



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**HANSARD**

**Friday, October 3, 2003**

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**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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### Mr. Charles Dent

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### Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

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### Mr. David Krutko

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### Mr. Leon Lafferty

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Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Friday, October 3, 2003

**Members Present**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford):** Good morning. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The chair recognizes the honourable Premier.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** May I request permission to go ahead with an emergency statement?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Premier is seeking permission to proceed with an emergency statement. Mr. Premier.

**Member's Statement 86-14(6): Mourning The Loss Of Canadian Soldiers**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Mr. Speaker, Members, on Thursday morning, two Canadian soldiers died when their jeep hit a land mine in Kabul, Afghanistan. The soldiers were part of Canada's peacekeeping mission in that country.

Gone are Sergeant Robert Alan Short and Corporal Robbie Christopher Beerenfenger.

We mourn the loss of these two brave young Canadians serving our country to bring peace to the world. We grieve for their families, friends and comrades. In recognition of their lives and the cause of peace which they served, I ask for a moment of silence.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Please rise.

---Moment of Silence

Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**Minister's Statement 87-14(6): Status Of The Deh Cho Bridge Project**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to give the Members of the Assembly a progress report on the Deh Cho Bridge project. I am pleased to say that progress to complete this P3, a private/public partnership, agreement is proceeding very well. A finished agreement, including a final, fixed price, could be concluded as soon as the next three to six weeks.

The Assembly will recall that the Fort Providence Combined Council Alliance first approached this government in February 2002 with its proposal to build and operate a bridge at Fort Providence over the Mackenzie River. The Government examined the proposal to determine its basic feasibility and was satisfied that it was indeed a viable proposal. The Department of Transportation was directed to take the lead to work with the alliance to develop a more detailed and definitive

arrangement. On November 15<sup>th</sup> last year, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Fort Providence alliance committed to a memorandum of intent that laid out the framework and process involved with forming a public/private partnership for the purpose of building and operating the Deh Cho Bridge.

Since last November, the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation and the Department of Transportation have tackled systematically the many engineering, land tenure, regulatory, financial and legal issues surrounding the bridge project.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that the Members will appreciate that the agreement or, more accurately, the multiple inter-connected agreements are complex and demand patient attention to detail. Although complicated enough in itself, we are not just working out a contract to cover the initial construction of the bridge. This is a long-term operational partnership as well. The agreement must define the respective roles and responsibilities of the parties that will continue over the 35 years of the repayment period, long after construction has finished.

On its part, the 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly enacted the Deh Cho Bridge Act conferring the necessary legal authorities for the government to enter into the contemplated public/private partnership.

If we are able to finish the partnership agreement over the next several weeks, according to the construction schedule, we can look forward to the Deh Cho Bridge carrying its first traffic two years from now in the fall of 2005. Won't that be a spectacular occasion! Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

**Minister's Statement 88-14(6): Minister Absent From The House**

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS****Member's Statement On Addressing Core Social Issues In NWT Communities**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my statement today is around the whole area of core programs and program delivery on behalf of this government. Mr.

Speaker, the frustration we have in our small communities is the lack of capable support staff in our communities; people who assist people with problems.

I heard the Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to a statement he made to the Native Women's Association. He stated there are four core problems that we have in the Northwest Territories: we don't eat right; we drink too much; we smoke too much; and, we do not exercise enough.

Mr. Speaker, it's great for the Minister to state that, but in most of our communities, we realize that alcoholism and abuse of other things such as drugs and also the effects of being unemployed and living on income support is a core problem in our communities.

This government knows without having people in the communities to assist when someone wants to go to an alcohol and drug program..... The frontline worker is the first person you want to see. It's either the mental health workers, the alcohol and drug worker, or the nurse, or a doctor to assist you to deal with these core problems. Yet, for the Minister to stand out there and say well, if you just quit doing these things it's going to disappear; well, it isn't.

This government has a responsibility to ensure that we have alcohol and drug workers in our communities. I raised a question in this House going on five months ago about a problem in Aklavik where they do not have an alcohol and drug worker. It's going on two years now that they have not had that position filled. Yet the Minister can stand out there and make it sound like these problems, if we just snap our fingers, are going to disappear. But they aren't going to disappear.

This Minister has a responsibility to ensure that the core problem programs in our communities are funded by the dollars that are allocated to those programs, and to ensure that people are in those positions to assist people in our communities so that they can access core projects such as being able to go to an alcohol and drug treatment program. Before you're even allowed to get an application in, you have to take so many weeks of counselling and prepare yourself to go to a treatment centre. Yet this Minister is totally unaware of what goes on in small communities. I would like to ask the Minister a few questions later on with regard to questions I asked almost four months ago. Maybe I'll have to address them again. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Minister of Health and Social Services questions that I've asked time and time again with no response.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Qualification For Home Energy Efficiency Program**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on an issue that was brought to my attention by a constituent of mine. The issue I refer to, Mr. Speaker, is the apparent inability of people who reside outside of Yellowknife to qualify for a relatively new program, the federal government program called a home energy efficiency retrofit grant.

Mr. Speaker, this grant is provided by Natural Resources Canada and is designed to encourage homeowners, particularly those who have older homes in need of energy

efficiency upgrades, to retrofit their homes in order to make them more energy efficient. Mr. Speaker, in order to qualify, a homeowner must have the EnerGuide for homes evaluation done, and have followed up on the evaluator's recommendations prior to receiving any grant money.

Mr. Speaker, my understanding is that there is only one organization in the NWT that can perform the EnerGuide evaluations, that being the Arctic Energy Alliance. Therein lies the problem, Mr. Speaker. I believe that there are no EnerGuide evaluators in any northern communities other than Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, there is only a relatively small number of households that can qualify for any government program as it is due to income thresholds, et cetera. I would like to think, Mr. Speaker, that Northerners would not be excluded from a government program simply because of where they are geographically located. In other words, their proximity to Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that Arctic Energy Alliance is funded by this government and will ultimately be funded by taxpayers. Given this, I would think that surely the Arctic Energy Alliance would do everything in their power to provide services to all communities outside of Yellowknife. After all, the organization's name is Arctic Energy Alliance, not Yellowknife Energy Alliance. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Addressing Alcohol And Drug Addiction In The NWT**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday my colleague, Mr. Braden, drew attention to the dwindling number of facilities to address alcohol and drug treatment in the Territories. As part of his response, the Minister of Health and Social Services stated that "we will spend all the money we have and the millions and millions of dollars to deal with the issue of addictions and the results of the ravages of alcohol. But really and truly, the fundamental choice is how do we get people to make that personal choice so that we can in fact deal with the prevention at the community level."

Mr. Speaker, I would first like to point out that, despite the Minister's words to the opposite, we have not even come close to spending all the money we have to deal with addictions. In reality, the government is scrambling to fund addiction workers, never mind providing prevention programs or facilities. There is, by no stretch of the imagination, a serious effort to address addictions in the territory.

Mr. Speaker, the next point I would like to address is the Minister's comment that the fundamental issue is the personal choice people make to drink. I agree, but I think there is more to this story.

Let us compare creating a healthy lifestyle to learning to read. When a person wants to learn to read, he doesn't just pick up a book and that's the end of the story. Even though he has made the choice to read, he needs to learn some basic skills; things such as the alphabet, how letters are strung together to make words and so forth. Similarly, someone might want to live a healthy lifestyle but they need help in learning how.

In my region, people have been asking for years for help in dealing with their addictions. To simply say it's your choice, don't drink, would be like telling someone to just pick up a book and start reading. It just doesn't work.

Mr. Speaker, there have been countless studies done over the years. At the end of these studies, we learned what we knew before the studies were done: that addiction is the number one social problem in the Northwest Territories and people want help in learning how to create healthy lifestyles. Mr. Speaker, if we are serious about addressing it, I think we should find models of success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Approval Of Dental Services And Travel**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise today to speak on an issue that one of our honourable colleagues raised in this House since we started session, and it's in the area of dental work and travel associated with that, Mr. Speaker. I know that, for example, all the approvals and the programming that is set up is set up by the federal government, and it was pulled back from this government a couple of years ago. People have to now see the dentist and have some work done and there are pictures and so on; X-rays are sent to government people in Ottawa to approve or disapprove of certain work.

But, Mr. Speaker, we're finding ourselves in an increasingly more difficult position when a dentist cannot do certain work in a community; that being some oral surgery and the dentist says we cannot provide it. I've got an example in Inuvik, Mr. Speaker, where an individual has gone in and said they cannot do the work in Inuvik, and as well cannot be referred here to Yellowknife because they're unable to do that surgery here. So the next place would be in Edmonton, Alberta.

Mr. Speaker, when that person is told this is what can be done, they go to start following through with it and they find out that surgery can be done in Edmonton but that individual will have to be responsible for the flight out. Mr. Speaker, it is already difficult in the Northwest Territories to travel around with the cost of travelling. So knowing that that issue has been raised and the Member has asked the Minister in this House to look at it, I would also like to add my support behind that initiative as to what can we do for our residents in the Northwest Territories when all the support service in the North say that we can't do it in the North and we must do it in another jurisdiction but it is on their own tab.

Mr. Speaker, somebody in Ottawa might think that a pearly white smile is just for movie stars, but in fact, Mr. Speaker, when somebody's mouth starts to deteriorate and requires surgery, then I think that's something a little more serious than having to tell them that maybe we can pull your teeth. In fact, even in this situation, because this situation is serious, pulling the teeth would still not be done in the community of Inuvik. The dentists have said they can't do that. So, Mr. Speaker, I will have appropriate questions for the appropriate Minister. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

#### **Member's Statement On Resource Revenue Sharing And Devolution**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're told that the NWT economy has increased by 30 percent in the last three years.

---Applause

So we have the fastest-growing economy in Canada, and that's good news for Northerners looking for work. In fact, it's great news for the overall economy, with lots of high-salary mining jobs and many more jobs in northern businesses that provide goods and services to northern mines.

Mr. Speaker, the news is similarly good in areas of oil and gas. It's maybe not as busy this year as last, but the outlook is extremely positive for jobs and economic growth, with the pipeline appearing to be not too far over the horizon. The overall economy is good. Unemployment is low and job participation rates in the Northwest Territories are higher than in other areas of Canada. The jobs created by mining have provided opportunities and stability to the Northwest Territories that would not otherwise exist. But with people in Yellowknife walking away from their homes and mortgages only five or six years ago, it's not hard to see how important the jobs we get from mining are in the territory.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have the hottest economy in Canada right now because of diamond mining and oil and gas activity, but as Mr. Handley pointed out earlier this week, our government is in danger of going bankrupt. You've heard the phrase no pain no gain, well, resource development in the North means that this government gets all the pain but very little gain.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Shame.

**MR. DENT:** How can this be? Because we don't get royalties and most of the tax increases are clawed back by the federal government. So our net fiscal benefit from the development of natural resources doesn't even cover our government's costs. These costs include our highway infrastructure taking a beating from significantly increased traffic; the social costs when development has a negative impact on our communities and families; and the increased need for training and education.

Mr. Speaker, with diamond mines being so profitable, I've heard some who suggest we could solve our money problems if we brought in a mining tax. That might get us some extra money for a year or even three. But with every new formula financing deal we sign with Ottawa, they seem to claw back most new revenues. So tax increases or new taxes are not the long-term solution.

Perhaps in the near term, we need to look for other ways to ensure development benefits Northerners. For instance, maybe we need to explore the possibility of ensuring developers help us fund training programs. In the long run, though, Northerners deserve a fair share of the proceeds from resource development in our territory.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his Member's

statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Dent, conclude.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, I have supported the Premier and the Minister of Finance in their efforts the past four years in trying to get a fair deal with Ottawa. When the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly takes office, we will miss Premier Kakfwi's passionate voice calling on Ottawa to get moving, and his eloquent fight for a fair share of the royalties flowing from our natural resources. I was pleased to hear the Premier say that he will continue to fight for a deal until and after his last day as Premier.

Mr. Speaker, we need to plan for when we win the fight with Ottawa. We need to begin to look at what appropriate royalty rates are so we are prepared to step in quickly; rates that balance the encouragement of responsible development with a fair return for the depletion of our natural resources. Mr. Speaker, when we come back together in the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly, we must be prepared to continue to push the federal government to move quickly on an agreement for devolution that includes a resource-royalty-sharing agreement that will truly allow a net fiscal benefit for the people of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, winning this argument must be our first priority. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### **Member's Statement On Workplace Safety And The Young Worker Program**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As our economy in the Northwest Territories changes, businesses -- particularly in the service industry -- are relying more and more on young workers under the age of 25. In the last three years, employment of these young workers has risen almost 10 percent. According to the Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics labour force activity study in 2002, 84 percent of the workers are employed in the service industry. These young workers are less likely to be informed and aware of their rights and responsibilities on the job, particularly with respect to workplace safety.

The Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut has recognized this trend and has developed the workplace safety and the young worker program to take proactive steps to ensure that these young workers have the training they need to stay safe on the job and avoid workplace accidents. Workplace safety and the young worker program is a 25-hour course that young workers may take in the classroom or as a self-study, either as a CD-ROM or in traditional text format. It provides an introduction for new workers as to their rights and the basic safety issues they should be concerned about in the workplace.

Beyond the development of the course, the WCB has taken a variety of actions to make sure young workers, their parents, teachers and employers are aware of the program and the importance of teaching workplace safety practices at a young age. These actions include starting a workplace safety competition at the NWT/Nunavut skills competition and sending winners of this competition to the National Skills Canada competition where NWT and Nunavut students have won gold two years in a row. Becoming a Skills Canada partner can help ensure safe work practices become a part of all skills competitions. They are sponsoring a safety video competition, which was won this year by Hay River's Kelvin Redvers, and

encouraging northern employers to request safety and young worker training when hiring young workers.

The Hay River Northern Store, now known as Northmart, partnered with the WCB in 2002 to have all of their young employees trained in the program. Finally, Mr. Speaker, the WCB will be hosting a young worker safety conference in May of 2004. Safety is a way of life and through the young worker safety initiatives of the WCB, we are ensuring young Northerners get a good safe start in the workplace.

I would like to commend the Minister and the Workers' Compensation Board for this very impressive initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement On 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Run For The Cure**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it has been truly a beautiful week in the Northwest Territories weather wise. We've had unseasonably high temperatures throughout the week and we certainly hope that it continues right through the weekend Mr. Speaker, because as you know this weekend -- all the pink ribbons around the building would signify this -- is the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Run for the Cure, sponsored by the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. They have done a big task this year, Mr. Speaker, and that is to better the job that this community and the Territories did last year. Last year, the Northwest Territories raised over \$200,000 for the Run for the Cure and as I mentioned last year in a statement, that bettered some larger cities in Southern Canada so I think we did a heck of a job. We are putting in a team again, as you know because you are on it Mr. Speaker. The L.A. Leggers will enter the Corporate Challenge again; there are a number of Members who are on the team and a lot of staff members. I know the Premier has signed up this year along with a number of Ministers. I think our top fundraiser so far in the building is Heather Riviere, but the challenge is on us to chase her down and make sure that we can better the amount that she's got.

