic base through the creation of employment at the community level. Mr. Speaker, harmonization ... (inaudible) ... income support. Options have to be there other than income support in the communities and work development is one of those ways. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Mr. Dent.

### Member's Statement On Authority And Accountability Of Boards And Agencies

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members today have spoken on the topic of using boards and agencies to deliver government programs and services and have raised a number of issues about the reasons why we use boards rather than government employees. Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that I almost always hear Ministers and Members talk about the need for regional representation on boards. That makes sense to me, particularly if the major reason for using boards is to bring regional input to the table. If that's the case, then should we not also expect that board members will account to the people of the region, since the role is much like that of the MLA, although for a single purpose, to work on the board.

Mr. Speaker, we don't always seem to require this. In the accountability framework tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services yesterday, health and social services trustees are accountable to the Minister, but have an obligation to answer to the people of their regions. Now, Mr. Speaker, "answerability" is not found in any dictionary in which I have

managed to look. Thank goodness it is defined in the framework. But is that definition accepted by everyone?

Delegating responsibility for delivering services is quite common for governments. As long as the partnership is properly defined for both partners, these partnerships can be very useful, but, Mr. Speaker, there has to be a common understanding of the arrangements and responsibilities between the government organization and the partner organization. How authority is shared and an agreement clearly setting up the manner in which the parties will work cooperatively to achieve a public policy must be in place. My observation is we have done this best with education authorities. We have detailed legislation outlining roles, so trustees know their responsibilities. Trustees are elected, so they currently understand to whom they must be accountable.

Mr. Speaker, we need to consider the issue of accountability in more detail for boards that are appointed by the government. They are considerably different than arm's-length elected bodies. I think we must be careful not to create situations where Ministerial accountability is weakened by appointed boards, so that Ministers can shelter themselves from direct accountability to the Legislature by the actions of appointed boards.

Mr. Speaker, the increasing use of boards requires that we examine the questions that arise with respect to governance and accountability. We must soon debate and agree on the proper roles for government, departments, the Assembly, our board and agency partners and the public. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Dent.

#### **ITEM 4: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

##### **Committee Report 10-14(6): Report On Board Governance Issues**

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to give the report of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight on boards, committees and councils.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, the Government of the Northwest Territories has come to rely on a growing number of boards, councils, authorities and other agencies to assist in the delivery of services to citizens. In some cases these bodies are advisory in nature; some provide direct management, while many have responsibilities somewhere in between.

Members are elected to some and appointed to others. Some entities have extensive legislation setting out their roles, specifying how appointments will be made, levels of service delivery and funding. There are varying degrees in the level of responsibility and delegation of authority. The residents who make up these various committees, councils and boards are mostly hardworking volunteers.

Citizens in the Northwest Territories, like the rest of Canada, expect to be consulted on issues affecting their lives and this often leads to the establishment of a committee structure.

It is always prudent to review major programs and services on a regular basis to ensure that the program aims are being achieved. The variety of committees, boards, and councils and their structures raises a number of questions. For example, how many total current structures are there? What is the make up of these entities? Are they funded to deliver programs for the GNWT? Are their roles clearly defined? Is there support for training, both for board members and staff? How is their performance measured and reported?

Should board members be appointed or elected? Whom do the board members represent? To whom are they accountable?

The committee is aware that through the government's corporate review and transition planning process, a task team has been established to review board structure. However, there has not been any public political debate on the government's underlying philosophy with respect to boards.

Today, during Members' statements, committee members will focus on the issue of board governance. A broad range of views will be presented as the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight has not taken a position with respect to the operations or future of the various committees, councils and boards. However, Members feel that a public debate would be timely. As this Assembly enters its last few months of operation, we would encourage the government to lead such a debate on the continuing and future role of committees, boards and councils. That concludes the report of the standing committee.

##### **Motion That Committee Report 10-14(6) Be Received By The Assembly, Carried**

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on Board Governance Structure, be received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Mr. Antoine.

#### **ITEM 5: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS**

##### **Return To Question 94-14(6): Report Of The Business Program Review Committee**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral questions asked by Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, MLA, Hay River South, on February 26, 2003, regarding the report of the Business Program Review Committee.

The Business Program Review Committee reviewed business programs delivered by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Business Credit Corporation, and the Northwest Territories Development Corporation. The

committee began its work in September 2000 and submitted its report in the fall of 2001.

The report was then widely distributed. A copy was sent to all Members on October 25, 2001 and to the public on October 30, 2001. Additional copies are available upon request. Mahsi Cho.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Mr. Allen.

**Return To Question 134-14(6): Cost Of The Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral questions asked by Mr. Delorey on March 3, 2003 regarding the costs of the harmonization initiative between the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the NWT Housing Corporation.

Since 1997, not including staff time and travel expenses, the amount spent on the harmonization initiative between the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the NWT Housing Corporation is \$403,737. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 5, returns to oral questions. Mr. Allen.

**Return To Question 135-14(6): Impact Of Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Delorey on March 3, 2003 regarding the impact of the harmonization initiative on public housing clients.

Specifically, Mr. Delorey wanted to know the percentage of public housing clients that would see a decrease in their rent.

Mr. Speaker, of the 1,823 households that would see a change in their rent from harmonization, some 1,063 households would see a decrease in rent, or 58.3 percent. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Lee.

**ITM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few people in the gallery that I would like to recognize today. They are here to partake in the ceremony of the Wise Women Awards and decided to join us today. I would like to first recognize Mr. Angel Dacanay, the surviving husband of Flory Dacanay.

---Applause

I have Sylvia Masongsong.

---Applause

Ramon Masongsong.

---Applause

Dambee Fontanilla.

---Applause

Estrella Sumcad.

---Applause

Tina Rivera.

---Applause

Gloria Reyes.

---Applause

Delia Weir.

---Applause

Tess Arambulo.

---Applause

Judith Beltran.

---Applause

Allah German.

---Applause

And, Margaret D'hont.

---Applause

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Roland.

**ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question 167-14(6): Accountability Framework For Boards And Agencies**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As we have heard, there are many concerns about board structures, governance and accountability here in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, along with my Member's statement about where we might be in the future when it comes to board governance, I have questions about the accountability frameworks we are trying to develop and how that would work in the future when self-government discussions are concluded and implementation of those self-government agreements are put into practice. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Deputy Premier if there is a framework that's being developed by this government to work with the boards and agencies that deliver programs on behalf of our government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Return To Question 167-14(6): Accountability Framework For Boards And Agencies**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have developed a draft and we are working on the draft of an accountability framework, so it's in the system. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary To Question 167-14(6): Accountability Framework For Boards And Agencies**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Deputy Premier inform us if all departments will be using that to unify the accountability framework or are they going at it department by department? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 167-14(6): Accountability Framework For Boards And Agencies**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** We are going to be looking at it government-wide. We will be going through all the departments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary To Question 167-14(6): Accountability Framework For Boards And Agencies**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what then happens to the accountability framework that has been developed by departments, for example, Health and Social Services? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 167-14(6): Accountability Framework For Boards And Agencies**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the draft has gone to departments for comments and the existing accountability framework from the different departments will be incorporated into the overall accountability framework that we develop. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary To Question 167-14(6): Accountability Framework For Boards And Agencies**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Deputy Premier inform us as to what timeline is given to this development? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 167-14(6): Accountability Framework For Boards And Agencies**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this accountability framework has gone to the deputy ministers and has also been introduced to stakeholders and we anticipate that by next month or so, we should be able to make a presentation to the Members in AOC. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 168-14(6): Health And Social Services Board For Rae**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Minister for Health and Social Services. I would like to ask the Minister, since he hasn't made an agreement to create a regional body for health and social services in the Dogrib region and there is a request that

the community of Rae-Edzo with 2,000 people would like to have their own health committee or just a small board that would deal with issues locally, just like they do with the education board, can the Minister help them with the resources and the funding to fund this board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 168-14(6): Health And Social Services Board For Rae**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of that request. Once I am formally made aware of it, I will see the specifics of the request and look at it seriously, of course within the context of the recently initialled agreement and how we move ahead within the changing reality in the Tlicho region.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 168-14(6): Health And Social Services Board For Rae**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the opportunity to meet with the negotiator this morning to talk about issues of health and housing in the Dogrib area and how it affects the Dogrib land claims and self-government. This is an area where they say there is no concern, as long as there are people out there who want to do that at a local level, the Minister can help them and they should be able to do it. I would like to ask the Minister if he can come to the community of Rae and see what the requests are of the people? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 168-14(6): Health And Social Services Board For Rae**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand ready to continue to work with the Dogrib board that is currently there and the leadership in the communities. If there is a specific request for community-based boards, we will look at that within the broad context of some of the concerns raised in this House about how many boards we do have and exactly what their role and mandate will be in relation to the broader board that represents the whole region. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 168-14(6): Health And Social Services Board For Rae**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the board is only accountable to the Minister, I would like to ask the Minister if he can give direction to his board, so that he can talk to the people of Rae-Edzo and have a public meeting, which they don't have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 168-14(6): Health And Social Services Board For Rae**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the board is accountable to me as Minister, but clearly it is responsible to the people in the region and I would expect that they would be bringing forward the concerns that they hear from the people, as they do when we come to the table for meetings. So if that issue is on the list and has to be addressed, we will sit down and meet with the board, we will meet with the leadership and we'll look at that.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 168-14(6): Health And Social Services Board For Rae**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** I would like to ask the Minister again if he would take the first step of doing this himself. Obviously they are not going to come to him. He has to go to them. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 168-14(6): Health And Social Services Board For Rae**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Member wishes to invite me to the region to talk about setting up a board in Fort Rae, then I would be happy to meet and do that. I would consult with the leadership and the board and the chair and we would make every attempt to honour that commitment.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Braden.

**Question 169-14(6): Creation Of A New Business Development Corporation**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a number of us spoke today about governance issues and I would like to ask about one we are really in the midst of right now and that is the realignment and the modernization of our business corporations specifically, Mr. Speaker. Something was started a couple of years ago to look at how to structure the government's business arms, namely the Business Development Corporation and the Business Credit Corporation to see how they could better do their work and we are anticipating that legislation will be coming forward, so that will enable this to happen by the end of our term.

We have seen – I think the announcement came out about a week ago – that Mr. Fred Koe has already been assigned to the task of performing the amalgamation of these two units, potentially with other parts of the business affairs of the GNWT. That seems to be almost backwards or in front of other steps that I would have thought truly should be in place. I wanted to ask the Minister for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine, why we are going about governance in this fashion? Why are we setting up the executive function of this when we don't even have the legislation in place yet? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Return To Question 169-14(6): Creation Of A New Business Development Corporation**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are not developing the executive function up front. I think I mentioned in the House earlier on, on another occasion, that as Cabinet we had agreed to an amalgamation of these boards and these different functions within RWED. We have only agreed to the amalgamation and the different reports we've had. We have reassigned and given the task to Mr. Fred Koe to put it all together for us. It's similar to what happened in the past government when another gentleman was assigned to amalgamate the whole Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. They agreed to amalgamate and gave him the task of figuring it all out and he came forward with a legislative proposal. So that's his task. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 169-14(6): Creation Of A New Business Development Corporation**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it leads to another aspect of the whole governance equation, Mr. Speaker, in that it's assumed from my view that we are going to have a new board created to govern this new corporation. By my reading, I think that a number of the steps that would be assigned to Mr. Koe are steps that should be undertaken under the guidance of that new board. Obviously, we have to have legislation before we can create a new board. How are we reconciling the need for this corporation's new board to create the assignments and take the responsibility for Mr. Koe's actions? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 169-14(6): Creation Of A New Business Development Corporation**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have two existing boards right now, the Business Credit Corporation and the NWT Development Corporation. Members of the board are fully aware of the decision to amalgamate these two along with the other functions of RWED. We have discussed this at length and everyone is aware of it. As a Cabinet, we agreed to go for this amalgamation after a number of years of study. We see it as a task for Fred Koe, working along with two different boards, to try to amalgamate the workings of these boards. I don't know if I am answering your question. I would like to leave it at that for now. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 169-14(6): Creation Of A New Business Development Corporation**

**MR. BRADEN:** Are the existing boards closely connected with the direction that's been given to Mr. Koe? Do they have direct reporting and approval responsibilities for the steps that he's taking in this amalgamation? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 169-14(6): Creation Of A New Business Development Corporation**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, the two existing boards are not directly involved in the development of the legislative proposal. We agreed to the advice of amalgamation. There is general agreement on that. How exactly it's going to be put together is a task for Fred Koe. How he is going to be recommending whether he is going to be working closely with the members of the board or how he's going to be presenting his options, we are still waiting for that. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 169-14(6): Creation Of A New Business Development Corporation**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there a plan of how this is all going to be carried out and a timeline that indicates what is going to happen and when? Mr. Speaker, could that be made available to the House and to the public?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 169-14(6): Creation Of A New Business Development Corporation**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of work still having to be done in terms of developing the legislative proposal. As Cabinet, we haven't received it, so it will be within the next two weeks we anticipate receiving a proposal and then the different steps we are all familiar with of developing legislation, after it's been reviewed by Members of the other side and the public. Hopefully we would like to introduce something in June and aiming at having this board in place by April 1, 2004. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. Mr. McLeod.