So Mr. Speaker, I'd like to remind everyone that breast cancer indeed affects all of our lives because it affects our mothers, our sisters, our daughters and our friends. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, an estimated 20,000 plus women will likely develop breast cancer in 2003. It is an important cause.

I hope everybody in the building, in the community and right across the Territories will get out this weekend and run for the cure. Thank you.

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

#### **Member's Statement On Congratulations To High School Graduate Amy Miersch**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to send congratulations to a constituent of mine, Amy Miersch, from Fort Resolution is going to celebrate her graduation this year. She graduated from grade 12 and is the only graduate from Fort Resolution. I will be going there to celebrate graduation with her this afternoon along with some of Mr. Ootes' staff members and I would like to thank Mr. Ootes for making them available to me and to Amy and the people of Fort Resolution.



Education is important and Amy is a good role model for the students this year. I'd like to see more graduates in the Tu Nedhe riding. Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations, Amy.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Good news. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

#### **Member's Statement On Housing For Persons With Disabilities**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On September 17<sup>th</sup>, Mr. Speaker, a very important and informative forum was held here in Yellowknife called Solutions for Barrier-Free Housing. It was organized by the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities, prompted by the actions of a number of self-advocates with that organization. Mr. Speaker, it was co-sponsored by our departments of Health and Social Services and the NWT Housing Corporation. Both of those departments, Mr. Speaker, have been very proactive on the issue of housing needs of persons with disabilities. The self-advocates who helped with that forum were Cor Van Dyke, Lynn Cameron, Bill Burles, Doreen Baptiste, and they spoke very eloquently to the more than 50 people who attended of the different needs of the disabled when it comes to housing. The solutions go far beyond what many of us might have as the idea that well if we build wheelchair ramps and wider doorways we have looked after things, and that's only the beginning,

Mr. Speaker, an innovative survey went out to 300 people and there were 60 returns. It demonstrated that what we need to do is go far beyond those physical amenities and go into a number of far broader areas.

We identified three priorities in the course of the day, probably the most significant one was called social marketing and this is where the community of people with disabilities should be partnering with legislators, cities and municipalities and with builders and architects to establish those needs and find ways of making them happen and making them happen affordably. This of course will help to stimulate the increase in the number of units that will hopefully be built because there will be a market.

Mr. Speaker, we also want to take a very close look at the financial incentives and disincentives that we have in our income support system, in our health care system, that affect the lives of the disabled. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Member's Statement On The Need To Rescind The Revised Business Incentive Policy**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to make a special point of reiterating the importance of the government rescinding and revisiting the changes being proposed to the BIP. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we debated a formal motion in the House and it was unanimously agreed by every Member on this side of the House that the government should not go ahead with these suggestions. Mr. Speaker, yesterday everyone -- and there are 11 of us on this side -- voted for that motion.

Mr. Speaker, you are aware this doesn't happen very often where all Members in this House agree on one idea. I believe, Mr. Speaker, that speaks to the very seriousness of this matter and the need for the government to reconsider. This also speaks to the fact that government has failed to meet the minimum standard to get the support needed in this House, never mind a majority or even a genuine consensus, but that every Member in this house has a concern about the proposed changes. In the end, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is ultimately about what the people in the communities are saying because we are here to represent our communities.

The business communities have been consistent in their position for three years. They have the right to ask if the government fails to adhere to our advice by way of the motion, what more do they have to do, Mr. Speaker? In a democratic system, what more do people have to do when they do the right thing by presenting their facts, presenting their cases, participating in the consultation process, and convincing every Member of this House on their position and then to have the government fail to act on that advice. I just want to reiterate Mr. Speaker, that the government take the advice of this House seriously and do the right thing and revisit the policy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. As Speaker, I have to sometimes point out some of the rules, perhaps, that reflect on some of the things that we do. It is not often applied, however, that in Member's statement Members should not reflect upon previous votes of the Assembly, except for the purposes of moving that it be rescinded. Perhaps you can touch on it briefly but not for long periods of time. This is just a little cautionary note for other Members who may be thinking along those lines.

Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** I'd like to recognize, Mr. Lee Selleck from CBC.

---Applause

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize Lee Selleck. I believe he is my constituent, as well. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize two Grade 8 students from Diamond Jenness Secondary School in Hay River who have been serving us this week in the House. They are Cassidy Mapes and Amanda Tybring. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Any other recognition of visitors in the gallery? I'd just like to say welcome to the people that do come to visit the Assembly on a daily basis and I hope you enjoy your visit here with us.

---Applause

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

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### **Question 367-14(6): Status Of The Somba K'e Healing Lodge**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this morning is for Mr. Allen, the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. It concerns the status of the Somba K'e Healing Lodge just outside the community of Dettah in the Yellowknife region. Mr. Speaker, the lodge has gone into disuse in the last couple of years. Our government continues to hold a mortgage on this property and I would like to ask the Minister, what is the status of the Somba K'e Healing Lodge, especially in respect of the urgent need for a community alcohol and drug treatment facilities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger. Excuse me, Mr. Braden, may I ask you again whom you directed that question to, I missed that.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question was directed to Minister Allen of the NWT Housing Corporation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. It was the chair's error. The honourable Minister responsible for Housing and Justice, Mr. Allen.

##### **Return To Question 367-14(6): Status Of The Somba K'e Healing Lodge**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At the moment, the facility is closed down. It is currently being maintained. We are entertaining some proposals from various interest groups to see if we can assist them with the reopening of the Somba K'e Healing Lodge. Thank you.

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

##### **Supplementary To Question 367-14(6): Status Of The Somba K'e Healing Lodge**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the confidentiality of any business negotiations that might be underway, could the Minister advise whether proposals are being entertained from agencies involved in alcohol and drug treatment? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Allen.

##### **Further Return To Question 367-14(6): Status Of The Somba K'e Healing Lodge**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this moment I don't have any specific details as to what proposals are being submitted and from whom, but again, I believe there

is a willingness from the NWT Housing Corporation to entertain any proposal that we may get the facility back in operation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

##### **Supplementary To Question 367-14(6): Status Of The Somba K'e Healing Lodge**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, are we actively soliciting proposals for the use of this facility for any nature or is it ad hoc as people are interested: just what is our process for looking at this. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

##### **Further Return To Question 367-14(6): Status Of The Somba K'e Healing Lodge**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our personal interest at this point is trying to liquidate the mortgage owed on the unit. Certainly, I want to entertain any proposal that is viable and feasible at this point and hopefully entertain those proposals that can afford to operate the facility. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

##### **Supplementary To Question 367-14(6): Status Of The Somba K'e Healing Lodge**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, my information is that the mortgage that we are holding is somewhere in the neighbourhood of 2.7 million dollars, it is quite a piece of change. Is there any time line on making a decision that the government is looking at? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

##### **Further Return To Question 367-14(6): Status Of The Somba K'e Healing Lodge**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, the most recent information from the Housing Corporation officials was that they were still trying to find a method to deal with those proposals and see how we can best address that at this point. Thank you.

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

##### **Question 368-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Program Delivery In Aklavik**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is with regard to the shortage of alcohol and drug workers in our communities and also the ability of communities to build capacity in the area of mental health and trying to ensure that the alcohol and drug programs are being delivered in our communities. I would like to ask the Minister, a letter I received basically stating that commencing in September 2003, which was last month, that they were going to start advertising for different positions in the regions. I would like to ask the Minister exactly where are we in ensuring the community of

Aklavik that we are going to try to have someone in place to deliver alcohol and drug programs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 368-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Program Delivery In Aklavik**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my information is that this week, staff from the Inuvik Health and Social Services Authority were to travel, or have traveled in to Aklavik to meet with the community to see if they could reach a consensus on how best to proceed with the permanent staffing of the position of a community wellness worker whose duties will include the alcohol and drug function. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 368-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Program Delivery In Aklavik**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is great that the government comes to our communities every once in a while and has meetings with us, but that is not my question. My question is when is this government going to fill those positions, which funding has been approved for through this legislature to be directed to those communities to have the mental health alcohol and drug workers in place to provide that service in our communities?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 368-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Program Delivery In Aklavik**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are engaged in a collaborative process with the territorial government, the regional governments, the communities and the people of the communities to provide services. This is not a case of myself as Minister sitting in my office and dictating what is going to take place. We work with this Assembly to do business plans, to come up with how we are going to approach strategies for alcohol and drug and various other initiatives. In this case, there are resources there, there has been ongoing discussion with the community and the Inuvik Health and Social Services Authority. I know the Member has raised this issue in the House extensively over the last few months. We have been trying to work to get that position staffed on a permanent basis. They are in the community this week and will hopefully reach an agreement so that they can in fact staff it. There have been new resources added to increase the pay and benefits for the workers across the Territories, that is retroactive to April 1<sup>st</sup>. So we have the resources, now our obligation is to work with the communities and the regional authority to come to a way to move ahead on this without any further delay. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 368-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Program Delivery In Aklavik**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is pretty appalling when this government can't even hire an alcohol and drug worker. The money is there, so basically the

opportunity for someone to fill that position is there. Why can't you just go out and advertise for a salary position for an alcohol and drug or mental health worker that you administer everywhere else in the larger centres? Why could you not advertise for that position?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 368-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Program Delivery In Aklavik**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is clearly an option and the direction that we in the majority of cases are moving. In the communities where there is no alcohol and drug worker that's an employee of the health and social services authority, we have to work out an arrangement with the community to see whether they will be a band employee, or whether it will work for the community, or whether in fact there will be a transfer, in this case, to the Inuvik Health and Social Services Authority. My understanding is that hopefully that is one of the issues that are going to finally be resolved in Aklavik this week.

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

**Supplementary To Question 368-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Program Delivery In Aklavik**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is pretty hard for a community to agree with the Minister's comments where it basically sounds more like excuses than really doing anything. I'd like to ask the Minister exactly how soon can the community of Aklavik ensure that we have a person in place to deliver programs and services, which presently the funding is sitting in Inuvik, which is being expended by the Inuvik health board but is not expended in the community of Aklavik. How soon can the person be in place to deliver these programs for the people of Aklavik?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 368-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Program Delivery In Aklavik**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the optimistic assumption that there has been a consensus reached between the Inuvik Health and Social Services Authority and the community of Aklavik, based on that agreement we should be able to proceed. The resources are there, the job description has been done and the job has been classified. All of the pieces are there to move on this. Thank you.

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

**Question 369-14(6): Available Dental Services And Travel**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services in the area of my Member's statement on dental health. I know that he has addressed this in some responses to another Member in the area of travel that it is not permitted under medical travel for persons requiring dental work outside of their communities. I'd like to know from the Minister of Health and Social Services, what is available to residents that

cannot get work done in their constituencies or communities? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 369-14(6): Available Dental Services And Travel**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is, for NIHB clients, they are eligible to have travel costs recovered for emergency services if they have been referred out by a nurse or a dentist or a doctor. I know there is apparently some confusion over some of the latest correspondence that has come out of the department as a result of direction we received from NIHB. There have been clarifications subsequently sent out so there are travel costs for people referred out for emergency dental services through the NIHB program. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 369-14(6): Available Dental Services And Travel**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that would be good news for many residents. Is that open to all residents in the Northwest Territories, just for clarification? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 369-14(6): Available Dental Services And Travel**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the benefits under NIHB are open only to those that qualify as status Indians or Inuvialuit, Inuit. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 369-14(6): Available Dental Services And Travel**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. What is available to people who don't qualify under NIHB? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 369-14(6): Available Dental Services And Travel**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, where there is a referral by a nurse or doctor or dentist, the travel policy applies. We've also made changes in June to close the gap for those people that aren't covered by third-party insurance, so that we have attempted to make sure that there is a benefit in this area for all the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

**Supplementary To Question 369-14(6): Available Dental Services And Travel**

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So if an individual who has been told that they cannot have services done in their community and is told that the services can be provided outside of their community and are referred by the dentist, their travel costs will be covered. Is that what the Minister stated? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 369-14(6): Available Dental Services And Travel**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the best of my knowledge, yes.

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

**Question 370-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier this morning. As regular Members it is our job to hold Ministers accountable to ensure that there is fairness in the way which government resources, programs and services are distributed throughout the North on behalf of our constituents. We have acts, regulations and policies within which departments and Ministers are expected to act. A matter has been raised in the House by some of my colleagues with respect to fairness or the perception of fairness, particularly with the Minister responsible for Housing. He has been questioned about a recent transaction or contribution to several residents of the Husky Trailer Park in Inuvik. Has the Premier made himself aware of the circumstances of this transaction?

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

**Return To Question 370-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue that was raised has been discussed with the Minister, yes.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 370-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take it from that response, and I'll just ask the Premier to confirm, that he is satisfied that the Minister's conduct complies with the acts, the regulations and the principles of being seen to be fair?

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

**Further Return To Question 370-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Housing Minister has acted according to existing rules and procedures. The issue for us has been around the amount of discretion that is granted to a Minister under the regulations, and we had a discussion amongst ourselves as

Ministers and we have agreed we will review these rules and procedures to determine whether or not the present amount of discretion granted to a Minister should be addressed and tightened up. Appropriate action would be taken in the future to ensure that there will be no question as to whether a Minister has acted appropriately or not. That is the action we are taking. We believe the issue was raised, Members raised the concern and it will be addressed. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 370-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From that answer, I get that there is concern on Cabinet about the amount of discretion that has been exercised here but that it fits within the policies. Is the Premier saying that he will follow up by making sure that this level of discretion can never be exercised again?

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

**Further Return To Question 370-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is understood that we are close to elections, there are always issues about the amount of discretion Ministers have but it is provided for in our legislation or regulations. From time to time, these issues arise and it is always important to us, I think, as a government to make sure that we have procedures and policies and guidelines to direct the actions and missions taken by department officials and, as much as possible, we should strive to make sure Ministerial discretion is not used for guidelines and suffice. We will address that and ensure that it does not happen again. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 370-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in response to questions yesterday and according to unedited Hansard on page 2625, Minister Allen talked about the program that was used in Inuvik and said that it was a program that was used to assist those who were involuntarily forced to move. Mr. Speaker, I have a number of constituents, 26 families who may be forced to move in my constituency with the closure of Con Mine. The Minister responsible for Housing has said that this program might not apply to them because it is a different situation. Will the Premier take a look to see whether or not these are the same criteria in my constituency so that my constituents could apply for the same program? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 370-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have taken the lead as a Premier with Ministers on the Con Mine closure in addressing the needs of the employees and the residents. I will be coordinating appropriate responses to all matters relating to this issue including the one

that was raised and, of course, those residents can apply to programs that we have. The whole intent was to make sure that we respond positively to the needs that arise out of the closing of Con Mine, and the issue about the residents and the trailer owners that are on Con Mine land is a huge issue and we will try to respond as positively as possible. Thank you.