**Question 170-14(6): Income Calculation For Rent Assessment Purposes**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to continue with my theme of the week regarding harmonization. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, under this new initiative, all income will be considered as part of the calculation for rent and many things are going to be considered now such as income tax, child support payments, craft sales and even bingo. I am not sure how the Minister plans to enforce that. I would like to know if there is going to be a system to monitor that. Are we going to have bingo police roaming from town to town monitoring who wins bingo? How are we going to calculate that? There is no legislation in place to report that now. I would like to ask the Minister if he could tell me that, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return To Question 170-14(6): Income Calculation For Rent Assessment Purposes**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the income support clients fill out their monthly reports, at which time they fill in the reports of the income they receive. That is the normal procedure that is normally used for assessing

individuals on the amount of income support that they can receive, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 170-14(6): Income Calculation For Rent Assessment Purposes**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, it doesn't seem the Minister understands that harmonization doesn't only affect income support clients. It affects students, it affects multi-wage earners and seniors. How is he going to monitor? Is he going to have these forms available for everybody to declare? How is he going to enforce it? How is he going to monitor it? How is he going to verify it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 170-14(6): Income Calculation For Rent Assessment Purposes**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, income support clients report to our offices on a consistent basis, on a monthly basis. Students receive their SFA funding on a semi-annual basis, but housing will be a responsibility of the Housing Corporation with regard to incomes for those areas, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 170-14(6): Income Calculation For Rent Assessment Purposes**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it seems that this program will be based on an honour basis. I assume there will be no cost. Mr. Speaker, we have already given notice that this government spent \$400,000 and we haven't done anything yet. We haven't implemented this program. Could the Minister indicate and confirm to me that there will be no additional cost to this government when it comes to monitoring? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 170-14(6): Income Calculation For Rent Assessment Purposes**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from our perspective in Education, Culture and Employment on the income support side, we certainly don't anticipate any extra costs. As a matter of fact, we anticipate that by combining some resources here that we may be able to, in the long run, save some dollars. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 170-14(6): Income Calculation For Rent Assessment Purposes**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are not totally comfortable that we know all the different incomes that will be calculated in the rent for public housing now. Can the Minister provide a list? This is something that is going to be very difficult to monitor; Internet gaming, for example, lotteries, bingos, child support, babysitting. How is the Minister planning

to monitor all those things if it's going to be totally on the honour system? What are the penalties?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 170-14(6): Income Calculation For Rent Assessment Purposes**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can certainly provide a list to the Member as he has requested. As I say, we monitor that on a monthly basis for income support clients. The Housing Corporation will do their monitoring for their specific purposes. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Bell.

**Question 171-14(6): Accountability Of Boards And Agencies**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Deputy Premier or the House Leader, Mr. Speaker. According to the Report of the Auditor General of the Northwest Territories, Legislative Assembly, 2002, about 85 cents of each dollar of grants and contributions goes to health, education boards, municipalities and local housing authorities. The auditor general has also posed a question that I would like to pose to the House Leader. How does the government know it's getting the results that it wants? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 171-14(6): Accountability Of Boards And Agencies**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government has been working for a number of years on accountability and each year we table a document called Towards Improved Accountability. It's through that document, that we are able to track our results. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 171-14(6): Accountability Of Boards And Agencies**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wouldn't the Minister agree though that as far as scrutiny at this level, in this Legislative Assembly it seems to be lacking in many areas? For instance, the Stanton board is one that comes to mind. It would present its budget to the Minister of Health and Social Services, but it's not something that would come before this Assembly except in a board contribution line. Wouldn't the Minister agree that there is a lack of accountability at this level when it comes to boards and other third party delivery agents? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 171-14(6): Accountability Of Boards And Agencies**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, there is certainly room for improvement in my view in the accountability of boards to the government. That is the one reason we continue to work on improving our performance and results measures. We encourage all government employees to participate and a high

percentage of them do in training on performance measurement. We would like to see the same accountability applied to boards as well while respecting their roles and responsibilities and the authority that they have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 171-14(6): Accountability Of Boards And Agencies**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to appointed boards -- it's different for elected boards, I will acknowledge that -- and the fact that many of those boards have no reporting requirement to this Assembly, to this House, oftentimes people, constituents and residents will allege that a Minister is running a board. What does the Minister of Finance say when people allege that any Minister is running a board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 171-14(6): Accountability Of Boards And Agencies**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, different boards have different responsibilities. It goes further than just whether they are elected or whether they are appointed. We have some appointed boards that have a very clear mandate and a very clear responsibility. They have to have audited reports done on their business annually. So, Mr. Speaker, all of the results of the health boards are audited. Health boards, education boards, all boards have to account to us for the dollars we provide them with. It is different, Mr. Speaker, with regard to education boards where there is more distance between us and the boards. We provide them with a contribution. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 171-14(6): Accountability Of Boards And Agencies**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad the Minister mentioned audited financial statements. I think that's an important point to hit on here. That's certainly one thing, Mr. Speaker, and while it is important it simply tells us that money has been expended properly. It doesn't speak to decisions being made, programs and services being delivered. Would the Minister acknowledge then, that while we may be able to discern whether money is being expended properly, it's entirely another matter to determine whether or not the services being delivered are the services the people want and the services this Assembly has tasked and mandated those boards with. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 171-14(6): Accountability Of Boards And Agencies**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly we always want to be improving the quality of service, that the boards are delivering. We want to make sure it is the service the public expects. Having public debate on the performance of boards and accountability of boards is certainly something I would encourage. We are doing, Mr. Speaker, training,

performance and measurement of results. We do that within government. We also want to do it with all the boards and agencies that we contribute funding to ensure that what they are doing is what people expect of those boards and agencies. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Nitah.

**Question 172-14(6): Income Assessment For Public Housing Tenants**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. It's in line with the questions asked by my colleague, Mr. McLeod, on harmonization. Mr. Speaker, I asked a series of questions in written form and I was hoping to get the response by now so that I could make an educated and informed decision on this. Unfortunately, I am not getting that information, so I will ask the Minister directly: What income will be assessed for people who are not on income support, but are in public housing? What income? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Return To Question 172-14(6): Income Assessment For Public Housing Tenants**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a very simple answer. All earned income. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary To Question 172-14(6): Income Assessment For Public Housing Tenants**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when a first nation's community negotiates impact benefit agreements - and it is still my opinion that it is based on treaties -- and they decide to take some of that money and give it to their members, is that earned income? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 172-14(6): Income Assessment For Public Housing Tenants**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated yesterday afternoon, we are trying to reconcile all the other aspects of what they deem to be earned income, so we are still trying to resolve that at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary To Question 172-14(6): Income Assessment For Public Housing Tenants**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a government policy that says that this harmonization will kick in April 1<sup>st</sup>, and now we hear that Cabinet is still working on the policy. Why are you pushing April 1<sup>st</sup> and pushing something through that is not a completed work? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 172-14(6): Income Assessment For Public Housing Tenants**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased that the Member asked the question because this process here is driven by the questions and we are trying to respond to these questions as accurately as we can. It is not an easy solution, we understand the sensitivity of the questions and we want to respond to those as fairly as we can but the point is that we are trying to indicate to the Assembly here that we are working to satisfy the questions. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Nitah:

**Supplementary To Question 172-14(6): Income Assessment For Public Housing Tenants**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would sure appreciate an answer on this side of the House here. I asked specific questions and I'm getting something that is in left field when I'm in right field, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we just finished a two-year process on the Official Languages Act called One Land, Many Voices and in that document, we determined to resource that. Our languages and cultures are dying. Here is the Minister, who has sat on that committee, who is going to assist our elders and our art and craft guys in their practice of their culture. Is that an encouragement toward a better tomorrow, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 172-14(6): Income Assessment For Public Housing Tenants**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to hear the Member is so passionate and I agree with him that yes we are, with all due respect, respecting the seniors. We have done that appropriately yesterday by grandfathering them in the future rent scale. There is still one aspect that we need to conclude and that is to try to assess what is earned or unearned income and that will be defined very shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Dent

**Question 173-14(6): Political Discussion On Boards And Agencies**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Premier today. As the Deputy Premier will have heard during statements and oral questions, many Members believe that we need to take a good look at board governance and accountability. We know there is a transition team that is looking at the issue of boards administratively but, many of us believe that we need to have some political discussion about the underlying philosophy about using boards. Will the Deputy Premier commit to discussing with his Cabinet colleagues and then the Regular Members, how this sort of discussion might be facilitated?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Return To Question 173-14(6): Political Discussion On Boards And Agencies**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** I think there is going to be an opportunity, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated earlier, we are going through the accountability framework process and we'll be at the point where we can introduce what we have to the AOC and it might be an opportune time to enter into the discussion at that point of time. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 173-14(6): Political Discussion On Boards And Agencies**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Members on this side welcome better accountability for boards and agencies that are funded by the government but Mr. Speaker, it's not just accountability, it is the whole philosophy underlying whether or not they should be elected when their appointees are representing regions or bodies. The whole philosophy needs to be discussed. That won't necessarily come out. Will the Deputy Premier make sure that we are able to have a political discussion about how boards function in this government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 173-14(6): Political Discussion On Boards And Agencies**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to move this to Members of the Cabinet. We will have discussion about this request and we will get back to the Member. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. Ms. Lee.

**Question 174-14(6): Stanton Territorial Health And Social Services Authority**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is also in regards to the boards, committees and agencies, Mr. Speaker, we are aware of a number of traumatic events that occurred last fall, one of the most notable being the dissolution of the Stanton territorial health board, so my question goes to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I wonder if the Minister could update about what he is prepared to do about the poor structure there and has there been any thought of finding a replacement for that board? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 174-14(6): Stanton Territorial Health And Social Services Authority**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the immediate focus has been on implementing the recommendations of the review. Currently the Members of JLC, which are comprised of the board chairs from the authorities and the deputy minister, who also has the function of public administrator are providing an oversight function in terms of the operation of Stanton and that is the way we intend to proceed until we are able to deal with the recommendations of the report. As well, as I indicated to the other Members, the debate that may ensue in terms of the issues raised here in this House today. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 174-14(6): Stanton Territorial Health And Social Services Authority**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think one of the things that was mentioned by other Members in the House is the fact that there is a very important element in having a board and that it has to do with the arm's length operation, the distance between the department and boards. However well functioning that current board may be, the fact is that it is being run by the administrator and a Minister of this government. So, would the Minister not bring forward a proposal to see how this can be re-evaluated? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 174-14(6): Stanton Territorial Health And Social Services Authority**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We intend to do that in the coming months. At this point, the interim arrangement I've outlined is the one that is in place and we will continue to focus on making sure we have the highest quality of care at Stanton. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 174-14(6): Stanton Territorial Health And Social Services Authority**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister's answer that he is just going to keep the status quo and he's not going to do anything else or, maybe I didn't hear anything specific in his answer? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 174-14(6): Stanton Territorial Health And Social Services Authority**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intention is to keep the interim arrangement in place for the next few months and look carefully at what is the most appropriate board structure. I've had advice offered to me that we shouldn't have a board, we should amalgamate Stanton and Yellowknife Health and Social Services Board and that we should have a board that is just strictly advisory that just sits off in the side and offers advice, a board of management. So, there are plenty of suggestions out there. We've heard in this House that the whole issue of boards, agencies and committees and governance and accountability is a critical issue where there should be a public debate. So, what we have is an interim arrangement that will allow us to deal with a lot of those questions and suggestions and make the best informed decision possible about which structure is most appropriate. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 174-14(6): Stanton Territorial Health And Social Services Authority**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The important point is that this is an interim board arrangement and the whole

purpose of the discussion in the House today, is to get a public discussion going. But we also know that a public discussion of that sort of magnitude needs the help of a government to help prepare a discussion paper or something. God knows, health boards have been studied to death but I think I'm looking for a specific option for consideration to be put forward by the Minister. Would the Minister commit to do that in the not too distant future? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 174-14(6): Stanton Territorial Health And Social Services Authority**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to ensure that Stanton continues to be run appropriately, that it has appropriate governance in place and that the benefit of the advice and direction from the regions and authorities is there. In due course, as this debate progresses, we will come up with a model of what should be put in place on a more permanent basis as a governing structure for Stanton. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**Question 175-14(6): GNWT Guidelines For Board Membership**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've heard a lot of talk today about different boards and agencies and how they perform and what tools we give them to perform with. I would like to ask the Deputy Premier if there are any guidelines in place that we use as a government as far as the number of people we have sitting on boards. Is there a set number? Do we know of a minimum number that we need on boards in order for a board to be effective or a maximum number? Are there any guidelines in place that control the number of people on a board? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Return To Question 175-14(6): GNWT Guidelines For Board Membership**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are quite a number of different boards that we have organized that have been in place, some through legislation, some through need, some joint with other jurisdictions. Every board, through policies and regulations, has identified how many board members there are going to be. In some cases, it's based on representation from each region and if it's in the region, there is representation by each community. They all have their own agreements on how many people will make up a quorum to make decisions. So there is a variety of different structures out there that, through their policies and guidelines, dictate how many members should be on each board or committee and how many will be needed to make up a quorum to make decisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary To Question 175-14(6): GNWT Guidelines For Board Membership**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we didn't have so many boards and agencies out there making decisions and running them, I guess we wouldn't be here today talking about boards and agencies and how effective they are or what we can do for them. There are some boards and agencies out there that strongly influence decisions that this government makes or decisions that Ministers make. I would like to know when we are talking about an NWT whatever, under the NWT banner, and the Minister has to make decisions on behalf of whatever sector, how much of a cross-section or how many members does the Minister feel is right to help him make a decision in what a board does? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 175-14(6): GNWT Guidelines For Board Membership**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a government, through our legislation, each department has a number of different committees or boards. Some have more than others and they are all structured differently from each other. It is a tool that we use. People in the communities who sit on these boards are there because they want to contribute to whatever boards you are going to sit on and make the right decisions and recommend decisions to Ministers in some cases. So my view right now is there is a quorum that is identified by each committee to say this is the amount of people we need to make decisions. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary To Question 175-14(6): GNWT Guidelines For Board Membership**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of boards and agencies that represent different sectors of our society. Some of them are business-based, some of them are social services-based. When we are talking about a business sector in the NWT and we have a board making recommendations, decisions, asking the Minister to make decisions -- he has a lot of control over a certain sector -- what kind of a split would the Minister recognize as being a good representation? If it's representing a business sector, how many business people on that board should be making recommendations and if the government is heavily involved in making a decision on how those recommendations are carried out, then how many government people or private sector people, residents of the NWT, should make up that board, so that there is an even split on the recommendations coming forward? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 175-14(6): GNWT Guidelines For Board Membership**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** In the honourable Member's scenario, I am going to have to venture into an area where I am not sure whether I will be speculating, but just to answer the question, in a sector that is made up of a number of business people, and we depend on them to look at the situation and make recommendations, we depend on them. So I don't know

whether the question is how many business people should be on there, how many government people should be on there. If it's a business sector, then I would say the majority of seats on the board should be for the business sector. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. Delorey.

**Supplementary To Question 175-14(6): GNWT Guidelines For Board Membership**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Minister to let me know or let this House know if there is a point in time when Members on boards have to declare a conflict when they are putting forward recommendations to the Minister and government for actions. Is there a point when board members have to withdraw themselves from the decision-making because of conflict? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 175-14(6): GNWT Guidelines For Board Membership**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, the policy of this government is, no matter whether you are serving on a board or whether you are in this House, if there is a conflict of interest defined by the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, then you have to declare a conflict. That goes for the board members as well.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 176-14(6): Reduction In Public Housing Rent For Seniors**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Jake Ootes, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Just prior to oral questions, Minister Allen said 58 percent of all housing clients in Hay River will have a decrease in their rent. How many of the 58 percent are seniors? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return To Question 176-14(6): Reduction In Public Housing Rent For Seniors**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the figure that Mr. Allen used in the return, I understand, does not include seniors. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 176-14(6): Reduction In Public Housing Rent For Seniors**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister, how many out of the 58 percent are income support clients?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 176-14(6): Reduction In Public Housing Rent For Seniors**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am informed they are all working families. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So all the decreases will be working families. Can the Minister tell me what will happen in a case where income support clients receive a sizable sum of money, maybe \$500, so they are declined from getting income the next month, but the housing will be raised because of the money they receive? What will happen to the arrears they are going to accumulate every time they receive a sum of money? Who is going to take care of that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the Member could clarify his question for me.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Lafferty, could you restate your question?

**Supplementary To Question 176-14(6): Reduction In Public Housing Rent For Seniors**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will restate my question. Who will take care of arrears when somebody receives a large sum of money and their income support is denied and then the Housing Corporation increases their rent for that same month? They will have an outstanding balance the next month. Who will take care of that outstanding balance or will they be carrying arrears every time they receive a sum of money? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 176-14(6): Reduction In Public Housing Rent For Seniors**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Mr. Speaker, my understanding is it won't apply, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Your final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 176-14(6): Reduction In Public Housing Rent For Seniors**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister what is not going to apply. The rent increase is not going to apply, or will they not be denied their income support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 176-14(6): Reduction In Public Housing Rent For Seniors**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation funds the income support clients in return through our department. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 177-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is on the harmonization initiative and my question is for Minister Allen, Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, we've had different Ministers take the lead on this initiative of harmonization. We've had it go from Education, Culture and Employment, back to Housing and it's never been clear who is taking the lead. During the fall session, during question period, the Minister of Housing indicated he was in conflict. I would like to ask the Minister to explain why he declared a conflict of interest on the harmonization initiative.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister Responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Return To Question 177-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under advisement, due to the fact that I have family in public housing in Inuvik, my home riding, I declared conflict. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 177-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's clear now that the Minister felt he was in a conflict and I can certainly appreciate that he declared it, but how do we know he's still not in a conflict? Can the Minister provide us with a document from the Conflict of Interest Commissioner stating that he's no longer in a conflict? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 177-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be very clear. The advisement came from the Cabinet secretary.

---Interjection

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** I have been advised that she also checked with the conflict commissioner as well to verify that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 177-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I guess we will have to take that issue up with the Conflict of Interest Commissioner to find out what the actual ruling was and if there was a declaration. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister how he can implement the harmonization strategy because he had no involvement in the development of this whole program and now he's in charge of enforcing it and implementing it? How is he expected to do that? How has he been doing it without having any say in it? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 177-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the formation of the policy, I did declare that I was in conflict, according to the rules. Once a decision is rendered and reached on a policy change of this government, as the Minister responsible for a department, I am responsible for the implementation. It does not affect the authority I have under my Ministerial responsibilities. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I do have the responsibility of implementing this policy. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Final supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

**Supplementary To Question 177-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This whole initiative is a blueprint of how not to do things. We've had the Education, Culture and Employment Minister stand up in this House and state that the phasing in of rent scales applies to everyone. We know that's not true. He's apologized. We've had the Minister state maybe he was in conflict, maybe he wasn't. We have had 30 questions raised on this whole initiative, the Minister has taken 50 percent of them as notice and we'll get back to you on the rest. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he would consider deferring this whole initiative until we get the proper information and notification has gone out to our communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 177-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think it's wise if I advise the Members that the intricacies of the questions were related to administrative details. You wanted specific numbers and it takes time to compile them because we are dealing with a wide base, approximately 2,200 households. If we were to just give you a random number, then it may have been different. The important point, Mr. Speaker, is that we are under direction to provide that level of detail and we are prepared to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**Question 178-14(6): Definition Of Unearned Income**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the issue of harmonization, it seems like the house has been built and the roof is still open and we are wanting to move in before we finish the house. What kind of logic is that for government? I am going to continue my questions for the Minister of the Housing Corporation on assessed income. We have some idea of what's an earned income. In his mind, what's an unearned income, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Return To Question 178-14(6): Definition Of Unearned Income**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Every LHO, every community, received a document, a manual that defines what is earned and unearned income. It's going to take a long time to read through, so I won't for the purpose of the question. It has been widely distributed to all communities and to those who administer our local housing association programs and policies. That is a public document, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary To Question 178-14(6): Definition Of Unearned Income**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Are we expecting local housing authorities to enforce this wishy-washy policy? Mr. Speaker, are they trained to do so?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 178-14(6): Definition Of Unearned Income**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I am going to refer to my reply yesterday, all LHOs, district offices, the stakeholders and those who have a vested interest in the policy have received training throughout a period of time. We have provided a communication strategy that outlines dates, times and places and each one has received adequate training and, to our knowledge, are satisfied with that level of training. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary To Question 178-14(6): Definition Of Unearned Income**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have had an opportunity to talk to local housing authority employees right across the Territories. The majority of them are not comfortable with this. They don't understand this. Their training was fraught with difficulty and challenges that the Housing Corporation did not meet. Now we know income is going to be assessed on a month-to-month basis. How do you expect a person living in public housing to even plan for the future when you know if he makes an extra \$200, his rent for the next month is going to be different? How do you provide for a healthy sustainable community and society with those kinds of policies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 178-14(6): Definition Of Unearned Income**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a wide range of programs and it is designed to fit those people who are impacted. I can't continue to explain why they have such difficulty in comprehending. They need to look at the message we are trying to introduce to the communities. We have deliberately provided manuals, hands-on training, a level of detailed information that will help them to understand the procedures. I, as Minister, have communicated

territory-wide. I have gone to specific communities who had some difficulty understanding. Yes, I agree there will be some administrative glitches, but as time progresses there will be a wider understanding of where we are going and certainly, as I stated earlier, as the Minister responsible for the implementation of this program, we want to ensure that the LHOs, the stakeholders and interest groups have the necessary knowledge to help those communities in the transition. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Your final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again it seems like the work is a continual process. We are not done the assessment. We are not done the training. The house is not completed. Why are you forcing people to move into them? I would like to know if any of the Ministers' relatives are in public housing today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I believe that question has nothing to do with the original question. That question is out of order. Restate your final supplementary based on your original questions.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated he has contacted and educated those who will be affected. I have people in public housing in communities I represent, I know people in public housing right across the Territories that don't understand harmonization. They don't know it's going to affect them. I wonder if Mr. Allen's family are informed, those who are in public housing, like the other clientele. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Nitah, your question is out of order. Item 7, oral questions. Mr. Bell.

---Ruled Out of Order

**Question 179-14(6): Aurora College Housing Need In Yellowknife**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Minister Ootes. It's about Aurora College housing in Yellowknife. When we were going through the budget in Committee of the Whole, the Minister indicated that as far as Inuvik housing was concerned, there was an arrangement with a landlord and there was access to a number of units. Should the demand be warranted, they had access to more units and we would go and strike another deal with the landlord. That's not exactly what he said, Mr. Speaker, I am paraphrasing. I wonder about Yellowknife. There is certainly additional demand and there's a wait list for units in Yellowknife. I am wondering what the Minister is doing right now to address the housing need for Aurora College in Yellowknife. Has he started the process?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Return To Question 179-14(6): Aurora College Housing Need In Yellowknife**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the college board has identified in Yellowknife a number of critical areas of concern, one of which is housing. The others are parking space, classroom space and daycare access. So there are a number of areas that have been addressed by the

board to me and those are areas that present some challenges because of our restricted finances, Mr. Speaker, at this point. I have not directly addressed the issue of housing in that context, in isolation of other areas because we have to address a number of areas that the board has asked me to look at. My initial look at this was a couple of weeks ago and I have not had an opportunity to address it as of yet.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 179-14(6): Aurora College Housing Need In Yellowknife**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Minister speaks of restricted finances, I suppose he is primarily speaking about our capital needs and our capital finances, which I will also admit are very tight. I am wondering about operation expenditures. Clearly he was prepared in Inuvik to intervene and direct that we enter into a lease with an additional eight units if demand is warranted. Will he do the same in Yellowknife?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 179-14(6): Aurora College Housing Need In Yellowknife**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, I haven't had the opportunity yet to address it, but I am interested in seeing what can be done to resolve this particular situation because I know that the number of attendees in our college system here in Yellowknife is quite substantial. The number of units they have available is very restricted. So I am interested in trying to address this situation. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 179-14(6): Aurora College Housing Need In Yellowknife**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I remember going back at least three years now there's been a wait list at that college for housing and there's been excess demand. I am aware of the past three years. Can the Minister indicate for how many years this has been a problem at this campus? He indicates he hasn't had time to deal with this right now, but this is a long-standing problem. How many years has this been a problem at this campus?