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

**Question 371-14(6): Federal Home Energy Retrofit Program**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I raised the issue of a potential for people not being able to qualify for the federal government grant for home energy and retrofit. As I stated, the homeowners have to have an energy guide evaluation done, and the only evaluators for this are based in Yellowknife under the offices of the Arctic Energy Alliance. I'd like to ask the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development if he would advise this House if he is aware of any energy guide evaluators based anywhere in the Northwest Territories other than Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Return To Question 371-14(6): Federal Home Energy Retrofit Program**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the honourable Member raised a good point here. I think he has already gone over this program that is a Canadian government program. It is part of a program that outlines how Canada is going to meet the Kyoto protocol, so they introduced an energy efficiency retrofit for about 20 percent of the existing low-rise housing units by 2010. There is a program that they have introduced, so the federal department of Natural Resources Canada is responsible for this program and they have contracted the Arctic Energy Alliance to do this program. They have hired one person that is stationed here in Yellowknife and currently has been doing Yellowknife only at this point in time. It is their responsibility to provide the program. We realize that there are other homeowners outside of Yellowknife and I think that the Member makes a really good point that we should raise with the program funders and the Arctic Energy Alliance. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 371-14(6): Federal Home Energy Retrofit Program**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in correspondence with the Arctic Energy Alliance as to why evaluators can't be sent outside of Yellowknife, the reason was given that the Arctic Energy Alliance is not funded, they don't have travel funding. It is my understanding that the Arctic Energy Alliance is represented by just about every department in this government and that surely they could come up with some money to travel to outside communities to do home evaluations so that everybody can take part in an energy program such as this. Would the Minister state why he can't have funding for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 371-14(6): Federal Home Energy Retrofit Program**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Arctic Energy Alliance is comprised of a number of core members and most of them are represented by different departments. Currently, they have been stationed here in Yellowknife, but this new program is a whole new program from NRCAN that is supposed to meet the conditions laid out in the program. The program funding to provide this program should come from NRCAN. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 371-14(6): Federal Home Energy Retrofit Program**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have heard in this House a number of times that when we have taxpayers' dollars going into it, that it has to be introduced across the territory rather than only in one place. So I hear it all the time about Hay River trying to introduce a program there and it can't be done unless it is introduced right across the Territories. Does the Minister feel that this is fair that it is only available in Yellowknife? Why wouldn't the Minister go after money to do the whole territory rather than just Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 371-14(6): Federal Home Energy Retrofit Program**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, this is a federal program and they provide the funding and have contracted Arctic Energy Alliance to do the work. We do have a member representative on the core members that make up the Arctic Energy Alliance. We do provide some funding to keep this alliance existing here in the Northwest Territories. However, we don't have access to provide the funding to have this individual travel to provide a federal program. There is a need to approach NRCAN. It is a federal department on behalf of the Arctic Energy Alliance to see if they have additional funding so they could properly provide this program throughout the whole North. We can do that. At this point in time, I don't know why this hasn't been done. I don't know why there isn't adequate funding for this individual to provide the territorial program territory-wide. I need to find that out. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 371-14(6): Federal Home Energy Retrofit Program**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I get a commitment from the Minister that he will follow up with the Arctic Energy Alliance or with Canada on this and make sure funding is put in place, so that the whole of the Territories can benefit from this program?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 371-14(6): Federal Home Energy Retrofit Program**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will make a commitment to the Members and this House that I will pursue this issue because it's important to all of us and to the different homeowners who are in all the communities in the NWT. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Question 372-14(6): Revisions To The Business Incentive Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, with respect to your earlier admonition that we shouldn't talk about a motion already dealt with, I am going to not talk about the motion from yesterday, but I would like to ask the Finance Minister some questions because I am still very perplexed by the determination of the Minister of RWED and the Cabinet to proceed with the revisions to the business incentive policy. We are almost at the end of our terms. There are no major capital projects being awarded in the next couple of months that could be affected by these revisions. Revisions are potentially very harmful to the northern business community and they are likely irreversible. So what's the motive? I am led to believe that perhaps it's financial. Is the motive financial? Is it a cost-saving measure? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 372-14(6): Revisions To The Business Incentive Policy**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, this question should be directed to the Minister responsible for the business incentive policy, the Minister of RWED. I can't refer it to him, so the question was: Is it financial? Finances are always a motivation in everything we do in government. It doesn't matter whether we are talking about school programs or BIP or whatever it may be. We always have to look at whether we are getting good return for the money we spend. So I can't say that money is not a motivation, but it's certainly not the only motivation. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Finance Minister then, with that response, is the elusive amount of money, whatever it is that we spend on the BIP, is that money well spent?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. That borders on an opinion. Perhaps the honourable Member would like to rephrase that in a more legislative way. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 372-14(6): Revisions To The Business Incentive Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Surely as the Minister of Finance and the keeper of the purse of our government, the Minister must have a sense of whether or not

what we make expenditures on are good investments and expenditures on behalf of the people. So is the business incentive policy a good expenditure, a valuable expenditure? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That's still a difficult question, but I will allow the Minister, in his own tactful way, to answer that. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 372-14(6): Revisions To The Business Incentive Policy**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Again, Mr. Speaker, the money is always a consideration in any program we are operating. Are we getting good return? Some people say we get very good return. They like the business incentive policy. Other people would say we don't get good return. I don't have any conclusive evidence as Finance Minister. Is it a good return? I believe it is. I think the business incentive policy serves a purpose. Is it perfect? No, I don't think it's perfect and we have worked hard, not just this government but previous governments, to try to make improvements to it. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 372-14(6): Revisions To The Business Incentive Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Handley says some people think it is and some people think it isn't. The fact is, he's the Finance Minister, so it's very important what he thinks, not so much what other people think. He is the one who is ultimately responsible for deciding what is good value for our money. The audit bureau does value-for-money audits. Has this program ever been audited? The Minister says that he needs conclusive evidence. What conclusive evidence does he have that the BIP is not good money invested and money well spent? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The chair is a bit concerned with the question. I think you asked two initially. Has the program ever been audited? Which of the two would you like, Mrs. Groenewegen?

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Minister of Finance, has the audit bureau ever done a value-for-money audit on the business incentive policy? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 372-14(6): Revisions To The Business Incentive Policy**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, to my knowledge, there has never been a formal value-for-money audit done on the BIP program by the audit bureau. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 372-14(6): Revisions To The Business Incentive Policy**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to challenge the Minister of Finance to table evidence in this House if he has any evidence that the business incentive policy is not an excellent investment with a good return to the

northern business economy. I would challenge him to take that to this House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 372-14(6): Revisions To The Business Incentive Policy**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, I don't have any conclusive evidence one way or the other. So I would have nothing to table to prove anything conclusively. Thank you.

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

**Question 373-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Treatment Services In The North Slave**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger. Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister is saying that his department will not build treatment centres, but we see in the South Slave the only addiction centre in the entire territory is having internal problems. If nothing is resolved, then there would be no treatment facilities in the North, our people would have to go south for treatment, away from families which creates problems in itself. I would like to ask the Minister, what is his plan to provide treatment services if the dispute with the staff in Hay River creates a shut-down? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 373-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Treatment Services In The North Slave**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** There is currently a process underway on the reserves that will eventually lead to an agreement that is mutually agreed to. In the meantime, we are taking steps to ensure if there is a requirement for residential treatment, it can be met in Yellowknife at the Salvation Army and we will use the access we have to southern facilities as a short-term interim basis. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 373-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Treatment Services in the North Slave**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In answer to my colleague, Mr. Braden, yesterday, the Minister said what we've attempted to do over the last few years is focus attention at the community level with the increase in social workers and the money. As we know, in light of the information we have, by creating...(inaudible)...we have increased child apprehensions and breaking families apart because these social workers are not addiction counsellors. I would like to ask the Minister, is he going to do anything, like bricks and mortar, for services in the North Slave? We already have one in the South Slave. Can he do something for the North Slave?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 373-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Treatment Services In The North Slave**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, in the House yesterday, the issue was making use of the facilities we have across government that may be underutilized. The issue was again raised in the House, for example, with Somba K'e where we have, to our knowledge, some justice facilities that may be underutilized. We know we hold the mortgage on facilities like Somba K'e. There is a facility for seniors that wasn't designed for seniors in Deline. There are issues with some of the facilities in Smith, Hay River and Inuvik. So we have existing facilities that we already invested significant amounts of capital in that we have to take a look at as a first step. Are we going to go into any wholesale capital investment in alcohol and drug facilities? No, we are not at this point.

The issue of Natse' Ejee K'eh will be resolved and the staff will be delivering a program that is designed. So, Mr. Speaker, the issue of the specific request of when will bricks and mortar be put on the ground in the North Slave in terms of alcohol and drug treatment facility, there are no immediate plans for a facility in the North Slave. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 373-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Treatment Services In The North Slave**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. We know addictions are one of the main problems and in his answers he gave yesterday it seems that he knows the problems. He says we do not have any pat answers. We are pouring an enormous amount of resources into treatment of the health issues related to this. So he is already telling us all the health issues are related to addictions, but he is not willing to put any facilities in the North. What is the Minister's job? Is it to create more health problems and not deal with it and just keep answering the same questions saying no bricks and mortar? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 373-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Treatment Services In The North Slave**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this government has made a significant investment and will continue to make a significant investment in health and social services. In 1997 and 1998, the money allocated directly to health authorities was \$113 million. This year it is \$183 million. That is just the money that goes right off the top to the health authorities.

Mr. Speaker, there is a strong concern and commitment to dealing with addictions issues. In the North Slave the Dogrib budget went from \$4.5 million up to \$9.4 million this year, from 1997 and 1998. Do we have the answers to all the problems? No, we don't. Is everything a result of addictions? No, it isn't, but it is a significant variable that affects and drives our costs.

We have talked about the issue of capital. This House well knows the limited capital dollars we have. It knows what money we have and what projects are on the books at present. We are governed by that plan and process. We are going to continue to make every effort to focus on the prevention side of dealing with issues like alcohol and drug addictions so that, in

fact at the end of the day, down the road children will be born healthy and will have the best opportunity to lead a healthy productive life. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 373-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Treatment Services In The North Slave**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Minister for putting more money into the Dogrib region and throughout the North. If we are not going to deal with the issues and we're just simply pouring money into there for the sake of pouring it, then we're not dealing with any of the health issues that are related to addictions. I would like to ask the Minister, if he can put as much effort into this addictions strategy as he did in the Midwifery Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 373-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Treatment Services In The North Slave**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to phrase that in the past tense. We have been placing a significant amount of effort in the alcohol and mental health strategy, as we did with the midwifery legislation. Both are important pieces of the work we are doing. The alcohol and drug issue is one that has significant importance that has involved this House, it has involved the communities and will continue to involve all of us as we seek to do a better job on that very, very difficult issue. Thank you.

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

**Question 374-14(6): Revised Business Incentive Policy Savings Estimate**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. My question today is also for the Minister of Finance. It is about the government-wide implications of the revisions to the BIP and their implementations as of October 15<sup>th</sup>.

In a press release, I believe that RWED did announce the revisions in August, there was some discussion apparently about the current cost of BIP. I think the figure \$10 million was used either by the Minister or by the deputy. I am wondering if that is, in fact, accurate, if the Minister of Finance has, in fact, reduced next year's budget by \$10 million to take this into account now. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 374-14(6): Revised Business Incentive Policy Savings Estimate**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware how the Minister or deputy minister of RWED may have arrived at the figure that they have. In terms of our forecast of expenditures, we have not reduced it by \$10 million. Thank you.

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



**Supplementary To Question 374-14(6): Revised Business Incentive Policy Savings Estimate**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So no reduction in next year's budget to reflect this apparent savings we are going to get from BIP. Maybe then the Minister can tell me if we have added an additional \$10 million worth of capital projects, because now we will have additional money that we can use. Is that what we have done next year? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 374-14(6): Revised Business Incentive Policy Savings Estimate**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, no, we are still continuing to try to maintain a target of \$50 million per year on capital projects as has been agreed to in terms of our business planning. We have gone through this with the Members, as well, so that has not changed. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 374-14(6): Revised Business Incentive Policy Savings Estimate**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Surely the \$50 million in capital money we're going to spend next year that the Minister just referred to is going to go farther now, so we will be able to do additional capital projects because the money we will save from not having the old BIP. Can the Minister tell me how we have chosen to identify these great new projects that we are going to be able to build next year? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Finance.

**Further Return To Question 374-14(6): Revised Business Incentive Policy Savings Estimate**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, this government has prepared business plans for the next government. We have continued with the same basic principles that we have used for the last couple of years. One of those is \$50 million a year in capital. That will be our recommendation to the next government. If the next government decides to spend more than \$50 million on capital projects, then that is a decision they will make at that time. Mr. Speaker, I can't really project how they might spend any new money that they may want to invest in capital. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 374-14(6): Revised Business Incentive Policy Savings Estimate**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope you can appreciate that I am struggling here, Mr. Speaker, to find some sort of sense that the revisions to the BIP will have government-wide implications. I haven't seen them yet. Maybe the Minister can indicate if he has sent out a letter to departments asking them to adjust their capital requirements to take into account a 15 percent reduction in cost or a 10 percent reduction in cost or whatever the savings is. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 374-14(6): Revised Business Incentive Policy Savings Estimate**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I, too, am a little intrigued with the Member's link between the savings in BIP, which might be and which might not be, and some planning on the capital; why would there be a link between those two. If our government has savings or the next government has savings, then I am sure the Legislative Assembly at that time will determine whether to spend that money in capital or to spend it in O&M or to spend it somewhere else. I don't quite understand this direct link Mr. Bell is inferring would be there. Thank you.

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

**Question 375-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. It is in regard to the \$10,000 subsidy that he provided for 12 residents in Inuvik.

Mr. Speaker, I was listening to the question by my colleague, Mr. Dent, to the Premier. I gather from that that there is some kind of a pot of discretion money under the control of the Minister responsible for Housing. As alarming and dangerous as that may sound, I do live in a real world and I am prepared to entertain that. At the same time I like to think that there is some guidance provided somewhere as to how the Minister is supposed to spend that money. My question to the Minister is, what are the principles or any kind of criteria that he uses to spend money under this discretionary funding? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Return To Question 375-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take it upon myself to manage this question very carefully in the context of what our Premier had to say this morning, the fact that we will find a way to reconcile and resolve the process.