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 179-14(6): Aurora College Housing Need In Yellowknife**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Yellowknife Campus has had some challenges, Mr. Speaker, and that dates back to almost -- in my history -- 1995 when the college was located all over the city of Yellowknife in various buildings. The first priority was to get the classrooms together, get the college into one building and that has been achieved, Mr. Speaker. There needs to be a progressive approach to this. While I know that the history is there and the first need that had to be identified was appropriate classroom space. That has been addressed, Mr. Speaker, at the moment.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 179-14(6): Aurora College Housing Need In Yellowknife**

**MR. BELL:** Yes, as the classroom need has arisen, we've gone out and arranged to get into leases around the city. But as far as college housing is concerned, we have a number of units at Northern United Place. Certainly we don't have all the units in Northern United Place. Maybe the Minister can indicate to me if we have access or have cued up for first dibs on rental apartments as they come vacant in Northern United Place. Do we have any means of getting hold of these units? Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

**Further Return To Question 179-14(6): Aurora College Housing Need In Yellowknife**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are in the process or have just completed the renovations of another 12 units in that particular building that we had access to. I am not sure of the term of the building, but a lot of seniors and other individuals are in there and that is administered by an organization that we could contact to see as they get a block of apartments available if, perhaps, we can access those. As we know, housing in Yellowknife at the moment is extremely short so I am not sure of the availability of those particular units that they may wish to give up to the college. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Time for question period is over. Colleagues, at this time, I would like to direct your attention to the visitors' gallery and the presence of the NWT Metis Association representatives, executive, board of directors, committee reps and their staff. I would like to welcome you to the Legislative Assembly. Welcome.

---Applause

Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get unanimous consent to return to item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. You have unanimous consent. Continue, Mr. Ootes.

**REVERT TO ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to introduce some individuals who are in the gallery today. Dr. Paul Byrne is the chair of the Meet the North Conference in Edmonton, as well as the vice-chair of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce and president of Grant McEwan Community College. As well as Keith Persaud, manager of special events of the Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, and Bernie Hughes of our government, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would like to welcome you to the NWT and welcome you to the House. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize a number of people in the gallery. The government of the Metis Nation of the NWT is here with us today in celebration of the new Metis health plan. I would like to recognize my constituents Denise McKay, Donna Beaulieu, former constituent Arthur Beck, Danny Beck, Junior Harrington from Hay River, and I will leave the other guys to their Members. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Welcome to the House. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, as well, would like to recognize some of the members of the NWT Metis Nation: President Rob Tordiff; some board members that I can see are Ken Hudson; Betty Villebrun; George Kurszewski, the esteemed negotiator; Jason Lepine; Mrs. Wright. I am not sure who I am missing back here. All the ones from Fort Smith I would like to welcome to the House and to the announcement today.

---Applause

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 8, written questions. Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Member for North Slave is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions. Are there any nays?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Nay.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You do not have unanimous consent, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Member for Deh Cho is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions. Do I hear any nays?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Nay.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You do not have unanimous consent. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions. Thank you.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Member for Tu Nedhe is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions. Are there any nays?

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Nay.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You do not have unanimous consent. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to Opening Address. Item 11, petitions. Item

12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents.

#### ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**Tabled Document 39-14(6): Draft Integrated Service Delivery Model For The NWT Health And Social Services System**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document entitled Draft Integrated Service Delivery Model for the NWT Health and Social Services System. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Handley.

**Tabled Document 40-14(6): Minister Of Transportation's Report To The Legislative Assembly For 2002 On The Northwest Territories' Transportation Of Dangerous Goods Act (1990)**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document entitled The Minister's Report of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act 1990 for 2002. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Allen.

**Tabled Document 41-14(6): List Of Organizations Contacted Regarding Harmonization**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table a document entitled A List of Organizations Contacted Regarding Harmonization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 13 tabling of documents. Item 14, notice of motions. Item 15, notice of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

**Bill 11: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003, Carried**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 9, Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I apologize to the House, we have to go back and deal with Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 11 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Allen.

**Bill 9: Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act, Carried**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 9, Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 9 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Bill 10: An Act To Amend The Hospital Insurance And Health And Social Services Administration Act, Carried**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 10 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS**

**Bill 11: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003, Carried**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003, be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 11 has had second reading and, in accordance, the bill stands referred to Committee of the Whole. Item 18, second

reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 2, Bill 3, committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6), 5-14(6), 6-14(6), 8-14(6) and 9-14(6), with Mr. Lafferty in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** I will call the committee to order. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I recommend we proceed with Bill 3 and committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6) and 5-14(6) and deal with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and if we conclude that, go into Bill 2.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. At this time, we will take a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

**Bill 3: Appropriation Act, 2003-2004**

**Department Of Resources, Wildlife And Economic Development**

**Detail**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** I will call the committee back to order. The committee is considering Bill 3, Appropriation Act, 2003-2004. The department in front of us is RWED. Does the Minister wish to bring in witnesses?

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

---Agreed

**Resource Management And Economic Development**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort in the witnesses.

The committee is considering page 11-17, resource management and economic management, operations expense, total operations expense, \$36.270 million. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under resource management and economic development, the section of the budget here, one of the areas that's been looked at and worked on for quite some time now is the Wildlife Act and there was talk of hopefully bringing that to conclusion and closing that chapter of legislation. We've heard though recently that we will not have that opportunity. In fact, the draft legislation is to be tabled. It is bringing disappointment to many around the North who have worked on that bill and I am sure from within the department. The Minister did state in committee about the fact that there were some groups who were looking to work on that

and wanted some input. I was speaking with individuals who've been involved in the Wildlife Act while I was home this past weekend and some comments made to me were the facts that they thought there was opportunity to grant inclusion if we could have used some extra forces or outside drafters in that area. I didn't get into a lot of detail with it, so I would like to know from the Minister the process that's being used for developing that legislation, has there been any extra horsepower put to it? What was the reason specifically for not being able to come forward with that legislation?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Chairman, on the development of the Wildlife Act, we in the government have been very aggressive in trying to move this forward. We have to work with the different aboriginal governments and their land claims and we have to work with them in the area of developing drafting instructions. That was the bottleneck that caused some problems. We aren't as far along as we had hoped to be. The problem is that there were some aboriginal governments that had representatives at the table who weren't coming to the table to develop drafting instructions, so we are slowed down in that regard. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Colleagues, at this time, I would like to direct your attention to the presence in the visitors' gallery of the Rotary exchange students from Alberta and B.C.

---Applause

Welcome. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Chairman, the Minister stated what might have held up some of the legislation. Has that been cleared up now? The instructions for drafting the legislation, are they proceeding now? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, I am happy to report that the differences of opinion have been cleared up in the last couple of months and there is a good working relationship with everybody, and there have been a number of different meetings the last while and things are going along fairly well now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am not sure that this is the right area in the book to bring this up, but I would like to touch a bit on manufacturing and it talks in here about diamond manufacturing. I would like to touch a bit on manufacturing as a whole in the NWT. I know in the Minister's opening comments that he referred to a manufacturing and advisory panel that's working on making a strategy for the NWT for growth in this important sector.

The area that I represent, Mr. Chairman, is indeed very interested in manufacturing and one that we are quite involved in. Manufacturing over the years has been a growth industry in the area I represent in Hay River. For awhile, it was growing at a considerable pace. I would say that there hasn't been a lot of growth in the last few years, and definitely I wouldn't want to say that that is entirely the government's fault but, at the same

time, we do know that without government support and government interest in the area, it is slow in growing.

Wherever the government throws its efforts and its priorities, it makes a distinct difference and we see results fairly quickly. I would like to ask the Minister to expand a little bit on this advisory panel that he says has submitted a report. In his opening comments, he says the advisory panel has submitted a report. I would like to get more information on this advisory panel's report and this advisory panel, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Business Advisory Panel was made up of the construction association, the manufacturing association and there were a couple of other members on this panel. They put together a manufacturing initiative and we are currently reviewing it and once we've done that in the next little while, we will be releasing it for the Members. On the manufacturing sector, in the BIP, there was mention of interim manufacturing and this is how it was dealt with, so we broke it out and set up this panel to give us ideas and direction on how to proceed. So that is what we are doing at this stage. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister mentions the NWT Construction Association or the manufacturing association, but I would like to know who the members were on this panel, if I could. Were they just the presidents of these associations or how broad an area of the NWT did this panel cover? How many members were on the panel? I would like to have more clarification on that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Business Advisory Panel was made up of representatives of the construction association and manufacturing. The names were Bill Aho, Don Worrall, Adrian Bell, Bob Doherty, Dan Patterson and Deputy Minister Bob McLeod was involved as well as the ADM, Doug Doan, and another official. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in preparing this report, did this panel go around and encourage input from people or companies that are involved in manufacturing across the North, or was it a situation where if you are not a member of the NWT Construction Association or the NWT Manufacturers' Association, were different companies involved in manufacturing across the NWT contacted and given the opportunity to have input into this report? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, this Business Advisory Panel has put together the draft manufacturing policy and we are currently reviewing it. Our intention is, once we finesse it, to put it out for consultation, so people who are not in the manufacturing or construction association would have their own input into it and develop the policy as such. So there will be opportunity for input from other people who are not involved with these associations. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, one doesn't have to look very far through the Department of RWED when we are looking at dollars that have been expended to promote a certain industry, whether it's the diamond industry, the oil and gas industry, as I said before, any industry that the government takes an interest in promoting and building. We often see huge dollars expended, even in strategies that we want to put out. A good example of that, Mr. Chairman, is the amount of money that was allocated from this government towards an energy strategy. I don't know, I guess it's still up in the air to decide whether we are going to get a good bang for our dollars in looking at an energy strategy, but manufacturing is an area that has proven to be a viable industry, one that has potential for huge growth and one that could be alive and well and growing in the Territories. I would like to know how much money is this government putting towards trying to promote manufacturing in the NWT? How much money is there? I don't see any dollars attached to this.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Minister.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are very much in favour of looking at the manufacturing sector. I think there is opportunity and potential here in the NWT to further it. There are examples of that already in some of the communities. I know in some communities, if the opportunity is there, they will pursue that as well. We have an interim manufacturing directive and we already have some financial resources in that pocket of dollars to make available for manufacturing development in the North. We are very aggressively pursuing this manufacturing policy that is in draft form. Once that is developed and with the input we are hoping to get, it would give us an opportunity to further identify the resources that would be required to further enhance this sector. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I was wondering, now that the report is in and the Minister is saying there will be opportunity for further input from different groups, I guess there are a number of questions that come to mind as to how aggressively we are pursuing this. Is there a panel, a committee, a group that are dedicated strictly to looking at manufacturing and what can be done to promote the growth? Is this a paid panel or are they just a group of deputy ministers and a few representatives from different associations forming some panel to look at it when they have time or are we truly having a dedicated effort here by certain individuals fully dedicated to this? Do we have the resources identified to really go after this industry and how are we going to go about ensuring that different sectors have input into this strategy? Are we going to make sure we touch base with every company or every business that's involved or interested in manufacturing? Certainly we should know which companies are in the manufacturing business, if they have the capabilities or are interested in growth in that area. Are we going to be making a concerted effort to make sure we give these companies and groups full access and full participation in promoting a strategy that's going to really be profitable as far as growth in the country? I would hope that we would, but I would like to have the Minister comment on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** The intention of RWED is to do exactly what the Member is saying, attempting to do it anyway, and that is to put a lot of emphasis and drive behind this initiative. The NWT Manufacturers' Association is there already which we helped fund to have this organization in place. The business advisory panel that has put together this draft manufacturing policy is still intact. The representative that I mentioned earlier is still there. They have regular meetings. We cover travel and expenses for whenever they meet. The intention is to keep this panel intact as we go through the development of this manufacturing policy. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. We are on page 11-17, resource management and economic development, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't pursue this much further, but I would like to know exactly what kind of dollars we are expending or have earmarked to pursue this very important sector in our economy. When we say we are going to try to see what we can do as far as making it grow and setting it up to be a viable growth industry, do we have dollars attached to this panel that they can use to promote this industry? Do we have a sum of money or is it just wrapped up in a little bit of one department whenever someone can put a little bit of time into it, or do we really have some dollars? To try to get an energy strategy going, we put \$2 million towards it. We know there are dollars there and we put someone in charge of doing just that. What are we doing for the manufacturing industry?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** We are funding this initiative through existing dollars with the investment and economic analysis, the pot of dollars that we have in resource management and economic development. Also, there are existing dollars available to help the different projects through different means through our funding arrangements, as well as through the Dev Corp. As for identifying a pot of dollars to make this initiative go, we would like to have this policy developed and then from there, we would determine what exactly is required. At the present time, there are sufficient dollars in our existing pots to do what we have to do. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to ask if there is any possibility of seeing the advisory panel's report on manufacturing to get an idea of timelines that the department is looking at between now and when they think they might be prepared to come forward with a strategy for manufacturing in the NWT. Are we looking at a year or two years? What kind of timelines are we looking at?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** As I indicated to the Member, the draft report is in, we are reviewing it right now, but we will be releasing it fairly shortly within the next two weeks. As for the full implementation, once the draft policy is reviewed and released, we would like to go through some consultation that would allow some time for input. We would like to see it ready for implementation in June. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Just one last question on this and that is what type of an advisory are they going to be putting out to inform businesses? Is it going to be personal contacts, through phone, through newspapers? Is it going to be through pamphlets put out? How is the government going to approach getting input from residents or different businesses if they are interested in the manufacturing sector? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Part of the initiative here is developing a communication plan. We anticipate that the two associations, the construction and manufacturing, will probably use existing communications to inform their members. For others, we will be doing it as RWED. So we will be using all the different mediums. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Page 11-17, resource management and economic development, operations expense, total operations expense, \$36.270 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Page 11-19, resource management and economic development, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, \$365,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:**

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Page 11-23, total contributions, \$11.653 million. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just would like clarification on the diamond industry funding on page 11-21 where it shows \$150,000 for the last two fiscal years, but we see \$20,000 this year. So I would like some information on what this program was about and why the reduction this year. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you. There is a reduction because the different businesses that have developed and are in position now are expanding, they have joined with bigger partners and operators. The amount of dollars isn't really required. What we've done is we used \$130,000 of the contribution funds to create the position of a diamond certification officer. So, that is the reason for that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So, am I to understand that position does not exist anymore? Also can I get information as to what were the criteria to qualify for funding under this program? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** I will start with the criteria for this funding. The criterion is to fund anything that would help in the diamond industry, right from travel assistance to financial assistance of any sort. There is a criterion that the department uses, but it's basically to assist the diamond industry. The

\$130,000 that was taken out, we've created this diamond certification officer in the department. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** In other words, the money has moved into the operation part of the government?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, \$130,000 from this fund has moved into salaries and O and M.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you. Page 11-23, total contributions at \$11.653 million. Total grants and contributions \$12.018 million. Do you have a question? Page 11-25, forest management, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I couldn't help but note that we have the same amount of money in the budget this year as far as suppression. I don't know what the circumstances are across the whole Territories, but knowing that around this area at least and I believe south of the lake, the snowfall has been significantly lower this year than what is normal and we have had a couple of dry years, is there a concern that we could be looking at significant extra expenditures this year?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you. In this category, this is a whole new figure and the arrangement we have with FMBS is that if we spend the money according to the criteria and it exceeds this amount, then we have to go back to FMBS for additional dollars. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, could the Minister advise the House if the figures we see in this budget for dealing with forest fires are close to, say, what has been spent over the past 10 years on average. So, is this close to a 10-year average or is it above or below it?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Chairman, for the last 10 years, the way we fight fire has changed. Ten years ago we used to fight all fires and we had the budget for it and in the last couple of years, we fight fires if there is a risk factor so the criteria has changed for the amount of money that we used to identify it. This whole new figure has changed quite substantially so the numbers have changed. We have the numbers here that show exactly, right from 1975 to 2002, the number of fires, the area burned, all fires, the fires we've fought, the fires we didn't fight. The average in all years is about 300 fires that would be fought; 199. So, we have those kind of numbers here. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On another issue -- I haven't finished with this budget area -- I know that there was some issue a while ago with the extension of the contract for air tankers and I know I have been pressing the Minister to do an RFP as soon as possible on that. I know the Minister had discussed at one point, because we had gotten to the point

where we've gone past the deadline for the termination of one of the contracts. The Minister suggested that it was too late to go to an RFP right away but he could look at doing a short term extension in issuing an RFP to see what sort of prices we could get from Northern operators to deliver air tankers in a fairly short period of time. Why did the Minister choose to go with the five-year extension instead of the one or two-year extension?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** In this regard, we looked at the different scenarios and I guess the main point here was the dollar amount that we are going to be saving. We extended it for the two years with the current prices and we'll go to a form of RFP at some point down the line, not knowing what we are going to end up with. The five-year term that we currently settled on, even though it was five years with the ability of whoever is interested in it to start getting ready now and have something in place in the third year who are developing the RFP. The five year shows that there are going to be some savings after that five years. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one thing that needs to be noted here, is that the Minister has now made a public commitment that in the third year there will be documents put out so that a public request for proposals may be undertaken and that there will be an opportunity for others to bid on it. I would like to ask the Minister, normally when it comes time to get government services or to have something built, it's quite typical for us if we want the best price to go to tender. How can the Minister say that we get the better price by negotiating a sole sourced contract instead of going to tender? How do you know what is going to come in from the competitors?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Just to make a point here on the extent of commitment we have on this go round, we've written to all the different charter companies and different airline companies about our intention to go to RFP in the third year. To respond to that, we know the base prices that we were engaged in and, with a negotiated price, we are able to negotiate a lesser price, so we know that through negotiations we were able to get a lower price than we had previously. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, when the government was looking at waiving the business incentive policy on the North Slave Correctional Facility, they said that was in order to get lower prices too. It didn't work. It didn't get us any lower prices. It really is mind boggling to believe that without going out to ask a competitor or two or three, what sort of price they might deliver a service for, how you could possibly say that you're getting the best price? If we knew we could always negotiate the best price, then why doesn't the government negotiate every single contract?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with this negotiated contract with Buffalo, we know we have lower prices from the previous contract. It may not be

the best price, but at least it's lower. So we know that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that we've got lower prices because, as the Minister himself said, we don't know that this is as low as we could have got. That, I think, remains the problem in why I thought we should, if anything, do a shorter-term extension for a year or two and then go to RFP because it hasn't helped us to make sure that we know what we're getting. I think that's it for questions, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Chair will recognize Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, yesterday at the end of the day I asked the Minister or his staff to read into Committee of the Whole for public record, the number of employees in the South Slave. If the Minister could continue that? Mr. Chairman, what I'm trying to demonstrate here is trying to paint a picture. We have policies of this government, like harmonization, which have a negative impact on the smaller, non-tax-based communities. We have policies within Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and Education, Culture and Employment to try to encourage people to go to work. But if they don't have an option, what these policies do is treat people without integrity, respect and it's forcing people to stop using income support, it's forcing people to move to regional centres and territorial centres for employment opportunities. It's driving people away from our communities, their cultures, their land base. It's taking money away from their communities, because the way this government operates it's based on per capita. It will affect the representation in this House and the constitutionally-protected representation by population. If we don't create an economic base in the communities that's the result. These policies of this government are pushing people in that direction.

Now I want to demonstrate by the Minister or his staff reading into the record for the public how many employees of this government for this department work in our communities. Yesterday he mentioned a number of positions. In the communities I represent, so far he's mentioned 15 positions; 13 of those are seasonal. So if I could ask the Minister to continue with explaining where the positions are in the Northwest Territories. He started off with the South Slave, maybe he could move to the Deh Cho, Sahtu, Mackenzie-Delta, North Slave, et cetera. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. I think that the department did supply a hard copy to every member. Were you asking to have that entire list read out?

**MR. NITAH:** (Microphone turned off)

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Antoine. Mr. Nitah, the information was requested yesterday and was supplied by hard copy. I guess I would just ask to what end are you requesting to have the entire list read? Thank you. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I imagine past governments and past Members have asked for this information and received hard copies. The public never sees it, it's never written into the record. I just want to demonstrate where government employees are and how

government policies affect the communities. If we're going to have the income support program and use that program to encourage people to go to work, then let's give them the option in the communities. What I'm trying to demonstrate here is that there is no option in most of these communities. We spend millions of dollars in this department on creating employment and business opportunities, but where are we spending the money? We're encouraging them to leave the community and go work in camps, but we don't create an economic base in the community. I'm just trying to demonstrate here by the Minister reading for the public where the government jobs are and where the social states are, and how one policy of one department affects another department. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The information has been tabled, and I guess it is a fairly extensive list. I guess I would ask does the committee feel that it's in the best interest of the committee to have that whole list? Does the committee agree that that's...Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe just reading out the total numbers in each community would be acceptable. As I see the list here, they have it broken down by community that the jobs are in. So I think that's something that can be done. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. I guess I would ask Mr. Nitah if the document was formally tabled then it's a public document. Would that suffice? Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Mr. Chairman, I'm trying to get my colleagues and the people in the Northwest Territories to see where the jobs are. We know it but we don't seem to see it. We don't feel it. I'm trying to get us to feel it, maybe through a little bit of pain that might help. A little bit of patience here, maybe we could start feeling it. If we start feeling it, we'll do something about it instead of just giving lip service year after year, Assembly after Assembly.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. I guess the Member has the right to ask questions and to use up his 10 minutes. I will put it to the Minister to respond.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you. I'm not going to read out every single person where they are, because there are 486 of them. So what I'm going to do is compromise with my colleague, and say just the number in each community and maybe it might be faster.

In the North Slave region, Yellowknife regional you have 21 full time, 14 seasonal, two casual, for 37; the other one in the North Slave, Rae-Edzo has four full time and three seasonal, for seven, for a total of 44 in the North Slave region.

In the Fort Smith region, full time there are 47 in Fort Smith, seven seasonal, five casual. In Hay River there are 19 full-time, seven seasonal, one casual. In Fort Resolution you have two full time, 13 seasonal, for 15. Lutselk'e you have one full time. The total in that region is 102.

In the Fort Simpson region, you have Fort Simpson, 21 full-time, one part-time, 10 seasonal, four casual, for 36. Fort Liard we have three full-time, 14 seasonal, for 17. Wrigley we have five seasonal; Trout Lake we have six seasonal; Fort Providence is four full-time; the total is 68 in the Fort Simpson region.

In the Inuvik region, in Norman Wells there are 24 full time, two seasonal and one casual; Tulita, one full time; Fort Good Hope there are no positions; Deline there is one full time; Colville Lake, no positions; Inuvik, 26 full time, 17 seasonal, three casual; Aklavik, two full time; Fort McPherson, one full time, seven seasonal for a total of eight. There is no position in Tsiigehtchic. In Tuktoyaktuk there is one full time; Sachs Harbour there is no position; Holman, one full time; Paulatuk, one full time; for a total of 88.

For the Yellowknife corporate here in headquarters, there are 159 full-time, two part-time, 23 seasonal, for a total of 184. So the total is 486. I hope that is sufficient. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would argue that that clearly paints a picture where the government jobs are and where the government benefits are. This tells me that we are managing a welfare state in those communities. This tells me that all the dollars and promotional dollars that we give to the Department of RWED, all the business planning that they do, the business promotion, the promotion of diamonds, the promotion of oil and gas, et cetera, et cetera, is not being spent in those communities. People can't utilize those dollars in those communities if they don't have government people to deliver them. We know we have development corporations, but you have one or two staff who are totally overworked. You see a high turnover in those positions because of that problem. The way I see it, we're spinning our wheels here. We spend a lot of dollars on business opportunities and business promotion, tourism, the fur industry and the fishing industry, on the renewable and non-renewable sides. But if we're not providing people at the community level to understand these programs and services and to assist in delivering these programs and services, what are we doing it for?

In Fort Resolution they used to have a sawmill there. Under the NWT Development Corporation, that provided jobs. That provided an option other than income support. But we took that back because it wasn't making money for the corporation. It was badly managed by the government. There was assistance and recommendations and advice given by the communities, but the government decided not to listen. Under the mandate of the NWT Development Corporation, they don't go into these businesses to make a profit. They go into there to create employment. But that mandate obviously was forgotten when they took the sawmill away.

So I ask the Minister what is he planning to do in this fiscal year to ensure that there are people on the ground to help deliver the programs and services, and maybe create some employment in all those communities that he's mentioned, and help to create an economic base at the community level so that we are not just a social state for this government to manage from a regional and central location. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Chairman, aside from the list that I read out previously -- 486 positions -- there are other positions that are not on our list because they are contract crews, like the fire contract crews that some of the bands and some of the community corporations have been able to negotiate with us.