But just to make specific reference to the questions of yesterday and today, as the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, under the act I'm authorized to approve land development projects. It became known to me that those tenants in the Husky Trailer Court were involuntarily going to be forced to move, and there was a consultation process after which I made a decision based on some precedents. So I think the important point, Mr. Speaker, is that from this point on we will work in consultation with the Con Mine trailer court tenants under the direction of the Premier's involvement to help find solutions for everyone, and we have done that.

But if she's asking a question about my authorities, each year the Assembly approves appropriations which gives me some flexibility in how we address all housing concerns across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 375-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if I should say I'm not sure if two wrongs would make a right. Mr. Speaker, my question is then am I to understand that this is the first time he used money under whatever the name of this discretionary fund is, because the Minister has yet to tell me what the name of this fund is. But whatever this fund is that he has the discretion to use the money from, could he tell me whether or not he has given any money to anyone else other than the Husky Trailer Park residents? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 375-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We continually give money to all communities, agencies, non-government organizations. There are many, many recipients of our funding, and that's done through all our program funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 375-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think I need the Minister to state the obvious. The Housing Corporation gives out money to help with housing. That's not my question. I'm asking a question very specific to the money that he gave. A \$10,000 cheque to 12 people in the amount of \$120,000 which we have learned from the Premier's answer was under his discretion. My question is specific to that thing that he did. It hasn't to do with the rest of the budget that he has with the department and all the sundry programs that they have in the Housing Corporation. My question now is how does this discretionary fund work. Is there an upper limit to it, or is this a pot that the Minister has that he can dip into when whoever makes a noise and whoever can go and get him on their side? Is there a limit to this budget? Is it a bottomless pit, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen,

**Further Return To Question 375-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no other obvious question other than it's program money. It is spent in accordance with guidelines. If we need to, we will review the program guidelines. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 375-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm gathering from the Minister that he thinks that now that he's in trouble for having given money to Husky Trailer Park residents that if he gives consideration to Con Mine trailer park...Mr. Speaker, my question is this, a principle behind this in his statement is that he had to help his people because they were involuntarily

forced to move out of these lots. So now the Minister is saying that the government will give money, \$10,000 to people who have to move, but the government is not doing much for those people who can't buy lots. Does the Minister have a discretionary pot of money to help people who can't afford to buy lots in Yellowknife? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

**Further Return To Question 375-14(6): Husky Trailer Park Lot Subsidies**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not going to beg to differ on the Member's opinion, but I want to tell the House here that the Premier has committed to revisiting the process and I will be part of that process and I will commit to working directly with the Premier and my colleagues to ratify any outstanding concerns regarding this and other matters. Thank you.

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

**Question 376-14(6): Status Of The Community Dust Control Program**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, it's late in the season, you would think that I would be standing up here talking about dust control, and I am, Mr. Speaker. My question for the Minister is the Minister had introduced a dust control program in many of the communities in the Northwest Territories. I would just like to see, for the record, Mr. Speaker, if he could give us an update on how that program has come along in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

**Return To Question 376-14(6): Status Of The Community Dust Control Program**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the chipseal program under the supervision of MACA has, over the summer, been implemented in five communities: Fort Good Hope, Fort McPherson, Tuktoyaktuk, Fort Providence and Fort Resolution. The work in Fort Resolution at this point was to start on September 15<sup>th</sup> and it included culvert replacement, ditch drainage and grade improvements. The work was expected to take two weeks and should have been completed by the end of September. The work in all these communities is under the supervision of DOT. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 376-14(6): Status Of The Community Dust Control Program**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Will the program expand to other communities in the Northwest Territories outside those five communities mentioned by the Minister? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return To Question 376-14(6): Status Of The Community Dust Control Program**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the direction from FMB to the department was to expand the program to all the non-tax-based communities, so it will expand to all communities. What we are planning to do is at the close of the season, and I believe it will be early this fall because of the type of work that we've done in the communities, we will meet with DOT and review what it cost us and also at what pace we can continue, bearing in mind that we only have \$1 million a year to do this. So we will review work we can do for the next business plans after we have reviewed the progress this summer. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 376-14(6): Status Of The Community Dust Control Program**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, apparently there's \$10 million savings around here. Maybe the Minister can apply for some of that so he could spread the program a little more efficiently and with a quicker pace. I would like to ask the Minister when can the other non-tax-based communities get an indication of when they can expect their communities to be chipsealed for dust-control purposes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return To Question 376-14(6): Status Of The Community Dust Control Program**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as soon as we have reviewed the progress and cost that we've experienced over the summer, we will get the information to the communities. However, we have to keep in mind that this has to go through the business planning process, as well, so I can't assure any of the regions that they're going to have something happen next year or the year after until the business planning process is completed.

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

**Supplementary To Question 376-14(6): Status Of The Community Dust Control Program**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the communities in the Northwest Territories that need and want dust control in their communities and hardtop on their roads want to be involved in this process and they want to be informed because they are waiting for it. I would like to ask the Minister what kind of communication plans does the department have to involve and communicate with communities so that they know exactly when they can expect action happening in their communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return To Question 376-14(6): Status Of The Community Dust Control Program**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have capital planning staff and we also have our regional staff. So information to the communities will be passed through

the regional offices and put to the communities, then there will be some discussions with the communities as to how we can proceed. No doubt, we would all like to see the communities receive the program as early as possible but, like I said, we can't guarantee anything at this point. But we will have discussions with the communities through the normal process, the regional offices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Question 377-14(6): Mental Health And Alcohol And Drug Workers**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services and it's with regard to the whole area of the mental health and alcohol and drug programs. As we all know, the government is looking at revamping the whole mental health and alcohol program by basically looking at reclassifying those positions.

Mr. Speaker, the alcohol and drug and mental health workers we have in our communities have gone off, got trained, and they've spent many years in the communities in those positions. But now they're being told you have to be reclassified, you have to go take training. Mr. Speaker, for me, it's essential we have people from our communities delivering programs and services in our communities rather than having people imported from outside.

I'd like to ask the Minister a question. I received a letter from the Minister on September 30<sup>th</sup>, a reply from the Minister of Health and Social Services on a number of questions that I asked in the June session. The answer the Minister of Health and Social Services stated, the process for three new mental health alcohol and drug workers, including one for the community of Aklavik, will commence on September 2003. I've looked in the Inuvik Drum and the government Web site and I could not find such job postings. Can the Minister please inform the House the actual timelines of hiring mental health and alcohol and drugs workers in the Inuvik region and what effect this will have on the present employees?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 377-14(6): Mental Health And Alcohol And Drug Workers**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intent of this process was the reclassification of the new job descriptions for alcohol and drug workers and mental health workers to recognize at long last that the alcohol and drug workers who have worked for many years had worked at very low wages without any of the benefits that accrue to other employees that were permanent employees for health and social services authorities. The intent is to train those workers that need training, the intent is to roll them over, upgrade them if necessary, do an analysis of their experience and education, a prior learning assessment it's called, to see where they fit on the new pay scale, and to commit to training them so that they in fact are capable of better doing the jobs and finally get access to the benefits. Those positions that are vacant are going to be advertised. Some areas have already started. There have been people in positions that have already been appointed to their new jobs. So, Mr. Speaker, this would be moving at different paces, depending on the authorities,

their staff, who's there and the vacancies that they do have. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 377-14(6): Mental Health And Alcohol And Drug Workers**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's good to hear from the Minister that something is happening out there, but we don't seem to really see any activity taking place. The Minister stated the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Authority is working closely with the community of Aklavik to find a qualified counsellor who will meet the needs of the community on a long-term basis. I would like to ask the Minister, can you tell me exactly what are the timelines you're looking at, and if you are advertising for these other positions, why couldn't you be advertising for a similar position in Aklavik?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 377-14(6): Mental Health And Alcohol And Drug Workers**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated previously, my understanding is that the officials from the Inuvik Health and Social Services Authority were to be in Aklavik this week, sit down with the community to discuss the best way to move ahead on the staffing of the alcohol and drug and mental health positions that are there. Once that is determined, then if it's a contract, if it's going to be a permanent staff of the authority located in Aklavik, then the job description is there and the staffing process is ready to begin. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 377-14(6): Mental Health And Alcohol And Drug Workers**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from that response from the Minister I get the feeling that Aklavik is being treated differently than other communities in the Northwest Territories when it comes to mental health and drug workers. On one hand, you're saying you're going out, you're advertising, you're trying to find these people and making sure that they're qualified to take these positions; but on the other hand you're saying your people from the Inuvik Health Board are going to go into Aklavik and consult if they can basically offer a service to the community of Aklavik. So I'd like to ask the Minister are there two lines of treatment here, one for communities that have the program and one for communities that don't? Do we have a system in place that's consistent for all communities?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 377-14(6): Mental Health And Alcohol And Drug Workers**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my preference would be that mental health workers, community wellness workers, alcohol and drug workers would all become employees of the authority in the region in which they work, that they would become employees and have access to benefits, pensions and leave that they may

not have access to now. That would be my preference. The final decision has to be negotiated with the communities and the authorities, because in some situations they are employees of bands and they have contracts with NGOs. So we have to work through those areas. In a lot of cases, in the majority, they are staffed and they're just going to be upgraded and their pay increased. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 377-14(6): Mental Health And Alcohol And Drug Workers**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it seems at times it takes forever to have anything done in this House. I would like to ask the Minister again, do we have a timeline on exactly when you see these positions being filled in our communities and give the comfort to the employees who are presently there to know that their job is secure, that they will have to possibly take some training, that they will not be fired going through this process, that we have such a stringent system in place, classification and qualification, that they will not need it and most of them may be out of a job. So I would like to ask the Minister exactly on the timelines, when can these people get some comfort that there will be job security and they know that those positions will be signed on, they will have a job at the end of the day and they won't have to be laid off? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, your final answer.

**Further Return To Question 377-14(6): Mental Health And Alcohol And Drug Workers**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be more than willing to say in this House, and I will say in this House, the intent of this exercise is not to fire existing staff. The intent of this exercise is to recognize specifically in the area of the alcohol and drug workers that they have worked long and hard for years for very little pay and often no benefits, no job security, or limited job security for the people in their community. We have gone to this Assembly and got funds to increase their pay. We've worked with authorities to be able to, where they're not already employees, make them employees so that they can get salaries at the reclassified position with all the accrued and contingent benefits that would go with that. The intent is to recognize the work they do. The intent is where they need further training to provide them with that training. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Minister. The time allocated for question period has expired. Item 7, written questions. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Hay River North.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Delorey. What is your wish?

**REVERT TO ITEM 5: RECOGNITION  
OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a very familiar face around the Legislative Assembly here for Members who have been around for a while. A very good friend of mine and a constituent of mine, Dawna O'Brien. Dawna O'Brien is no stranger to the Legislative Assembly, having worked here for many years in the past.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Indeed, welcome back to the Legislative Assembly, Ms. O'Brien. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the Dogrib chiefs and staff and all my constituents, friends and relatives up in the gallery. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Peter Hope, the Dene reporter from CBC. Thank you. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we can name everyone in the gallery, but I would like to recognize all the employees of the Legislative Assembly who are in the gallery. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Is this a day off or what?

---Laughter

Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

**ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**

**Motion 18-14(6): Expression Of Gratitude To Clerk David M. Hamilton For Dedicated And Exemplary Service**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 6, 2003, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that the Legislative Assembly expresses its sincere gratitude to Mr. David M. Hamilton for his dedicated and exemplary service to this House;

AND FURTHER that the Legislative Assembly designate David M. Hamilton as an Honourary Officer of this Legislative

Assembly with an entrée to the Chamber and a seat at the Table.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** I'll have to waive the rules here. Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**Motion 19-14(6): To Amend Rule 85(4) Of The Rules Of The Legislative Assembly**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 6, 2003, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Rule 85(4) of the rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended by renumbering Rule 85(4)(b) as 85(4)(c) and adding the following after Rule 85(4)(a):

(b) review and make recommendations on the implications and impacts that the implementation of self-government agreements will have on the powers, structures and procedures of the Legislative Assembly.  
Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 14, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**Motion 20-14(6): To Amend Rule 70(1) Of The Rules Of The Legislative Assembly**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice on Monday, October 6, 2003, I will move the following motion:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave that Rule 70 of the rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended upon the dissolution of the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly by adding the following after Rule 70(1):

70(1.1) notice of intent to proceed with a bill not recorded in accordance with Rule 70(1) may be given to the House by the sponsor of the bill under the item Ministers' Statements on the Order Paper if it's a government bill, and under Members' Statements if it's a Private Members' Bill; and

70(1.2) on the third sitting day after receipt of a notice of intent, the Speaker shall have the bill placed on the Orders of the Day in Committee of the Whole; and

70(1.3) a standing or special committee may request an extension of the 120-day review period by motion under the item reports of committees on the review of bills.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 44 and proceed with the motion I gave notice of earlier today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 44 and proceed with his motion. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Antoine, you may proceed with your motion.

#### ITEM 16: MOTIONS

##### **Motion 18-14(6): Expression Of Gratitude To Clerk David M. Hamilton For Dedicated And Exemplary Service**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS David M. Hamilton was appointed Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on March 10, 1983;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Hamilton has provided devoted and exemplary public service to the Legislative Assembly as its Clerk for more than 20 years;

AND WHEREAS during Mr. Hamilton's tenure as Clerk, the system of democratic and responsible government in the Northwest Territories has undergone rapid and significant change;

AND WHEREAS Mr. Hamilton will retire as Clerk of the Legislative Assembly on October 9, 2003;

AND WHEREAS it is customary for Legislative Assemblies to recognize and express their gratitude for such long and distinguished service;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that the Legislative Assembly expresses its sincere gratitude to Mr. David M. Hamilton for his dedicated and exemplary service to this House;

AND FURTHER that the Legislative Assembly designate David M. Hamilton as an Honourary Officer of this Legislative Assembly with an entrée to the Chamber and a seat at the Table.

Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. May I have some order, please.

---Laughter

We have a motion on the floor. We can save that for later. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 1991 I came into the circle here at the Legislative Assembly. As a Dene and former chief, I was never involved in government before and, of course, this was a very anxious and sometimes frightening experience for me, not knowing the rules which run this whole Legislative Assembly. So it was a very trying experience in the beginning in this Legislative Assembly. When I arrived, Mr. Hamilton, the Clerk, was here, and with his leadership and with his staff, I really greatly appreciated the support right from the very beginning and up to this day.

As other new Members during other elections joined the circle, I observed that he was equally supportive and very helpful in the whole process; personally, behind the scenes and in the House. Of course, we go by a lot of rules here. I've always said I don't know all the rules, and I leave it to the Clerk to provide that advice because I have too many other responsibilities out there to the people of the Northwest Territories to try to learn all the rules at the same time. It worked well for me and I really appreciate the support and the help that Mr. Hamilton provided to me and to this Legislative Assembly.

So I was very honoured and proud to be asked to make the motion. With that, thank you and good luck. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. To the motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was very pleased to be able to second the motion on this expression of gratitude, and I would like to assure you, Mr. Speaker, that I'm going to speak to the motion but I may need some latitude. It will become more apparent as I go that I am actually speaking to the motion as we go along.

Mr. Speaker, superheroes are able to do many things that us mere mortals cannot do. Things like leaping tall buildings, flying through the air, stopping speeding bullets and so on. Although we may not realize it, superhuman traits have been observed in this House. We have in our midst a superhero who can move at the speed of lightning to stop villainous acts generally, of course, of Cabinet Members...

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Absolutely.

**MR. DENT:** ...or calm an irate MLA. But, Mr. Speaker, like Clark Kent, our Legislative Assembly superhero keeps a low profile. LA Man, as I like to call him, moves with lightning speed to the Speaker's Chair whenever there is question on procedure or protocol in the House. His presence at the Speaker's side is always quiet and calm. But you'll notice if you observe closely, that LA Man always has his hands in his pockets and his cape flowing out behind him, always ready for further trouble that will require him to take flight through the gallery and soar around to save the day.

His lilting Scottish tones have been known to soothe many troubled minds after a particularly rocky session in the House, and some have wondered whether or not he has hypnotic powers, as well.

Mr. Speaker, his table at the foot of your chair appears to be just a regular desk, but I think if we were to look more closely we would see an electronic control centre with devices that rival those that you would find in Canadian military command centres. Actually, I suspect that he may be better equipped than any Canadian military command centre.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, I'm referring to Mr. Hamilton. When I first arrived in the Legislative Assembly in 1991 I was greeted, as Minister Antoine, with many pieces of paper, reports, binders, regulations, rules, procedures, schedules and various other pieces of information. Any of you who've walked by my office will know that they're mostly still sitting on my desk. I needed help to sort through that information and get on my feet

as an MLA. That help came from the Clerk's office, specifically most often from Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton can take a flurry of paper and the complexities of Beaulieu's Parliamentary Rules and Procedures and make them easy to understand. He can always find a way to get something done within the rules.

Mr. Speaker, I've watched Mr. Hamilton over the years deal with many difficult situations. He's always handled them with skill and professionalism. We're going to miss his expertise and strong presence in this House. Mr. Speaker, with that, I urge all Members to vote in favour of this motion. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to speak in favour of this motion as well and I'm not going to be able to speak as having known Mr. Hamilton for as long as a lot of Members in this House, I know. I guess the first time I spoke to Mr. Hamilton was during the election campaign during the last election. He was involved in the election, of course, and I needed some advice in a number of areas and found him to be very informative and easy to talk to and very helpful.

In speaking to some people in Hay River that had worked with Mr. Hamilton in the past and knew him quite well, I was told, well, when you get over there and start working in the Legislative Assembly don't try and do anything without David Hamilton knowing about it because that's his domain over there. So I was a little leery to come over here and start working with him on a personal basis.

Like, Minister Antoine, when I came over here to this building, it can be a little intimidating the first time that you come in here and knowing that you're going to be working in here until you get to know everybody. I must take this opportunity to thank Mr. Hamilton for all the help that he has given me since I came into this House and there was no reason to fear him. I found that out. He has been extremely helpful to me over the past in helping me do my job and sorting through all the papers that go along with this job.

So I definitely am proud to stand up today in favour of this motion and I certainly want to wish him well in his future endeavors and look forward to having him around the House whenever he can make it here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Delorey. To the motion. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it won't be the same around here without Mr. Hamilton. As someone new coming in the House in the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly and new to politics, especially territorial politics, it was a real eye opener, especially trying to understand tons of rules and regulations and policies and procedures that we have in front of us and trying to weasel your way through the day-to-day operations. I was able to always depend on Mr. Hamilton to teach me the ropes, the tricks of the trade around here because it is a tricky process trying to figure out how you can get around certain aspects of the rules of this House.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** That's who told you how to do it.

---Laughter

**MR. KRUTKO:** So it's all his fault.

---Laughter

**MR. KRUTKO:** But it was definitely a real learning process. Then I think becoming the Deputy Speaker of this House was also a real challenge to try to figure out what you do when you sit up in the big chair up there. I try to keep my emotions to myself and not to interfere with people that are talking too long or are just not answering the questions because for me it's pretty hard to do.

I think it was an important thing knowing that Mr. Hamilton spent some time in the Mackenzie Delta, especially the community of Aklavik. People still talk about David's stay in Aklavik. I think that people will also be sad to see David leaving and not realizing there's somebody in the Legislative Assembly who had a presence in Aklavik for some time.

So on behalf of the people of the Mackenzie Delta I would like to just wish David all the best and wherever you go, whatever you do, I know you'll be close by and always there in case I need some more tips. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Minister Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In case anyone was wondering, I wanted to let you know that I'm speaking in favour of the motion.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of knowing Mr. Hamilton when he was Deputy Clerk, going back to the early 1980s, late 1970s, when he was there. There has been a lot of change in this Legislative Assembly since then. I was always intrigued with that little Scotsman running around everywhere. Those were the days when the Legislative Assembly used to travel around to communities and he had the task of making sure that everything got to where it was supposed to be and so on. I was always amazed that we were able to do that in those days.

He also had to put up with a lot of other kind of changes. This Legislative Assembly, before it had all of these rules that Mr. Hamilton brought to us, was a much more rocking and rolling place. He had to deal with cups flying across the Chamber, people getting up and smacking somebody because they didn't quite like the response they gave and so on. There have been a lot of changes.

Mr. Hamilton has also certainly shown himself to me in the last four years to be a real encyclopedia of knowledge on rules, on Beaulieu's, on precedents that have happened in the House in previous years and so on.

He certainly has not lost his energy. I get a lot of amusement sitting here watching him and watching his body language, watching his eyes and so on as things are going on in the House here. He's keeping track of everything that's going on. I also watch him move around. When I see him coming down that hallway upstairs with a furrow in his brow, I get out of the way because there's something happening here and I just hope that he's not coming into my office.

I have learned to appreciate David's support, David's help to all of us in this House and his ability, as someone else has said, to be able to calm us down, bring order back into the process when it's necessary. I, too, want to express my appreciation for his support and do welcome him back into this Chamber when he's back in Yellowknife. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, after much deliberation will have to, I think grudgingly, support this motion.

---Laughter

Like so many other Members who come here for the first time after an election into this awe-inspiring building, it truly is a mysterious parliamentary process and I think David's been there for all of us, to help us in demystifying that and to make sure that we know a lot of this ends up being smoke and mirrors. If we truly in our hearts did what we thought was most important and best for our constituents, then the rules and the procedures and those things really would find their way and we'd find our way through that maze and he'd be there to help and guide us.

I know so many of us on this side of the House have been to David's office to consult on procedural advice, usually trying to find some way to ever so carefully stick it to the government, if that's a parliamentary phrase. I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker. I apologize if it isn't. David's always been there with procedural advice and always cautioned us that he'd be giving exactly the same advice to Cabinet on the matter should they be coming and knocking on his door. I've always respected that about David, Mr. Speaker.

I know that he's one of the longest-serving Clerks in the country. He's well regarded around the country. In other jurisdictions, people have a lot of respect for him and certainly appreciate his efforts over the years. There's clearly a lot of love for David in this room and in this building. He will be truly missed, but I suppose, Lisa, Judith and Kate, we're giving you your father and your husband back, but make sure that you allow him to come and visit. We've got a spot for him here. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the motion. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Minister Steen.

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too want to express my support for this motion and take the opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr. Hamilton for the services and assistance he's given me as a Member over the past eight years. I'd like to express my appreciation for the advice he's given us, in Caucus, as a committee member and in this House. I know that it's helped us to arrive at some very controversial decisions and it's helped us, as well, to make some very wise decisions. I also would like to express my gratitude to my constituents for helping me help them. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, my earliest days around here were largely coloured by my rash decision or volunteerism to take on the duty as chair of Caucus. I volunteered for that. Well, I thought, I've run a few meetings. I think I can run a meeting. Guess what? I found out that I really didn't know how to run this kind of meeting with 18 of my colleagues here, all of us chomping at the bit to get going. If I hadn't had Mr. Hamilton's steady, guiding, cool hand it would have been a much more terrifying experience than it was. With you, I shared his good counsel and I've appreciated it very much, Mr. Speaker.

David and I also shared a Sunday morning habit, not every Sunday on my part, but he was frequently working here on Sunday and this was when I would like to come in and he always had a few minutes for me to come down and sample his coffee. We would get into some meandering discussions now and then on various, marvelous points of philosophy, but we also found ourselves getting right into the nuts and bolts of what was in front of us that day and very often, I think, making some good plans or some good starting points. I'll miss that Sunday morning coffee.

Mr. Speaker, what I would like to really highlight is Mr. Hamilton's unerring ability and that gift, I think, that he has for treating every one of us equally and giving us all the grace of his fullest attention. I note his tolerance, I'm sure, at times, but he never discounted me or any of my ideas or any of my inquiries or any of the worries that I took to him. I've seen him in the hallways and the meetings here. I don't know of anyone that he has not given his fullest attention to. In this environment, I think that's, as I say, a rare gift and one that I've tried to learn by.

Mr. Speaker, this is not good-bye. It is certainly good luck as we in this Assembly and, I think, the people of the Northwest Territories will continue to enjoy and benefit from Mr. Hamilton's experience because he continues on as the Chief Electoral Officer for the Northwest Territories. So, in that sense, indeed it is not good-bye, but it is very much good luck and thank you, David.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to also thank Mr. Hamilton for his service and the dedication he's shown to his job and certainly to this legislature. As the Premier, I'd like to thank him on behalf of the Cabinet for his service and dedication.

I would also like to thank him as the MLA for the Sahtu for the brief few weeks when I was elected in 1987. Because I was new I depended a great deal on, as other Members have, the information and advice that Mr. Hamilton gives to each and every one of us when we're first elected and come into these Chambers. So as the Sahtu MLA, I'd like to thank him for his service and support to not only myself, but to every new MLA that's ever come into this legislature during his time.

Mr. Hamilton has served us during a time in our history when there was a lot of change and excitement going on around him and he's been dedicated to making sure that this machinery of government, the legislature, continued to operate, as onerous as that might be. It's his life work and I'd like to tell him I think he should be proud of it and God bless. Mahsi.



---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will also be speaking in support of the motion. I followed territorial politics fairly closely, but my first real personal encounter with David was when they were having the opening of this beautiful facility. I wasn't an MLA yet and he was overseeing all of this and was trying to make sure that nobody crashed the party. I was trying to figure out a way to crash the party for the opening because I thought I should. Anyway, I did, but I remember he wasn't too impressed. I regarded him with a large role, actually, in the establishment and upkeep of this very beautiful facility that we work in. He has an appreciation for very fine things and I think that is very much reflected in the way this building is and the way it looks and continues to look even after being in service for this number of years.

The first night I arrived in Yellowknife -- coming in here was pretty scary, as my colleagues said -- one of the Deputy Clerks picked me up. I can't remember, I think it was David Inch. He picked me up and we had a big party at the Hamilton's for all the new Members coming in eight years ago and it was very nice. We got to know everybody on an informal basis and they have extended that hospitality to the Members of this legislature over the years.

David has provided continuity. Politicians come and go, but there has been a continuity. Sometimes we get into meetings where we're all over the map and we're not sure what we're doing. Some pretty outrageous things are flying around. Then David walks into the room and brings a voice of reason to help us somehow crystallize and articulate what we want to do and what we want to say.

So, as some of the Members have mentioned, I'm sure that Mr. Hamilton has seen it all. I must tell you, when I first came here, for about the first five years, I always called him Mr. Hamilton and I'm not sure why because he's actually about the same age as all the rest of us. Except maybe Brendan...

---Laughter

...who's only been an adult for eight years.

---Laughter

There has certainly been a kindness there and support and encouragement that's helped me do my job. I also wanted to say, thank you for the kindness you've extended to my family, to my children, to my husband when they've come here to visit. They've really appreciated that. As you go on to the next chapter of your life, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to wish our Clerk all the best. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, as well, would like to rise to speak in favour of this motion. This Legislative Assembly, as we all know -- as we prepare to launch off on elections, some of us, and some on to the rest of our lives -- is a place of change and transition. For the last 20 years Mr. Hamilton has been a fixture, but now it's his turn to

make the move out the doors of the Assembly into the real world to become a semi-civilian once again.

In his time he's seen dozens of us come and go, but there's only been one Clerk. So this is change. I know he's working hard on his Master's degree, he just has to finish his thesis. I also know he staying on as Chief Electoral Officer and from my own personal experience as MLA, especially in the 13th Assembly, I know that the Chief Electoral Officer has a lot of influence and can play a very important role in an MLAs life. So he will be keeping his finger on the pulse.

I'd like to wish him nothing but good health and happiness in all the things that he does after here and thank him for putting up with me and for all the assistance he's provided over the years. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. To the motion. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, like all my colleagues, am supporting this motion. I haven't known Mr. Hamilton for too long. Actually, I have known Mr. Hamilton for a while. Back in the days when the Legislative Assembly was in the Yellowknife Inn building here, I used to be his gopher. Running around town, picking up things, doing photocopying before they had the machines today.

I appreciate Mr. Hamilton's wisdom. Being a new Member I went to him on many occasions for advice. When you're selected to chair a special committee that's reviewing very emotional subjects such as official languages and culture I think David's assistance throughout the whole process was much appreciated by myself and my colleagues on the committee.

In that sense, Mr. Speaker, David has touched a lot of lives and through that work will touch a lot more lives in the years to come. The consensus government system is something that needs a lot of TLC and over the last 20 years that consensus government has been attacked in one form or another and, I think consistently, David has helped massage the whole process so that it's one of the better systems that we see in Canada when dealing with democratic systems.

David has, like I said, touched a lot of lives in the Northwest Territories. Not only the Northwest Territories, but in Nunavut as well. I'm pretty sure the people in Nunavut would appreciate me thanking David on their behalf, as well, today. I'd like to thank David for his 20 plus years of service on behalf of my constituents, the people of Lutselk'e and Deninu Kue. I'm sure that at one time or another their lives have been affected by what David has done in this House. What happens in this House has an effect on everything in the Northwest Territories in one form or another.

So, David, on behalf of my constituents, thank you very much. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Minister Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will support the motion. It is often difficult to follow up on so many accolades that the Clerk has received. I think it's important for me to let you know that I have a special note framed in my

mother's house in Inuvik that says that two Aklavik boys have come a long way and certainly, prior to David's arrival in Aklavik, I was escorted out to school so I didn't get a chance to know him in those days. When I did get elected for the first time in 1999 and first came to the Assembly in 2000 I, too, was intimidated and in awe of such a special place and special time in my life as the newly-elected Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

Mr. Hamilton, on behalf of my constituents I want to say this has been a special and very gratifying experience for myself and I want to convey my congratulations on behalf of my riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi. To the motion. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also strongly support the motion and I'd like to just go back and say that everybody else in this House, when we were new here, we had no one to go to, we went to him. You can tell by going to his office, the rug is very worn.