There are a number of them. We also have a number of different community transfer initiatives: the economic development officer positions that we've negotiated with quite a number of the communities. We intend to look at those as well. I think that gives communities some community empowerment. Community governments have asked for EDO positions, and we're trying to comply with that. We'll continue to do that. That gives resources to the smaller communities to have their own people hired or an expert hired to help them out. We're going to be promoting the contributions that are available to help enhance the smaller communities as well. So the intention this year is to be aggressive in this area. We know there are requirements in our smaller communities. Even though we have programs and services, we want to make sure that these programs and services are delivered to smaller communities where it's required. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. On page 11-25, forest management, operations expense, total operations expense, \$30.075 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 11-27, forest management, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, \$100,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total grants and contributions, \$100,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 11-28, information item, active positions.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We'll go on to 11-29, information item, lease commitments - infrastructure.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Page 11-30, fur marketing service revolving fund, information item.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Detail of work performed on behalf of others, 11-31.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** On to 11-34, detail of work performed on behalf of others, total department, \$3.235.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We'll go back to page 11-7, department summary, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operations expense, total operations expense, \$85.509 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### **Resource Management And Economic Development**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** We'll move on to capital acquisition, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, cap 23 to cap 25, total resource management and economic development, \$1.385 million. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Canol History Park. We have over a number of years \$2.2 million going into the park. Is that a territorial park or is that partly federal, are we getting any funds through the federal government for that?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** The Canol Park, I understand, was negotiated through the Sahtu Dene/Metis land claims. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In part of that negotiation, was there a development plan put in place?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, there was a park development plan put in place, as well. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So the money identified in this document going into future years, this year it is planned for \$100,000; in previous years it was \$547,000 and it goes on totaling \$2.2 million. That was identified and costed out as part of that plan. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, the claim was approved in 1995, and this was part of the negotiations. The plan itself complies with the agreement through the claims. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Is there any federal money offsetting this expenditure, or is it all territorial government funds? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** It's all territorial money.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I'd like to know if the Minister could provide us with statistical information concerning this particular park. What are the numbers of people that utilize this park?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** This park hasn't been built yet so it's hard to determine. I know there are different individuals who have used this area in the past. The only records that we could probably get would probably be from different individuals who followed this trail. They register through the RCMP, so we don't have the numbers. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, through our committee, I believe the number is fairly low. I think it's in the single digit numbers. I think it was 23 last year. I'm just wondering if there's a demand for this park and the justification of the budget that's allocated for the creation of this park. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** This Canol Historic Park is an historical area. In the '40s there was a pipeline built to take oil from Norman Wells across the mountains to the Yukon to Alaska during the Second World War. So this is a very historical area. It's through the mountains. I guess it's very awesome country there when you walk through the mountains there. The old Canol Trail has deteriorated and in some cases there are erosions over in the canyon area, so we need to build it. At this point in time, people have to go at their own risk to try to traverse it, but it's apparently a very beautiful area of the Northwest Territories. I think that if we invest our dollars into it and we advertise it, I think there are many people who would have an opportunity to hike this trail. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I understand it's an historical park and that we're planning to spend a lot of dollars in that area. Do we have any projection as to the number of people that might be utilizing this, and any kind of revenues that we could project in this area? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Chairman, it's a territorial park and it has very important historical significance. Not only that, but it will make a great tourist attraction. We don't know what kind of numbers we're going to get. The intention here is not the

amount of money we're going to make out of it, but at least it will attract tourists to come to that park. In terms of tourists coming to that part of the country, they will then spend their dollars in the surrounding communities to generate revenue that way. So I don't know the spin-off. Once we build it and once we advertise it, we anticipate that the whole tourism industry will be enhanced by that because people are looking for destinations and if we advertise it through the trade shows and through the trade business, I think it will become a destination. That way we will generate revenue for the surrounding economy. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I think that's a good idea. I do support tourism. I like his answer where he says we will promote it at trade shows, et cetera, et cetera. Why aren't we doing that for other territorial parks and other communities at this point in time, Mr. Chairman? It seems that the promotional dollars for tourism that we spend in the Northwest Territories are benefiting only a few communities and not the entire Northwest Territories. Can we develop that plan so it would be a blanket tourism for all our communities and all the regions? Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Chairman, I think that's a very good suggestion. I also would like to see a very well thought out tourism strategy, and the department has been developing such a strategy. Currently the advertising for the other parks in the North is done through the Arctic Tourism Association and through RWED staff who are involved in this area as well. So we're trying to do that, but we're working on a more comprehensive strategy for tourism. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The Chair will recognize Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have a couple of questions regarding some of the capital. In the area around the community of Enterprise, they've asked on a number of occasions and raised issue with some of the initiatives. I'd like to know what the plans are for development and life of the 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel Campground, information border crossing or whatever it's called.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Chairman, on the 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel Territorial Park that's there, RWED did an options paper looking at how we could approach it and took it to Cabinet. Cabinet directed that they would take the option of keeping that 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel Territorial Park in place, and renovating it and establishing it; keep it there as an establishment. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, this has been an issue that has been ongoing for some time, and many different communities have entered the arena stating their positions. I would like to know if the Minister

could tell me what kind of consultation process was involved and what communities were consulted.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** The staff of the South Slave region were taking the role in doing the consultation. But the main instrument was through meetings and talking to people. We also wrote letters to all the different communities south of the lake, and we received a response from all of them. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to hear that the Minister and his department took the initiative to consult all the communities south of the lake. Could we get copies of those responses, to be able to measure what the position of the different communities were?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, we'll provide the Member with the information; the letters and the correspondence that we have on that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The community of Enterprise has raised concern with this issue many times over the last couple of years, and the department has always indicated that they're willing to consult with them. I wonder if the department could give me some times and some dates that they have gone in and what the outcomes were of the meetings that they had with the community of Enterprise regarding the border campground.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, we would like to have the opportunity to compile that information and provide it to the Member. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, also there was an issue over the awarding of a contract in Twin Falls for what I believe was an observation building. There was some issue raised, as many people felt it was going to be used as a tourist information booth. Could I ask the Minister what was the outcome of that whole situation? Is that going to proceed? Are we going to see a building being constructed in Twin Falls, or has that gone by the wayside? What is going on there? What is the status?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Chairman, this is on the Escarpment Creek, Twin Falls Territorial Park where there was a big concern raised by the community of Enterprise in regards to the awarding of a contract to do the work that was required there.

The work was stopped last year to try to deal with that with the community of Enterprise. The amount of dollars to do the work is in the current year, but it's going to be a carryover. We're hoping that we do the work this coming summer. So it doesn't show as new dollars, but it is a carryover. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, it was my understanding that Escarpment Creek Campground was to be closed, or was closed for some period of time, that it wasn't considered to be safe. For some reason, the campground was opened up again. I never did find out what resulted in being declared unsafe. What changed in that campground to allow it to open up?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** My understanding of this situation with Escarpment Creek was that it was not open during the construction that was going on around there. It was deemed to be not safe while there was work going on. Once the construction was finished, I understand it was safe to use it. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Also maybe we could get some clarification on why the Twin Falls observation building was not tendered. Why was it directly awarded to a Yellowknife company when it's not in the Yellowknife area?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** From my information, I thought it was tendered, so I have to double check with the department.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you. Mr. Chairman, maybe then the Minister could also check to see where it was advertised. My information is that it wasn't advertised in and around the community of Enterprise, and it has upset a lot of people.

My next question is regarding what is the position of this department in terms of tourism and support for tourism information centres or facilities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** On the first item, my information is that we tendered that because we don't normally negotiate anything from outside of the communities. So I'd like to reply to that concern right now.

In regards to funding of community tourism centres, we don't fund community tourism information centres. It was never done in the past. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, then maybe again the Minister could clarify for me. The office at the NWT/Alberta border currently acts as an information centre, an information booth. We supply attendants there for the whole summer season. We have contracts. We provide them with housing. What is that designation if that's not an information centre or booth or building?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** The designation of the 60<sup>th</sup> Parallel Territorial Park is a territorial information centre. It provides information for the whole territory for rubber-tire visitors coming into the country. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, the tourist information booth that the community of Enterprise is trying to set up also caters to the rubber-tire tourists, or whatever the Minister calls them. It's the same kind of set-up, except one is community driven. Maybe the Minister could explain to me what is the difference? How does one get classified as a territorial facility if it's providing information and we have another community-driven initiative that doesn't get recognized at all?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** As I indicated earlier, there was an options paper that went to Cabinet, and it was Cabinet direction to keep this territorial information centre at the border. We haven't been funding any community tourism information booths. There are a number of them throughout the North in the small communities, and more or less they do it on their own. Funding-wise, we haven't identified any dollars within our budget this year. We're told not to put any new initiatives in our budget this year, to try to keep the costs of operating government down. So that's the reason we haven't identified anything for community information booths. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. We're on capital acquisition plan for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, I also wanted to ask some questions regarding the Hook Lake recovery herd that we have in the Fort Resolution area. Is there any infrastructure located in that whole initiative?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** On the Hook Lake recovery, the program is still in place. We intend to keep it in place. We are waiting for the federal government to decide what they are going to do with the different diseased herds in the park. Pending that, we have to look at options for what we are going to do with this herd, whether we release them into an area where it's disease free, maybe move them into the buffalo sanctuary in Fort Providence, but we have to work with all the

communities. We have to work with the communities in Fort Res. I don't know whether the honourable Member wants buffalo in his backyard, but they are tame ones. There are options there and we have to work with the community of Fort Resolution. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister kind of went into the direction that I was planning on asking questions on. I wanted to know if there was going to be any consideration to invest any more money into facilities and maintenance on the Hook Lake herd. My concern is where are we going with that whole initiative? I don't know what we are we waiting for the federal government for. Where are we planning to put this? Are we planning to build another holding area? It's not clear to me by his answer. I realize the Minister has indicated that they are a tame herd. I don't know if we want them brought over to Fort Providence. I think there would be some concern, certainly if they are tame and are going to be wandering around the community. We already have problems in that area.

If the Minister could be a little more specific and give me some direction as to where the herd will go. Are we looking at spending more money for a holding facility? It's obvious that we can't release them back into the general area that they were taken from. I don't believe they are generating any revenue and the herd, I am assuming, is still growing yet we haven't identified what the end result is going to be, what further investment it's going to require, what further facilities we are going to need. So if the Minister could be a little more specific.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** We are not in a position now to consider building any more new infrastructure for the buffalo herd from the Hook Lake Bison Recovery Program. We only have money in the O and M to continue what we are doing in Fort Resolution. We have been waiting for about five years now for the federal government to decide what they are going to do with the diseased herd in the Fort Smith area. Up until now, they have only been doing studies and we cannot continue to do what we are doing forever. So we need to work with the community of Fort Resolution to see what they want to do. At this point in time, there is no concrete plan of action on which way to go. We have been exploring possibilities of what might be coming up in our discussion as we were in Fort Resolution. So there is no concrete alternative other than what we are doing. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** I have been trying to follow the way calculations are done regarding the use of campgrounds. We have several facilities in my riding, quite a few of them actually, and I see a lot of use of these facilities. For the most part, I would consider them tourist or out-of-town visitors. At the same time, we see other facilities that are considered high use. If you go into some of the campgrounds around Yellowknife, there are a lot of resident people using them. I am not trying to state one is better than the other, but in terms of territorial investment, I would consider maybe some of these should be regarded as community campgrounds rather than territorial campgrounds. I am just wondering if this department tracks the people who utilize these facilities, if they track them and

differentiate between community use and out-of-town use or tourist use.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, we track the number of people who use our campgrounds. We have information. We have been tracking for the past five years, so we have numbers to show that. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. We are on cap 25, total resource management and economic development, \$1.385 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Forest management, total forest management, \$1.550 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Total department, \$2.935 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the committee agree that that concludes the review of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing. Mr. McLeod.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** There is a motion on the floor that is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

As we had previously agreed, does the committee agree to deal with Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

## **Bill 2: An Act To Amend The Territorial Parks Act**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the Minister responsible for Bill 2 have any opening remarks? Mr. Antoine.

### **Minister's Opening Comments**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, brings the legislation in line with the spirit, intent, goals and objectives of the protected areas strategy. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic

Development for its valuable comments and insights on these proposed amendments.

This bill changes the classification and purposes of the territorial parks and the consultation required before a territorial park can be established.

The new classifications are:

- cultural conservation area, this is a new class of park developed to meet the first goal of the protected areas strategy, which is to protect the special natural and cultural areas within each eco-region of the Northwest Territories;
- wilderness preserves, this is also a new class of park developed to meet the second goal of the protected areas strategy, which is to protect representative core areas such as mountain ranges or watersheds within each eco-region of the Northwest Territories;
- heritage parks, previously known as historic parks;
- natural environment parks – previously known as natural environment recreation parks;
- recreation parks – previously called outdoor recreation parks; and,
- wayside parks.

The amendments make minor changes to the definition and development statements which describe the park classifications. With respect to wilderness conservation areas, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development has carefully considered the concerns raised during the public review of Bill 2 regarding prohibiting industrial activities. We all agree that we want and need to protect our wilderness areas, particularly the core representative areas as described in the NWT protected areas strategy. We want to ensure we provide an appropriate degree of certainty in prohibiting industrial activity in wilderness conservation areas as requested by the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, members of the public and our protected area strategy partners. At the appropriate time, Mr. Chairman, I will move a motion to amend clause 3 of the bill to address the concerns raised and to better reflect the primary purpose of this bill.