---Laughter

It's almost white from so many going into his office. He really helped us when we first got here. I'd like to thank him for that. I'll give you a good example of how much he meant to this House. When the Board of Management got the word that he was going to resign we had to make a decision on whether we should accept his resignation or not. At that time we said, well, we discussed that he had a lot of knowledge and he had experience and he was a walking encyclopedia. So I said, well, we'll accept his resignation on only one condition. That he leaves his head here because that's where all the knowledge is.

---Laughter

Anyway, I'd like to thank David for leaving us with a lot of knowledge. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** That's probably one wish he doesn't want to keep. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, will be voting in support of this motion. Like many, it's been a number of years that I've had the opportunity to work with David. I thought, when I first came in, that I would turn this government on its ear and make some drastic changes and became somewhat disappointed as I slowly figured out the system doesn't move quite as fast as one would wish from time to time. I would be disgruntled and sit back and wonder what we are doing here. He would stop in with a few words to say: "hold the course", "you are doing the right thing for your constituents."

There were times when I sure wished to be the fly on the wall when he's heard of Members who wanted to make a certain motion or the government would come out with a bill. I'm sure there were some antics and some words that were best left behind the doors as his advice might have been a little more stern than some of us would let on. But he has helped many of us as we walked through the doors of this Assembly. I, too, when I walked through here, was very green to territorial politics. I was open minded about what would happen here, but

as for the actual rules, Robert's Rules and so on, of different meetings and how we conduct ourselves, Mr. Hamilton's quiet advice would help steer the meeting and bring to a conclusion what we thought was total madness at times.

Many times I've had to explain to people, they'd ask about this Assembly and they'd ask, who was that man that sits at the table in front of the Speaker? As I've come to learn, now I say to my constituents who ask me, that is the man who steers the government direction. Although we think we're the power of this Assembly, I've come to learn that the Clerk position and Mr. Hamilton in particular has an awful lot of authority that many of us thought we wielded. He's taught us that he is one that can make things flow or he can plug things up as he saw the rules and explained them.

He has helped us and helped the North in more ways than many people can say. I guess, as we look at things and the season of change that would come upon us, and we know that the snow is once again, as on an annual basis, coming around, so too would another time of elections and new Members coming through the door. Members who've been around would leave and take on another life. Mr. Hamilton will, I'm sure, be paying much attention as he's seen this territory grow from its infancy, from when Members were elected, to a certain degree, to where we're a full governing body making rules for our people and the Territories.

There are times when he would go to a Member who would stand on their own, as I have, in this Assembly from time to time and felt that the difference we make here may be very minimal and wonder if it is time to look at greener pastures. Again, that quiet voice would sit down in his office, he would tell you that you are doing what's best for your constituents and don't be afraid to stand and take the heat if it is that situation. Or maybe it's time to sit down and be quiet about something and let the will of the House rule the day.

So it has been my extreme pleasure, and I'm sure as he's seen the picture in the paper, when I was first elected, along with many of the others. I'm not sure where they got that picture from. I know that many comments made by my colleagues about the, who is this guy from Inuvik? Look at that guy. Is he a terrorist?

---Laughter

I wasn't sure, but I'm sure Mr. Hamilton, as he saw many of us come in here, knew that he would at times have his hands full with Members coming in here and what we would do. He would steer us gently in a way that was best fitting for us as Members and for our constituents. I said I came in here as a very green Member to territorial politics. I guess I can say somewhat that I am seasoned now. I have gone from my dull grays to my colourful purples and grapes, as one of my colleagues would say. Along with that, I have grown as a member of the Legislative Assembly and hopefully, with the advice and calming influence of Mr. Hamilton, be able to serve my constituents in the future remembering his guidance. There are times when the business of this Assembly is first and foremost, but there are times when his ability to talk to Members aside from the politics of the day and talk to you on a personal note and let you know you are doing a good job. So I'll miss you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** To the motion. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, stand today to speak in support of the motion. I appreciate the fact that Mr. Hamilton announced his retirement earlier and I think part of it was so that we would all get used to and prepared for a life without him. I think that we all know that it's just not going to be the same.

With his announcement of retirement and some of the announcements in the House and outside of the House of some of the long-serving Members, yourself, Mr. Speaker and Minister Antoine, Minister Kakfwi and Minister Ootes leaving, it really feels like this is definitely the end of an era and we are starting anew. I think I am one of the younger ones here, contrary to some other Member's statement. I really am feeling like it's not time for me to have to grow up more and be able to be more self-sufficient.

Mr. Speaker, it really seems to me like I have known Mr. Hamilton forever and I can't remember the first time I met him, but Minister Antoine's statement about him being appointed as Clerk in 1983 reminded me that I had a brief presence in the old Assembly, the old Yellowknife Inn, where they had a youth assembly where they brought two youths from every riding in the country and I was one of the ones chosen in Yellowknife Centre. I remember making presentations, along with now Chief Jerry Paulette and Sabrina Dragon when we were 18-years-old pretending to be MLAs. That must have been when I first met Mr. Hamilton inside of this setting. But, of course, he's been a member of the community of Yellowknife for a long time. I know him through the United Church. I have a unique background that I have been an employee of the Legislative Assembly. I came here in 1989. I submitted a resume to Mr. Hamilton fresh out of university with my fancy degree in political science. I had a call from him not too long after that and started working as a research officer with Rick Bargery, who is now the deputy minister. The names sort of flow around here.

So I have had the honour of working as an employee here and then working in Ministers' offices and then going to school again and coming back as a Member. Mr. Speaker, I have to say that Mr. Hamilton truly is one of a kind. I don't think he's replaceable in this House or in the government. I know the senior management of the government relies on him a lot and in our city of Yellowknife and the entire community.

He is truly a very gifted person. He's about the only one who I know who absolutely knows everything, not just about what's going on in this chamber. We know what goes on in this Chamber is a small part of what goes on in the whole Legislative Assembly. But he also knows what's going on in the whole government. He actually knows what's going on before you know it. He knows what you are thinking even before you speak it.

---Laughter

He has a plan for you to go ahead with it or to stop the plan before you get into too much trouble. I know what Members here have already spoken about. Every time I go into his office, I can just feel the stories that must go on in that office. I have been one of the Members who have benefited from his advice. I have noticed two things about Mr. Hamilton. One is the success that he's had and his ability to have served in this House and serve the Members for 20 years, that is not a small thing. I don't know how anybody can do that. He should be very proud of having achieved that. Members who are in this House, we are very determined. We have strong beliefs. We come here with lots of issues and convictions that we want to fight on and it cannot be easy for him to give advice, but he has a gift of

quick mind. Whenever I suffer from difficulty with making a decision, whether it's procedure or whether I should make this statement or that or should I go one way or the other, you could have suffered it for three hours or three days and you talk to him and he will know the answer in one instant.

Another gift he has that made him a success in this House is that no matter what advice he gives you, he always makes you feel like he's your friend. Even if he's changed your mind, you walk away thinking that you have your way or you are winning. He has that. Not too many people have that. Even if he changes your mind, he makes you feel like you've won anyway and you've made your point. I hope I am doing justice to recognizing the gifts that he has, which is his quick mind. That's not always easy to find. We second guess ourselves and about things we want to do and it's a tremendous help when you are struggling with your decision to just talk to Mr. Hamilton. It doesn't have to be very long. You just talk to him for a few minutes and he has an answer for you. Whether you take it or not, you go away with it feeling much better.

So I just want to recognize him for that. Also, I don't know how he has time for other things but he's been developing himself personally. He has lots of involvement outside of the community and I know he will do really well. As Mr. Bell has mentioned, I have travelled with him around the world, he is highly respected all across the country and all around the world by a lot of parliamentarians and clerks who know his work and who have had a chance to work with him. So I have had no doubt that he is going to have a full and illustrious career in his retirement in whatever way he chooses.

I don't want to say good-bye and I don't want to be sad about it, but I am really mindful of the fact that this is the beginning of a new era. We are going to have a totally different place and if it's any comfort to you, Mr. Hamilton, know that you've done a good job. You've gone through a lot of changes in this Assembly, guided the political and constitutional evolution through and that you are leaving us in good hands. Please feel free to come back and visit and all the best wishes to Kate and your entire family. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** There are no other people wanting to speak and as Speaker, I don't normally speak to motions nor do I get to vote on motions, except in a tie situation. The chair doesn't anticipate a tie vote here.

---Laughter

However, if I were allowed to say something, I would say...

---Laughter

...I would say that I support everything that has already been said around the table and add, if I were allowed to say, it's been a big part of my political life being a student of Mr. Hamilton right from November 8, 1988 when I was first sworn in and that from this position in the last four years, I have gained a lot of respect for the knowledge that this gentlemen has of the parliaments, not only here but nationally and internationally. I say that because I have attended international conferences and national conferences with Mr. Hamilton. He is very well respected in this country and in international circles as well. His presence will be missed here as our esteemed Clerk. I think what we are doing today here is giving us an opportunity of not saying goodbye, it is just saying farewell temporarily. Should the occasion arise, you are proposing to have a chair here so that this gentleman can come and be in our presence,

so we can act wisely and speak wisely on behalf of our constituents.

The honourable Member for Nahendeh has the last opportunity to speak to this motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh.

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated it was an honour and a privilege to move this motion. It is the indication in this Legislative Assembly that there is unanimous support for this motion.

I just wanted to add that the work that Mr. Hamilton has done in support of our roles in the Legislative Assembly and all the numerous meetings and the Legislative Assemblies that we have and all the work that we do. He has been a guiding force showing us the technical aspects of what we should do and through the help that he has given us in the Legislative Assembly.

It also reflects what happens out in the Northwest Territories, in the evolution in our territory and the development of democracy in the Northwest Territories. Even though he is very humble, and you don't hear very much from him, he's really contributed to the development of the Northwest Territories in that way. That is all I have to say. Mahsi. That would be my closing remarks. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** There being no further debate on the motion, the House is ready for the question

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you.

In the chair's opinion, the motion was carried unanimously.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

#### ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 34: Tlicho Land Claims And Self-Government Agreement Act

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill approves, gives effect to and declares valid the Tlicho agreement, which is a land claims and self-government agreement among the Tlicho, the government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada.

This bill also gives effect to the Tlicho tax treatment agreement which is in agreement, in relation to the tax treatment of the Tlicho government, Tlicho corporations and the Tlicho capital trusts.

This bill provides a mechanism for the transfer of personal property to the Tlicho government. It also provides for the legal recognition of the Tlicho agreement. The Tlicho tax treatment

agreement and the laws made by the Tlicho government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. You have a motion. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I just want to make a very brief statement in support of the principle of this bill. I do believe that this is a project that has been in the works for a very long time. I know that the members of the Tlicho government and their people are anxious to get this bill in the House.

I will be supporting the second reading of the bill in support of having the bill in the public domain for the public input and consultation process. I just want to state that I support the principle of this bill and that I look forward to having discussions about this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you Ms. Lee. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

**MR. DELOREY:** Thank you Mr. Speaker. I, as well, would like to speak to the principle of the bill. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see the second reading of this bill come to the House.

I look forward to going home this weekend and having consultation on this bill with my constituents. I think that it is very important that the public know what is going on. I look forward to the debate coming up over this bill and as much public input as we can get into it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you Mr. Delorey. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for the Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I, too, stand here to indicate that I will be supporting this bill. It is the next step, Mr. Speaker, in what has really become a proud history legacy of northern Canadians and Canada as a whole that has seen land claim and self-government process events over time. In most of my life here in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, and some nine or ten years in the Yukon, I have lived through the evolution of the whole notion that aboriginal people deserve to have these things.

It really is a matter of restoring what they had and how they lived and went about making their own decisions before the arrival, of course, of European culture. The acceptance of land claims and self-government is really becoming part of the North's psyche. It is part of our environment, it is part of how we live, how we work with each other and, very much, Mr. Speaker, it is part of the way we are looking forward in planning for the future. We cannot do these things without factoring in the significance of land claims and self-government. That is why we are here as legislators; to see this through and to be the eyes and the ears and the hearts of our constituents and to lead and guide the laws and programs through to completion.

As my colleague, Mr. Delorey, said he looks forward to seeing this through and to the broadest and fullest possible inclusion as our process and our rules have it, that this is given the fullness of time and exposure to all people of the North to have a look at these laws. To see that they are indeed the right thing to do, see that they meet the expectations and merit the respect that we bring to them, Mr. Speaker. I want to say again that I stand in full support of this bill and look forward to the

public discourse and the passage of it in due course. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you Mr. Braden. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise in favour in principle of the Bill. Mr. Speaker, the Tlicho agreement is one part of many parts toward constitutional development in the Northwest Territories. We have the aboriginal framework, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal government are currently negotiating devolution. This is just one part of it, Mr. Speaker. The Tlicho people have been negotiating for a number of years through different governments. Our government, the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly, is the one that finalized that agreement, along with the federal and the Tlicho governments. I think as the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly we have to take ownership of that reality. I think I would like to see the Tlicho agreement have third reading while we are still in office as the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories to give it legal effect and to demonstrate not only to the Tlicho people, but to the people of the Northwest Territories and especially to the people of Canada, through their government in Ottawa, that the Northwest Territories is ready for devolution and this is one way and just another way of rubberstamping our position that, yes, we want to take control of the Northwest Territories, its resources and many of the laws and applications of the non-renewable resources in the Northwest Territories.

Like I said, the Tlicho agreement is just another part of constitutional development. If we don't give that agreement legal effect in this Assembly, we not only send a negative message saying that we're careful, et cetera, et cetera. The agreement is a negotiated agreement, it's a final agreement between three levels of government. We could give it as much public process as possible but, at the end of the day, that's still a final agreement. If we don't give it the legal effect while we're still in office, we send a message not only to the Government of Canada, but to the aboriginal governments that are currently negotiating other agreements of a similar nature, saying that the Government of the Northwest Territories is not too serious about it.

So I suggest, Mr. Speaker, and I encourage my colleagues to ensure that the Tlicho agreement is given legal entity by giving it third reading while we're still in office, and I encourage my colleagues to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, it's a great honour today to speak on the Tlicho agreement. It has been some 20 years of negotiations to the tune of \$28 million being expended on these negotiations, which the Tlicho people will have to pay back. I think as a people in the Northwest Territories who have seen the development of land claims, the political process in the Northwest Territories, it has been a long, drawn out process. For people to say they weren't aware of negotiations or not aware of what's in the Tlicho agreement, I find it totally unreasonable to realize that negotiations have been going on for this long and no one knows what's in it.