As I stated earlier, this bill strengthens the consultation requirements for the establishment of a territorial park. People or groups living in or near the proposed park or anyone who may be affected by it must be consulted before a park is established or repealed or park boundaries are changed.

I look forward to hearing Members' comments on this bill. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The Chair will call on the chair of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development for comments. Mr. Roland.

### **Standing Committee On Governance And Economic Development Comments**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development is pleased to report on Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act. The committee conducted public reviews of the Bill on January 22, 2003 and February 20, 2003. Committee members would like to thank the NWT chapter of the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society and the Northwest Territories Metis Nation for their submissions.

Bill 2 includes a number of changes to the classifications and purposes of territorial parks. Two important new categories of parks are added: cultural conservation areas and wilderness conservation areas. The category of "historic park" is replaced by the broader category "heritage park", and "community parks" will no longer exist as a separate classification. The bill also updates the processes for establishing parks, and adds a new definition of "motor vehicles".

During the public review of the bill, the Minister and his staff assured Members that the bill is not intended to change the way people currently use the different parks today, and will not affect aboriginal hunting rights. Members were pleased to see that many of the amendments will help the GNWT to fulfill its responsibilities under the protected areas strategy.

The Minister also assured the committee, in a letter dated February 10, 2003, that the GNWT will adhere to commitments made under the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement. Specifically, he assured us that the bill will not impact on these agreements, and that the GNWT is continuing to work to fulfill its obligations in the Campbell Hills/Lake and Canol Trail/Dodo Canyon protected area agreements.

Mr. Chairman, while the committee is generally supportive of the Minister's efforts to update the Territorial Parks Act and to bring it in line with the protected areas strategy, Members did have some concerns with the bill. During clause-by-clause review of the bill with the Minister, the committee passed motions for four amendments, which Members had carefully considered and believed would improve the bill. The Minister only concurred with one of these motions. The details of each of these amendments will be discussed below. Three amendments of a minor and technical nature requested by the Minister were also agreed to during the committee review.

#### **Consultation Process**

One of the effects of the bill will be to update the consultation process to establish a park. The amendments will require the Minister to consult with affected bodies including aboriginal governments and organizations, boards or similar bodies established under land claims agreements, and municipal councils. Members agreed these changes were a positive step, but felt that the same consultation process should also be required where the Minister is proposing to change the boundaries of a park, or to revoke a park designation. During the clause-by-clause review of the bill, the committee and the Minister agreed to an amendment to address this issue.

#### **Process For Establishing Heritage Parks**

The bill would allow the Minister to establish heritage parks and wayside parks on his or her own initiative by regulation. All other categories of parks would require a recommendation of the Legislative Assembly before the Minister could proceed with regulations to establish a park.

It is the committee's position that a recommendation of the Legislative Assembly should also be required in the case of heritage parks. The committee did pass a motion to amend the bill to this effect, and were disappointed that the Minister did not concur.

The Minister's reasoning has been, as Members understand it, that heritage parks will generally be a local matter between a community and the Minister, and not of interest to the Northwest Territories as a whole to an extent that would warrant consideration by the Legislative Assembly. A requirement for a recommendation of the Legislative Assembly could be, in the Minister's words, "too cumbersome and difficult". The Minister's staff also pointed out that Legislative Assembly approval is not required for historic parks under the existing act.

Members respectfully disagree with the Minister's position. Just because a process has been done one way in the past does not mean there is no need to revisit whether it still makes sense. The bill provides that heritage parks are intended to preserve and protect significant cultural or historical natural areas, physical features or built environments. This is broader than the existing classification of "historic parks", which only provides for the designation and commemoration of historic and archaeological sites and their lands. Furthermore, the development of historic parks under the existing act is limited to the measures required to designate, commemorate and explain historic and archaeological lands while ensuring their protection. In contrast, Bill 2 would not only allow heritage parks to be developed to provide service infrastructure and facilities for interpretation and recreation, but would also permit a business or commercial enterprise to provide services and activities compatible with and related to the park.

Mr. Chairman, there are many sites that could fit within the new "heritage park" classification. There is also a much broader range of development that would be acceptable with these amendments.

Currently there is only one historic park in the NWT, the Fort Smith Mission Historic Park, which will become a heritage park pursuant to this bill, but there may well be more heritage parks in the future.

The development of heritage parks could result in significant costs to the GNWT. Further, there are many sites and landmarks that are meaningful for historic and cultural reasons to people throughout the NWT, and not just to the people who happen to be living in the nearest community. For these reasons, Members believe that heritage parks are of interest to the territory as a whole, and should require the approval of the Legislative Assembly.

#### **Definition Of Motor Vehicles**

The Territorial Parks Act currently prohibits people from operating a motor vehicle, snowmobile or motorcycle in a park outside of designated areas. Concerns have been raised that the existing wording is not broad enough to include other types of vehicles, in particular "four-wheelers", which can be damaging and disruptive to park environments. It is the committee's understanding that the new definition of "motor vehicles" contained in Bill 2 is intended to address these concerns.

The committee believes, however, that the proposed new definition of "motor vehicles" goes too far. The new definition would include motorized wheelchairs, which is not the case under the existing legislation, because the Motor Vehicles Act specifically excludes them. This means that a person using a motorized wheelchair or similar vehicle in a park could now be

charged with an offence under the act, and subjected to a fine and/or imprisonment.

The Minister and his staff suggested to the committee that this concern could be addressed through the discretion of parks officers in enforcing the legislation, and the use of signs in parks designating areas where motor vehicles can be used.

With respect, as a matter of principle, Members find it repugnant that under a territorial law a person with a physical disability could face penalties for simply enjoying a park. It may not even occur to a person visiting a park that their wheelchair or elders' scooter might be considered a motor vehicle, and that they would have to look for signs indicating whether they were in an area in which motor vehicles are permitted.

Members understood from the Minister's staff that explicitly excluding wheelchairs and similar vehicles from the act could be difficult, as new types of vehicles are becoming available all the time and the list may need to be changed fairly regularly.

In order to ensure the Minister could keep up to date on this issue without having to introduce further amendments to the act, Members passed a motion to amend the bill so that the Minister could exclude specific types of vehicles, such as motorized wheelchairs and elders' scooters, by regulation. Members were again disappointed the Minister did not concur with this motion, and instead repeated his position that the issue could be addressed by appropriate signage.

#### **Industrial Development In Wilderness Conservation Areas**

Members were very concerned to see that the bill provides that industrial development "may" be prohibited in wilderness conservation areas. It is the committee's position that there should be no discretion involved. Insofar as the GNWT has the jurisdiction to do so, it should prohibit industrial development in these parks. This is consistent with the protected areas strategy.

Members understand that there are limitations on the extent to which the GNWT has the jurisdiction to prohibit industrial development, which would make it unrealistic to change the Bill to simply say that industrial development "shall" be prohibited. For example, the federal government still has authority over subsurface rights for oil, gas and minerals. Members therefore passed a motion to amend the bill to provide that industrial development shall be prohibited to the extent the GNWT has the authority to do so.

The Minister did not concur with this motion and informed the committee he maintained that "the wilderness conservation areas may only be established if industrial activity can be prohibited in the area in accordance with the government's commitment with the protected areas strategy." He also indicated he would bring forward his own motion during Committee of the Whole review. Members are concerned that wording based on the Minister's position as he stated it to the committee may amount to legislating an excuse for the GNWT not to establish wilderness conservation areas, because it appears the GNWT would never be able to do so without formal assurances from the federal government that they would prohibit industrial development. Members believe that it is appropriate for NWT parks legislation to deal with the responsibilities and authorities of the GNWT, which someday will include subsurface rights and other industrial activities, and not to attempt to address actions the Government of Canada

may or may not take. Members did not hear from the Minister any convincing reason why he would not concur with the committee's motion on this issue.

#### **Bill 2 Review Process**

The committee feels it must inform the House that it was extremely dismayed by difficulties it encountered in completing its review of this bill. The committee wrote to the Minister on January 31, 2003 outlining the amendments it would be seeking to the bill, along with the reasons for those amendments, and asking the Minister whether he would consent to them. The committee did not receive a response to this letter until March 4, 2003 after it had already concluded its review of the bill and reported it back to the Legislative Assembly. Motions and countermotions for amendments proposed by the Minister were received by the committee only hours, and sometimes minutes, before scheduled public meetings. On one occasion, this caused a public review of the bill to be cancelled at the last minute.

As well, committee members were disappointed that the Minister appeared to make little effort to clearly justify and explain his positions or to understand the committee's reasons for proposing amendments, particularly on the issue of industrial development in wilderness conservation areas. This leads Members to wonder whether he took the concerns of the committee seriously. Members believe the amendments they proposed were uncontroversial and would only serve to improve the legislation. Members do not understand why the Minister concurred with only one of the amendments moved and continued to resist the other proposed changes. The committee hopes that in future Ministers and their staff will approach standing committee reviews of bills with open minds and a willingness to engage in dialogue about issues raised by the committee. If there is an expectation that standing committees will rubber stamp legislation for the sake of expediency or convenience, this expectation should not continue.

This concludes the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development's report on its review of Bill 2.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole, as amended and reprinted. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Would the Minister be wishing to bring in any witnesses? Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses in, please.

For the record, would you introduce your witnesses, please?

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Chairman, I have Bob McLeod, deputy minister of RWED to my left; to my right is Diane Buckland, legislative counsel; and, to my far right is Larry Adamson, he's manager of parks and protected areas strategy and tourism. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. We will go to general comments. Mr. Braden.

#### General Comments

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. One aspect of this kind of legislation is the ability to be able to take specific or specified lands out of the general pool, if you will, and restrict their access or their use for what the bill outlines is generally very good reasons. There is some balance that we always want to be mindful of here and that is where an area may be potentially useful for other purposes, potentially in the future. Obviously that's where, for instance, an area might have some economic value in terms of transportation or resources, this kind of thing. So while I am a great fan and supporter of designating our lands and areas for the variety of purposes that are outlined here, I also want to be mindful that we are not locking up so much of our lands and resources that we could potentially be restricting ourselves or future generations from opportunities or potentials that they have. To take that down to a general question, does this act generally make it easier now to create parks and to restrict the use of lands? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the way we were dealing with parks before the different categories, they will remain the same in terms of how they are created. The intention with this bill is to have the territorial parks, different categories and different classifications in line with the protected areas strategy. The amendments will reflect that and that's the intent of this bill. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. The Chair will recognize Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to make a very short comment. I believe everything I have observed about the review of this bill has already been covered by this committee's report, Mr. Chairman, but I have to say as a member of the committee that had engaged in the public review process, this review has been extraordinarily uncooperative between the government and this side of the House. I do believe this is a good bill. It's a bill that needs to come and it deals with good news items, but the responses the Minister has provided every step of the way when the committee and its Members tried to improve the bill and came up with really good suggestions, we continually get no for an answer and when we asked for a rationale, we were not provided with any rationale that could respond to the good suggestions the committee made. I want to put it on record that this would have been good work that would have been good news all around. There should have been better cooperation between the Minister and the committee. I wanted to put that on record. Where the opportunities arise, I am going to speak on the motion to amend sections. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you. General comments.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Clause by clause.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause by clause?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Are we ready to go clause by clause? Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Clause By Clause

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 3. Minister Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak on this one here. I would like to speak to the motion to amend clause 3 relating to the prohibition of industrial activity in the wilderness conservation area. As you know, I indicated to the honourable Member earlier on that this is to try to comply with the protected areas strategy. We worked with the federal government, the aboriginal governments and the communities to come up with this protected areas strategy and to try to get the Territorial parks in line with it, not only in the interest of the territorial government, but the type of agreement we've reached in coming to this protected areas strategy with other partners has to be taken into consideration. Maybe the Members of this Legislative Assembly should be aware that this is where the perceived problem may be coming from, but I would like to speak to the motion to amend clause 3 relating to the prohibition of industrial activity in the wilderness conservation areas. This amendment provides the wording that will better reflect the main primary purpose of the proposed amendments to the Territorial Parks Act by...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** A point of order has been called. Mr. Dent.

#### Point Of Order

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, the Minister said that he was going to speak to the motion, but there is no motion on the floor.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. We are on clause 3. Does the Minister have a motion that he wishes to introduce? Mr. Minister.