I've been involved in negotiations of the Dene/Metis claims negotiations process and then also the Gwich'in agreement and the Sahtu agreement. The most cumbersome group of people to negotiate with is the Government of the Northwest Territories. The most challenging issues that you have at the

negotiating table are with the Government of the Northwest Territories negotiators. You have to negotiate with the federal government and the Government of the Northwest Territories and all the other people out there. I think for people to sit here and say that we need more time, we've had 20 years. We've spent almost \$30 million on negotiating the Tlicho agreement.

The same thing applied to the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, the Sahtu and now with the Tlicho agreement. I've spend going on eight years in this House, always bringing the Gwich'in land claim agreement with me because there are a lot of elements of this agreement which haven't even been implemented, and it's over 10 years since the Gwich'in agreement was negotiated. A simple thing like amendments to the Wildlife Act; we've served four years and this has been one of our issues and it hasn't been dealt with. We have establishment of protected areas in this agreement such as territorial parks. It's almost 10 years since these parks were established. It has taken so long to implement our land claim agreement it's pathetic. Yet people say well, they're getting all these things. You get a land claim agreement, but it doesn't mean anything unless it gets legislative assent.

I think that's what the Tlicho agreement is asking for us to do here today. As legislators we have a responsibility to uphold our commitments to First Nations people that have taken the time to negotiate their agreement and also have taken the time to make that expenditure, and negotiations are a two-way street. The federal government has their positions, the GNWT has their positions, and the First Nations people have their positions. But at the end of it all, we have an agreement that basically has been signed by the Prime Minister of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the First Nations people.

It has been televised across the country. I would like to see this agreement given assent in this House during the sitting of this legislature. If people want to have a full debate, we can debate it on the floor of this House through Committee of the Whole and have it televised across the country so every community, every person in our community can see what the questions are, what the issues are, and as Members of this Legislature standing up to face your predictions and exactly what you stand for. If you have problems with an issue, let's do it on the floor of this House. With that, Mr. Speaker, I fully support the Tlicho agreement and I will encourage Members to also support the enactment of this agreement by bringing forward the legislation that's in front of us and passing it in the Chamber of this House as soon as possible.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the principle of the Tlicho land claims and self-government agreement is a good one. For years aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories and across Canada have been working to negotiate, along with their claims, self-government. Being that the principle is a good one, Mr. Speaker, is one thing, but our duty as legislators in this House I find myself in a bit of a predicament here because I know the wishes of this government to bring this to fruition, to bring it back in this House to third reading and pass it in the life of this government.

We know that dissolution happens on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, and we're done. Mr. Speaker, we need to ask ourselves as legislators for all people in the Northwest Territories if the process we're going to step into, which has already been brought forward by our Cabinet, they've endorsed this and

moved this and moved it ahead and taken all the considerations and concerns of Members, and in their wisdom thought that this is a step that needs to happen.

Mr. Speaker, there are questions we have to ask ourselves, and not only ourselves but on behalf of the residents we represent when it comes to this act. I believe that now that it is kicked into the public realm after first reading, and now after second reading it will go to committee and the committee will have to decide now as to what are the best steps for this bill. We've heard a number of Members already say we should bring it back and conclude it in the life of this session. We know our session ends on the 10<sup>th</sup>, unless we decided as an Assembly to extend those sitting days beyond the 10<sup>th</sup> up until possibly midnight, I guess, on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

It is a piece of legislation that is very significant, Mr. Speaker. Government may put this out as a small piece of legislation. There only are a small number of clauses in this bill, and that's true, but they are very significant and mean much, as we've talked about earlier, about the development of this Northwest Territories, the development of the people in the Northwest Territories, and what it means. Every agreement signed to date, there has been no piece to it that included a self-government provision. So this is a very big piece of legislation on that principle of self-government in the Northwest Territories.

Yes, we've heard that the federal government and the territorial government, that's our Cabinet, has signed off on this. The federal government's Cabinet has signed off on this and the Tlicho people have signed off on this and ratified it. This step, Mr. Speaker, that we are now coming to as a Government of the Northwest Territories is our government's way of bringing ratification to this bill. Is it appropriate that we take this and move it through at the pace that is being requested? In many minds, that is a very serious potential and outcome of this bill. Whether we have that debate amongst committee on a public hearing process, whether it's in the communities or have a very public debate in this House in Committee of the Whole, I think we have to give a full degree of attention to this bill and what it means to residents of the Northwest Territories. Once this is ratified, that means every agreement that has been signed to date, whether it was a self-government process or not or just a land claims process, those claims are going to have to have a clause in them that says anything given to one group, we shall benefit from as well. I know that's in the Inuvialuit one, that's in the Gwich'in one, and I'm sure that's in the Sahtu one.

As well, one has to say as a government, in our wisdom are we able to proceed to this stage and bring real effect to this bill, or is it a symbolic gesture, Mr. Speaker? I think as legislators we have to be sure that what we are doing is the right thing, not just for the sake of symbolism, but for bringing real legislation into this House and bringing it forward.

So, Mr. Speaker, in principle, it is a good bill. It will change the Government of the Northwest Territories and evolve to the next step, and we know there are many other claims in that process. I come from an area, the Beaufort-Delta, that is working on something in the area of self-government, as well, Mr. Speaker. So it is important that we deal with this as legislators in an open and transparent way. The residents of the Northwest Territories expect accountability from this government, and making sure that what we do is in the best interest of all people in the Northwest Territories. I know we'd like to do this and do it quickly for the benefit of the Tlicho people, and that's a very plausible thing. We need to look at that and see that in the light that it should be in. But, Mr. Speaker, I have a duty as a

Member of the Legislative Assembly to all residents that I represent from my constituency, and until we have that public debate on this to the provisions of this and what it actually means...For example, what does clause 4 mean to the Government of the Northwest Territories, to the people of the Northwest Territories that I represent?

With that, Mr. Speaker, I would encourage that we get it to the public process. Committee, at this point, will have to decide if it's an on-the-road campaign in the sense of taking it out, or if we decide to bring it to this House for a review in Committee of the Whole. We must all be ready for the next stage to do due diligence. It's only what's expected of us by residents.

So in principle it's a good bill, and I would support getting this to the next stage, but I would have some serious questions that I hope the Cabinet, the Minister sponsoring this would have the appropriate answers as we go through that public process. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, support the principle of the bill. I think as the Member for Mackenzie Delta has pointed out, this represents years of work and a significant amount of effort and undertaking by the Tlicho. I understand it to be the first agreement of its kind, bringing claims and self-government together.

I have to say that I haven't had much time to examine the bill, so I do look forward to having some time to have a detailed look at it. But from what I do know of the bill so far, Mr. Speaker, it probably changes the face of governance in the North. In many ways it might have been de facto by constitution making.

One thing I would like to do is compliment the Tlicho on their effort to make this agreement accessible. They've certainly raised the bar when it comes to making a complex legal document like the agreement available in plain language, and I would encourage my constituents to make sure that they have an opportunity to have a look at these documents. I look forward to discussing this bill with Members of committee and hopefully members of the public as it proceeds through the House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't take long, we'll have a lot of chance to discuss this bill in detail, but I will rise here today to offer my support for the principle of this legislation, to the principle of this bill.

As Members have said, this will recognize the self-government and land claim aspirations and dreams of the Tlicho people. I acknowledge and admit that four years ago when I was elected, I had very little knowledge about the dreams and aspirations of this First Nation. I can say that I know a heck of a lot more today than I did four years ago, and that's due in large part to the tireless efforts of Leon Lafferty who has been quite an advocate, I must say, for this legislation and for the Tlicho people over the last four years, and has continually been down the hall to discuss progress and their aspirations and dreams with me in my office, and try to encourage me to support the legislation and to work to understand the agreement.

It's very important legislation. It is, in fact, constitutional development. I hope that this legislature and our committee will give it the respect and the full consideration that I believe it deserves, and I look forward to that process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand to support this bill. I think this bill is something that the Tlicho people are looking forward to. They've worked on it for a long time. As you know, there was a ratification vote in June where over 80 percent of the people wanted this, and that's the majority that wanted this self-government legislation to go forward. I know it's unfair of me to ask my colleagues to push it through as fast as they can, but still this is the wish of the people.

The other thing that I'd like to add is that there has been a lot of consultation out there over the 12 years. There have been draft documents that were shared with the Cabinet. Cabinet has full knowledge of all those documents that have passed through them. We've seen some of them. I've shared some of the documents with the Special Committee on Self-Government so they know what we're going to be looking forward to. But those were all just drafts. They couldn't discuss it or make decisions on it because they were just a special committee on the sunset clause, which sort of affected the self-government area, and that was one of the reasons it was put there.

So I have to say I support this and that later on today I will be seeking unanimous consent to move it into Committee of the Whole so we can speed it up as much as we can to the wishes of the Tlicho people. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

**HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Tlicho people have invested years of work and literally millions of dollars of their own money to get to where we are today. They have, on their own free will, chosen to be partners with us; partners in a public government. They could have gone exclusively aboriginal, but they chose not to. It's a choice that I think all of us should celebrate. It's an offer that we cannot refuse.

Today, every day for the next few months, the next few years we have to be conscious that we're working with partners and the Tlicho are one of our strongest partners, economically and politically. They are also partners with the Gwich'in, with the Sahtu, with the Deh Cho, with the Akaitcho and the Gwich'in people, with the Metis. They have chosen to work with us on the very same agenda that we're trying to advance, whether it's diamonds, pipeline, oil and gas, devolution or revenue sharing. These are the people that we are partnering with to advance our agendas, and we need them to continue the work that we've started.

Some of us are not as well briefed or haven't taken the time to try to understand the issues of aboriginal people, and some of us haven't taken the time to read the documents that are in front of us, the offers that are made to inform us. We have an obligation as MLAs to be well informed and to make sure that our constituents are informed as well.

I also want to remind Members that every major aboriginal initiative that has come here to this legislature has always been

met in the same way. Some were supported, some of us don't know, some of us are afraid and not quite sure what it means. All of us share one need. We need to know what this government, this territory, is going to look at like in two years and in 10 years. That is something singularly lacking with all of us. Some of us think we know. Some of us admit we don't know. It's a need. Unless we develop them, unless we are able to tell our people this government is going to change, there are emerging regional governments, there are aboriginal governments, there are aboriginal people negotiating their rights as part of this aboriginal government and here's how it has changed to date and here's where we are going, people are going to be afraid. People are going to ask for time. People are going to be cautious. So the leadership that we should provide and need to provide can start right here. We can't stop what is going on. Too much has passed away.

The Inuvialuit people, over the objections of this legislature, in fact ignored the Territorial Council of the day when it went ahead and was ratified and implemented. The Gwich'in claim went and there was some caution and concern, but it went ahead and so did the Sahtu claim.

Now the Tlicho claim is in front to us. The Deh Cho process is a process that embraces public government as well. There are a lot of difficult issues to face there, but it's a process that I welcome because they choose to find a way to be part of this government. We have to believe that people out there who want to be governed are saying it's going to be even better. We in this House are part of what goes on in the communities. We have to reflect the will and the aspirations of people out there. Sometimes we do have to take a leap of faith.

We have lawyers and we get advice, we pass legislation all the time. We are not quite sure of what it all means, but we go on the faith of what we are advised. I know that everything is tied together; devolution, revenue sharing, self-government, the Tlicho agreement. People out there are watching us and wondering how we are going to treat it. I have to say I believe that we are going to do it right. This piece of legislation here is one that's gives effect, so it has already been agreed to by the Tlicho, by the Government of Canada and this government. So we do hope that the Members will recognize that people are waiting for us. We are asking the Aboriginal Summit to advance significant issues that are of great concern to revenue sharing, devolution. We are asking them to take a leap of faith. Although we don't know the answers, we don't know the specifics, we are asking to partner with us and take a leap of faith. That's the challenge.

We can't afford to slow things down because we don't know. We can take a reasonable amount of time to inform ourselves and make that judgment. It's a political judgment that may be called on for some of us and I, for one, have no difficulty at all to support and I wish to deal with this as quickly as we can. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak to the principle of the bill. I am not going to speak to the process, but again as I have previously commended the Tlicho people for bringing this vision and dream that they have to the stage where it is now. I think anybody who has been part of development in the North, will have known for some time that this has been in the works and they have brought it to a reality and I would like to

commend them for that and I will support the principle of the bill. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the principle of the bill. The House is ready for the question.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried unanimously.

---Carried

---Applause

The motion is carried. Bill 34 has had second reading. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act, referred to Committee of the Whole.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Lafferty is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 69 and have Bill 34 referred to Committee of the Whole. Are there any nays? The chair has heard a nay. You do not have unanimous consent. Therefore, Bill 34 stands referred to a committee. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 69(2) and have Bill 34, Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act, referred to Committee of the Whole.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta. Unfortunately, your motion to seek unanimous consent is too late. The bill has already been referred to a standing committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta.

#### Point Of Privilege

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, on a Point of Privilege, I did make an attempt by raising my hand and you did not acknowledge me. I have shown that I did put the Table on notice that I was going to be doing a similar motion and I think that should have been passed on to yourself. So I have made the attempt and I think we should follow the procedure of the House to continue with the process and that I have an opportunity to move my motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The chair is concerned over what you're raising. Are you raising a Point of Order or a Point of Privilege? Please just state your Point of Order again.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, I am rising on a Point of Privilege on the assumption that not enough time was given to allow for notification if there were any other motions to be dealt with and to seek unanimous consent before the conclusion of Bill 34. There should have been enough submission time to acknowledge other Members who may have had a motion at the time. I did raise my hand, but you did not make the attempt to look around the room to see if there are other people to acknowledge. So I rise on the point that not sufficient time was given for notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The chair did look around to see if there were any other issues to be dealt with and the chair did not recognize any other hands being put up. I am unaware of what else was done. In the chair's opinion, the procedure was followed. I was attempting to follow this systematically and I did check around and did ask twice I think Hansard will show. Then the chair had no option but to continue on with the Orders of the Day, which was seeking any further second reading of bills. That matter has been dealt with and was referred to a committee accordingly. So we will continue on. Item 18, second reading of bills.

At this time, before I proceed to the next item, I would like to ask my colleagues to direct your attention to the presence in the visitors' gallery of two very important people. The former Member for Tu Nedhe and Cabinet Minister and former Premier, Mr. Don Morin.

---Applause

I also would like to direct your attention to the presence in the Speaker's Gallery to a very important person in all of our lives, Mrs. Kate Hamilton.

---Applause

Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters; Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act; Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act; Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act; Bill 26, Youth Justice Act; and, Committee Report 18-16(4), Report on the Review of Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act, Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act, and Bill 26, Youth Justice Act, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

#### ITEM 19: COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We have several items to deal with. Bills 21, 22, 24 and 26 and Committee Report 18-14(6). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

**MR. DENT:** Mr. Chairman, looking at the time, I know we had plans to look at a number of acts today, but I suspect we will only have time to deal with Bill 26, Youth Justice Act.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Okay. We will take a short break and begin with Bill 26.