**Committee Motion 5-14(6) To Amend Clause 3 of Bill 2: An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, Defeated**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Sorry about that. I would like to apologize. I would like to make a motion that clause 3 of Bill 2 be amended by:

(a) adding “, and to prohibit industrial activity in,” after “to protect” in proposed paragraph 3(1)(f);

(b) deleting proposed subsection 3(8) and by substituting the following:

(8) A wilderness conservation area may be developed to protect the core representative area.

(c) adding the following after proposed subsection 5(2):

(2.1) A wilderness conservation area may be established only if industrial activity can be prohibited in the area.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Again, I would just like to say I want to speak to the amendment of clause 3. The amendment provides wording that better reflects the primary purpose of the proposed amendments to the Territorial Parks Act by bringing it in line with the spirit, intent, goals and objectives of the protected areas strategy. This amendment clarifies that the intent of creating wilderness conservation areas is to protect the core representative areas and to prohibit industrial activity. It also makes it clear that these areas are not to be created until industrial activity can be prohibited by both the GNWT and the federal government. This follows the process set out in the protected areas strategy. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. To the motion. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, during the committee review process, the department made suggestions of this nature and the committee reviewed this motion in comparison with what we wanted to proceed with and felt that that this was even more cumbersome if you refer to the last portion of this motion: (2.1) A wilderness conservation area may be established only if industrial activity can be prohibited in the area. Mr. Chairman, it's leaving a lot out in saying because we don't have that jurisdiction right now, we are going to wait for the federal government to decide if this area can be developed or not or if it will be developed or not or if those lands would be removed, so that we can establish a park. Whereas the committee felt that the amendment we were planning to make would have been much simpler to deal with because it speaks only to what the GNWT can do. This is referring to putting an act in place that would refer to what a federal government can do, might do or may do. Committee members felt that was not conducive to what we thought was the plan and felt that our amendment was much simpler and to the point and dealt with our government's jurisdiction. With that, I can't be supporting the motion on the amendment that's been put forward. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Clause 3. Mr. Roland.

**Committee Motion 6-14(6) To Amend Clause 3 of Bill 2: An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, Carried**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the committee would like to propose a motion that clause 3 of Bill 2 be amended by deleting proposed subsection 3(78) and by substituting the following:

(8) A wilderness conservation area may be developed to protect the core representative area and industrial activity shall be prohibited to the extent that the Government of the Northwest Territories has the power to do so.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

---Interjection

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 3, as amended. Mr. Roland.

**Committee Motion 7-14(6) To Amend Clause 3 of Bill 2: An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, Carried**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee proposes another motion. That clause 3 of Bill 2 be amended by

(a) adding "a Heritage Park," after "a Cultural Conservation Area," in proposed subsection 5(1); and

(b) striking out "a Heritage Park or" in proposed subsection 5(2).

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** I just have to say something, I would like to speak to the motion. Under the current act, the Minister has the authority to establish such a park, and the proposed change in the bill is primarily a wording change. The term "Historical Park" becomes "Heritage Park" to bring it in line with language use in the affected areas strategy. The expectation is that future heritage parks would be of similar size and nature to a mission park. Under the proposed amendment, consultation with the affected community will be required before a heritage park can be established. Based on the

demonstration of local support, given the local nature of an historic park, we still think that the Minister should retain the authority to establish a heritage park. So the other way around is that we're going to have to go through the Legislative Assembly every time we want to establish a heritage park. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Minister Antoine. To the motion. Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in reference to the motion, the reason the committee has proposed this and wants to pursue it and move forward with it, agrees with what the Minister said about changing the classification. But I would also point out that in fact heritage parks are not just what is in the old act under historic parks. It has been developed to the degree that committee feels there is a need to bring establishment of these parks and consultation on development of those parks back to the Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 3, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 4.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 5.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 7. Mr. Roland.

**Committee Motion 8-14(6) To Amend Clause 7 of Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, Carried**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee has proposed another amendment, that clause 7 of Bill 2 be deleted and the following be substituted:

7. Section 15 is amended by

(a) striking out "la mise en valeur" in the French version of paragraph (c) and by substituting "l'aménagement"

(b) striking out "and" at the end of paragraph (f); and

(c) adding the following after paragraph (f):

(f.1) amending the definition "motor vehicle" as set out in subsection 13(2) to exclude motor vehicles or certain types of motor vehicles in respect of a particular Territorial Park or part of a Territorial Park; and

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Just for the record, I would like to say that signs are currently used to mark areas in the park and to let people know where motor vehicles may be used. Signage for motorized wheelchairs is proposed, as opposed to exemptions, that will allow RWED to designate different areas for different kinds of motorized vehicles. For example, signage would indicate that motorized wheelchairs may be used on paths, while cars and trucks would be restricted to roads. This approach is preferable to creating regulations to exempt the use of motorized wheelchairs in territorial parks. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The Chair is not sure whether we got the right count, so I'm going to call the vote again on the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 7, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Clause 8.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill as a whole, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the committee agree that Bill 2 is ready for third reading, as amended?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Bill 2 is now ready for third reading, as amended. I would like to thank the Minister and his witnesses for appearing.

We have a number of other items in Committee of the Whole. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The motion on the floor is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, I recommend that we move to opening comments for the Department of Finance.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

---Agreed

#### Department Of Finance

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Does the Minister have any opening comments? Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

#### Minister's Opening Comments

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to introduce the main estimates of the Department of Finance for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. For 2003-2004, the Department of Finance is requesting a total expenditure budget of \$10.521 million, or 35 percent more than the 2002-2003 main estimates amount.

The increases are:

1. a one-time increase of \$175,000 to conduct the 2004 community labour force survey;
2. an increase of \$242,000 resulting from changes to the collective agreement of the Union of Northern Workers;
3. an increase of \$110,000 to improve the government's capacity for evaluating and monitoring social conditions as part of the response to the social agenda recommendations;
4. an increase to our short-term interest cost estimate of \$1.734 million, driven by forecasted higher 2003-2004 borrowing costs; and,
5. increased insurance costs of \$494,000 resulting from industry-wide premium increases.

Mr. Chairman, the GNWT has been facing rising property insurance costs over the last 10 years, despite a declining trend in our losses over this period. The government is facing an additional 20 percent increase in premiums in 2003-2004 to

maintain existing levels of coverage. The Department of Finance, therefore, undertook a review of alternate ways to address property risk. We have concluded that raising the government's deductible amounts at self-insuring losses below these higher deductible amounts is a cost-effective approach. This will reduce our insurance premiums considerably, but it will also require us to introduce mechanisms to prevent and mitigate property loss risks. We will also have to recognize the potential for uninsured property losses in our financial accounts.

When we have finalized the details of this new approach, we will brief standing committees. Once the department has finalized property premiums for 2003-2004, we expect to return with a negative supplementary appropriation for approximately \$1.5 million in the June session. This would bring the department's overall requirements to approximately \$9 million for 2003-2004, an increase of 17 percent over the 2002-2003 main estimates.

The expenditure budget in the main estimates is accompanied by a departmental revenue budget of \$781.385 million, virtually unchanged from the 2002-2003 main estimates amount, but 11 percent higher than the revised main estimates for 2002-2003.

Total 2003-2004 Department of Finance revenues represents about 91 percent of the total forecast government revenues of \$854.135 million. The Department of Finance, through its responsibilities for revenue generation management and information gathering distribution plays an important role in ensuring the government is able to deliver its programs and make informed decisions.

The department is focusing its outcomes and strategies for 2003-2004 on the priorities and strategies set by the Legislative Assembly and Cabinet, with particular emphasis because of its mandate on those related to the NWT's fiscal and economic circumstances.

The first goal of the department is to achieve a fiscal regime for the NWT that supports a stable political environment and a strong economy.

Key strategies of the department towards achieving this goal include:

- continuing discussions with Finance Canada on changes to the post 2004 formula financing agreement;
- providing taxation and formula financing input to resource revenue-sharing discussions with Canada and aboriginal governments;
- continuing fiscal and taxation input on self-government negotiations; and,
- initiating facility appraisal and risk assessment processes to improve the government's insurance protection.

The second goal of the department is to ensure the government has the fiscal and statistical information analysis needed to support policy development and decision making, particularly for key social and economic initiatives. Key strategies the department has identified towards achieving this goal include continuing work to ensure that the population numbers produced by Statistics Canada are as accurate as possible, undertaking the 2004 labour force survey and

continuing to improve the range and quality of statistical information available, particularly in the area of social agenda indicators.

Finally, the department seeks to be more responsive to client needs. Key supportive strategies include, among others, improving awareness of the responsible use of liquor and improving liquor licensees' knowledge of their responsibilities.

Mr. Chairman, I'd be pleased to respond to any questions the committee may have. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The Chair will call on the chairman of the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development for comments. Mr. Roland.

#### **Standing Committee On Governance And Economic Development Comments**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Finance is responsible for obtaining the financial resources to carry on the functions of government for intergovernmental fiscal negotiation and arrangements, for regulating the insurance industry, and for controlling the sale of liquor in the Northwest Territories.

The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development met with the Minister of Finance and his staff on Wednesday, January 15, 2003, to review the Department of Finance's 2003-2004 draft main estimates. The department reported a net \$1.844 million increase to its operations expense from the 2003-2006 business plans. This increment comes from an additional \$1.734 million for short-term interest expense due to an increase in the government's projected cash deficit, and \$110,000 required for the development of evaluation capacity throughout the government and northern communities as part of the social agenda action plan.

The Department of Finance did not have any capital expenditure.

In an effort to reduce the size of its projected cash deficit, the government proposed a number of revenue initiatives. These revenue initiatives include the increase of \$6.80 per carton for cigarettes, effective April 1, 2003; and a 10 percent increase on the mark-up for liquor, also effective April 1, 2003. In 2003-2004, these proposed increases are forecast to raise \$2.5 million and \$1 million, respectively, for a total of \$3.5 million for 2003-2004, and further \$3.5 million in 2004-2005.

Committee members were very concerned about the impact of proposed revenue initiatives upon the already high cost of living for residents. Some members were of the position that tobacco and alcohol consumption is not discretionary, but rather an addiction. This would most negatively impact the cost of living for fixed or low income earners and their dependents. These proposed initiatives may also result in increased social cost for the government.

Furthermore, the committee emphasized that while the government invited public consultation as part of its other tax initiatives, they did not do so in this case. In light of the significant impact of the government's proposed revenue initiatives, the committee referred the matter to AOC for further consideration by all Regular Members.

During the review of the Department of Finance's draft main estimates for 2003-2004, the committee asked the Minister for an overview of the government's fiscal position. The department replied that the government would start off the 2003-2004 fiscal year with a \$30 million cash surplus. However, at the end of the 2003-2004 fiscal year, the cash deficit is forecast to be \$93 million. The government's maximum borrowing limit is \$300 million. At the end of the next fiscal year, taking into account debt guaranteed by the government, the borrowing capacity is estimated to be \$83 million. Interest expense to pay for increased cash deficit is forecast to be \$2.2 million by the end of 2003-2004.

The committee remarked when the government received large corporate tax windfalls in the past two fiscal years, its priority was to spend the money rather than establish a reserve for future years. Committee members suggested that better financial planning may have reduced the forecast deficit and resulted in additional funding for programs and services from a decrease in interest expense.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That concludes the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development's report. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move we report progress, and hopefully my colleagues across the floor don't defeat this one.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** The Chair does not recognize a quorum.

There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair will rise and report progress.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole? Mr. Delorey.

#### **ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey):** Mr. Speaker, the committee has been considering Bill 3, Appropriation Act, 2003-2004, Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act, and Committee Report 4-14(6), and would like to report progress with three motions being adopted, and that Bill 2 is ready for third reading, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Is there a seconder to the motion? Ms. Lee. The motion is in order.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 22, orders of the day.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

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

Orders of the day for Friday, March 7, 2003:

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
  - Motion 17-14(6), To Change the Implementation Date of the Strategy to Harmonize Income Support and Social Housing
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 12, Nursing Profession Act
  - Bill 13, Deh Cho Bridge Act
  - Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act
  - Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act
18. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 9, Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act
  - Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 3, Appropriation Act, 2003-2004
  - Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act
  - Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003

- Committee Report 3-14(6), Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on the Review of the Draft 2003-2004 Main Estimates
- Committee Report 4-14(6), Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development Report on the Review of the Draft 2003-2004 Main Estimates
- Committee Report 5-14(6), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the Draft 2003-2004 Main Estimates
- Committee Report 6-14(6), Report on the Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner's 2001-2002 Annual Report
- Committee Report 8-14(6), Report on the Review of the "Report of the Auditor General to the NWT Legislative Assembly for 2000 and 2001"
- Committee Report 9-14(6), "One Land, Many Voices": The Final Report of the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Territorial Parks Act

22. Orders of the Day

**DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. This House stands adjourned until 10:00 a.m., Friday, March 7, 2003.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