---SHORT RECESS

#### Bill 26: Youth Justice Act

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I will call Committee of the Whole back to order. We are dealing with Bill 26, Youth Justice Act. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he has any opening comments. Mr. Allen.

#### Minister's Opening Comments

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to speak to Bill 26, Youth Justice Act. The bill repeals the Northwest Territories Young Offenders' Act and replaces it with legislation based on the Government of Canada's Youth Criminal Justice Act.



The territorial Young Offenders' Act is based on the federal Young Offenders' Act repealed on April 1, 2003. The Youth Criminal Justice Act replaces the federal Young Offenders' Act. These acts apply when a young person is alleged to have committed an offence. The federal YCJA applies to Criminal Code and other federal offences. The Youth Justice Act before you applies to offences under territorial legislation and municipal bylaws.

Federal legislation has changed how the federal criminal justice system deals with young persons. It includes a new approach to youth crime focussing on crime prevention, rehabilitation and meaningful consequences for youth who commit offences. Mr. Chairman, while the NWT has used this approach for many years through community justice initiatives, these federal principles were included in the bill before you.

Some new provisions in the Youth Justice Act include:

- encouraging police officers to use extrajudicial measures such as earnings, cautions and referrals to community justice committees;
- allowing conferencing, where community members, families teachers and elders provide advice to the police, Crown, courts or youth workers on how best to deal with a youth;
- clearly stating that incarceration is not an alternative to child protection; and,
- restricting the use of custody sentences to those youth who have demonstrated they cannot comply with a non-custodial order.

The YJA includes some differences from the federal YCJA. It maintains custody rather than custody and supervision and removes probation as sentencing options. The court may still impose conditions on a young person but removing probation ensures that a youth convicted under territorial legislation would not face a criminal conviction for breaching a probation order.

Mr. Chairman, the department does not expect a significant impact from the adoption of the Youth Justice Act. Any impacts that do occur will be in the community justice and community corrections areas. It is not expected to impact custody facilities as statistics show that in the last three years, only one youth convicted solely of a territorial offence was sentenced to custody.

The department expects more youth will be diverted to community-based alternatives like justice committees. To support communities, training has been provided. The department is also in the second year of a three-year plan to provide each community in the NWT with up to \$20,000 a year to hire a part-time community justice coordinator.

Three new community corrections workers have been hired to improve supervision of youth. These positions, located in Fort Providence, Norman wells and Inuvik, allow us to manage the workload and ensure workers visit smaller communities regularly.

These are positive changes that encourage youth to accept responsibility for their actions and recognize the impact they have on their community. For youth committing territorial offences, like the YCJA, this legislation limits their exposure to

the criminal justice system and supports them in making positive choices.

Mr. Chairman, I thank standing committee for their input on this bill. I will be bringing forward three motions today to make minor amendments to the bill.

I would be pleased to answer any questions Committee of the Whole may have on this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** At this time, I would like to ask the committee responsible for this bill if they have any comments. Mr. Bell.

#### **Standing Committee On Social Programs Comments**

**MR. BELL:** Well, I hope that doesn't happen again, Mr. Chairman.

---Laughter

There was a little name plate down underneath the picture of me that said "Mike McLeod."

Mr. Chairman, our report kind of stands on its own on this bill. There isn't a point in me remaking all the points and re-discussing all the issues that we did when we made the report to the House. I think though that I would say that committee felt it was important to take this bill out for consultation despite the fact that this was bringing us in line with the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act and there was a requirement that the language be essentially the same, so there was little opportunity for us really to make significant change to this bill, but we still felt it was important for us to hear from constituents as to their thoughts on this bill and we also allowed a little latitude in allowing people to speak to the Youth Criminal Justice Act because it is hard I think in the minds of most people to separate the two bills and the different areas of influence.

We heard some very interesting things on the road, especially in Wha Ti. People there are very passionate about corrections and the effect it's having on communities, young people and families. It was very important for us to get that public input, I feel.

Certainly we've seen and we talked about this since April 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, the Youth Justice Act came into effect and there's been a change of philosophy that's been building over a number of years in the country and our philosophy and now our laws are reflecting the idea that we don't simply lock up young offenders and throw away the key and expect that that is going to rehabilitate people and change things. It can be controversial at times because you see extra judicial measures being used to see community sentencing options and some people who have been the victims of crime may have been less than enthused about an idea that young offenders are out in the community paying restitution instead of locked up doing hard time, Mr. Chairman.

I think that the legal community and the country at least is recognizing that incarcerating young offenders or making them come into contact with the legal justice system at such a young age does not necessarily turn people around. I suppose for certain individuals, some kinds can be scared back on the straight and narrow, but by and large that doesn't seem to be the case once youngsters come in contact with our legal system. They seem to be more likely to re-offend. We are

looking for new answers and new solutions. I think this legislation does that.

The territorial bill that we have in front of us really isn't talking about the kinds of crimes that typically have ended up with young people being incarcerated. We are talking about breaches of municipal and territorial statutes. There might be violations of the Liquor Act, for instance, or something like that, Mr. Chairman. It was important for us, obviously. We had little latitude in making sure that the language was consistent with the federal bill, but it was still a nice chance to hear from people about their thoughts and ideas about this very important area. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he will be bringing in any witnesses.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Yes, I would.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

For the record, Mr. Minister, please introduce your witnesses.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today I have the pleasure of being accompanied by Shirley Kemeys-Jones, our assistant deputy minister of the Department of Justice to my left; Patricia Gall, legislative counsel, legislation division to my extreme right; and, to my immediate right, Janice Laycock, acting director of policy and planning. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. We are dealing with Bill 26. General comments. Mr. Dent.

#### General Comments

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to see this bill, particularly because I believe it will allow more flexibility for the correctional system to deal with young people who come in contact with the law. This will include having youth work with community justice committees, rather than going through the court system.

Mr. Chairman, a fundamental aspect of having offenders working with community justice committees is the young person's willingness to take responsibility for their actions. That is, as I see it, a vital component. By providing opportunity for young people to be involved in taking responsibility, I believe we create a social environment for youth to learn from mistakes, rather than just to be simply punished. I think it sends an important message that taking responsibility for our own actions helps us to admit that we are human and need help from others to find our way again.

Mr. Chairman, community justice committees must be fully supported in the work that they do with training, funding and assistance from the Department of Justice. I know it will be important to see that kind of support provided in order for them to work effectively. There also has to be a significant amount of training and funding for support for others who are involved in this process such as victims' services, workers, the RCMP and others in order to make sure that provisions of the act are properly implemented.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's also important to be aware of the information needs the parents have. So I urge the department to ensure that with the implementation of this act, they consider how they will communicate effectively with parents and families of young people who come in contact with the law. We need to encourage community residents to be part of existing youth justice committees and help create new ones where we don't have any. This encouragement will have to take the form of financial support and assistance from the Department of Justice. I hope the Minister can advise us now that he's planning to have his officials put in the next year's business plan increased funding to allow more youth justice committees to be active in the NWT with better support. I am wondering if we can find out from the Minister if that will be the case.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Mr. Minister.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will ask Shirley Kemeys-Jones to speak to that specific question. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, it has been a priority of the department to ensure that the justice committees do have the adequate resources to carry out this very important work. We are in the second year of additional funding to those communities. Next year, we will be providing another \$20,000 to 10 more communities in the Territories, so they can better do this work. We are paying very close attention to it for the next business planning period. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. General comments. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On that same topic, I see from the report here and the reference in the bill about the need for the creation of youth justice committees under this legislation. I know that the community justice committees over the years have had the need to have the necessary funding and resources to carry out their work. We have seen successes in many areas, but it's an area that always needs the help. I had the opportunity to attend some of their conferences where the volunteers in the community express the need for constant, ongoing training as well as necessary resources. So I would like to ask the Minister whether or not a thought was given to perhaps not creating all youth justice committees, but having the community justice committees and having youth representatives on those communities to consider matters that come before them that deals with youth, or is that something that's not allowed under this legislation? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Justice.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** I will ask Ms. Kemeys-Jones to reply to that.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** I believe the question is if youth can be involved in the justice committees. The answer to that is yes. Each committee has the option or the discretion of asking members of the community, including the youth, to be members. Many of the communities out there do have youth who are active members in their communities.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** But I am still not clear as to the structures of these two respective committees. Are we contemplating two

separate, parallel processes of two committees; there being a community justice committee for adult offenders and a youth justice committee for youth? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** Mr. Chairman, no, at this time we're not. All the justice committees out there are designated as youth justice committees and they have the ability to hear cases with adults and youth. So we're not contemplating different committees at all. We do have some communities that do have two committees, one an adult and one a youth, but that's the exception, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Related to this issue, may I just get some information as to what a number of young offenders would be that would be eligible for...Maybe I should ask first of all the question, what is the number of young offenders that we have in our system in the Northwest Territories? The second question is; what proportion of that would be eligible or be referred to community justice committees.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Kemeys-Jones.

**MS. KEMEYS-JONES:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The number of youth that are in our system would go into probably three broad areas: the number of youth that are incarcerated in the facilities right now; there would also be the number of youth that are presently on probation; and then the number of youth who are diverted to the communities.

In regards to the first two, I can advise to that we have 17 youth that are in custody as of today. In terms of probation, right now we have 157 youth that are on probation. I don't have the up-to-date statistics on the number of youth that are currently before justice committees, but we do get that information on a monthly basis as the diversions are completed and it's something that I could provide, but not at this moment. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Ms. Kemeys-Jones. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you. That's a big size of a number, 157 youth in the probation program and 17 youth in custody. We're looking at 174 youths in our system. I just want to, under a general comment, give and lend support to what Ms. Karen Hoeft has said in the presentations to the committee. I think there's definitely a need for us to look at why it is that we have so many youths being put into our correctional system. I think it's a common theme all over the Territories that there's a lack of facilities and programs for youth to be engaged in a productive way. I'll be just repeating statements that I've already said by many if I say that it is better for us to spend the money, care and attention to the youth while they're young and provide the support to them while they're going to school or provide life skills to the families to care for unborn children or even newborn children so that they are less vulnerable to getting into areas or lifestyles where they might end up getting in custody and get in touch with the law by violating it.

Does this legislation contemplate anything about a duty on the part of the government? I understand that this legislation is by and large to bring territorial legislation in line with the federal Young Offenders Act. In any legislation there's usually a purpose or intent in spirit of the legislation. Is there any

movement to focus more on that side of youth support rather than concentrating on dealing with what happens and how the governments deal with them when they get into trouble with the law? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll ask Janice Laycock to respond to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Laycock.

**MS. LAYCOCK:** Yes, Mr. Chairman. This was raised, as you mentioned, during standing committee review of the bill and, yes, it's important to deal with youth before they get into trouble with the law. I think there's a recognition on the part of the department and we're certainly working with other departments to see what we can do as social envelope departments to work with youth so that they don't end up in the correctional system. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** At this time I'd like to acknowledge Major Karen Hoeft of the Salvation Army and also Ms. Wyman in the gallery. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

General comments. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't want to step out of the parameters of this legislation that we're dealing with, but we know Minister Allen is the Minister of Justice as well as youth. I'd like to hear from him about what he has done and whether or not he's introduced any programs or any policy initiatives in the business plan or in his time as Minister responsible for Youth to address the concerns that have been raised, in and out of this House, about the challenges and predicaments that our youth are facing at more increasing levels than I've ever heard.

In more serious situations, Mr. Chairman, I've had the opportunity to partake in some of the community discussions in the city of Yellowknife, for example, and of course I can't really speak directly about the needs that are out there in the communities. I leave that to the representatives here from outside of Yellowknife. However, in our city of Yellowknife we are really faced with growing problems and challenges that our youth are facing that we used to only think of as being the urban problems of big cities. But these problems are becoming more of a reality in our city.

We're seeing youths who are being introduced to really hard drugs and being introduced to them at a very young age. We're talking in elementary grade years. Grade 5 and up even. Even younger. These are the kind of drug problems that are absolutely unforgiving. It's not the kind of drug habit maybe was present before where young people could try different drugs and then they'd move on and get on with their lives. This is the kind of drug, crack or cocaine, that makes them immediately enter into criminal activities to feed their habit or to deal with their addiction.

There is a lack of treatment programs for youth, as has already been mentioned. I think it's really not addressing the issue adequately or anywhere near fully if we are only dealing with the issues of handling youth when they come into the correctional system, but not outside of it where they are vulnerable and they're open to exposure to that kind of problem.

I'd like to ask the Minister, himself, what he has done as the Minister responsible for Youth to address any of those areas. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Minister Allen.

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I was to speak outside the intent of this bill then I'm going to be speaking for a long time. So in recognition of the clock I'd like to say that my experience with young offenders goes back a long way, actually starting in 1986. So understanding the question very clearly, as the Minister responsible for Youth I have introduced and had received appropriations to support youth initiatives across the Northwest Territories and that did not exclude the young offenders program. I guess the most successful program we've supported in the last year-and-a-half was the youth trappers training program. That really took young offenders and other members of the community out into the wilderness setting to help them develop their life skills and other skills associated with their integration back into the community. So outside of those two main core areas, I can't speak for the level of support provided by H&SS or ECE, but certainly from my Ministerial responsibilities for youth, both through Justice and my other portfolio, I have certainly supported the various programs that were intended to help rehabilitate young offenders and other youth that have dropped out of school or are in need of additional assistance. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. With that, I will rise and report progress, recognizing the clock.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House will come back to order. May I have the report of Committee of the Whole. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

#### ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 26, Youth Justice Act, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

#### ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 20: Forgiveness Of Debts Act, 2003-2004

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 20, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2003-2004, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. We have a motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 20 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

##### Bill 23: An Act To Amend The Safety Act

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Safety Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. We have a motion. The motion is in order.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 23 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

##### Bill 27: An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion on the floor that is in order.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 27 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, 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 on Monday at 9:00 a.m. and again at 10:30 on Monday morning.

Orders of the Day for Monday, October 6<sup>th</sup>:

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 16, To Develop Strategies for Diversified Diamond Processing
  - Motion 17, to Resubmit a One Rate Zone Application to the Public Utilities Board
  - Motion 19, To Amend Rule 85(4) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly
  - Motion 20, To Amend Rule 70(1) of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 29, NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Act
  - Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act, No. 2
  - Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2003-2004
  - Bill 33, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2002-2003
18. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act
  - Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act
  - Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act
  - Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act
  - Bill 26, Youth Justice Act
  - Committee Report 18-14(6), Report on the Review of Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act, Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act, and Bill 26, Youth Justice Act
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

## 22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, October 6, 2003, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

