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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

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

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

Tuesday, June 1, 2004

Members Present

Mr. Allen, Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul Delorey, Honourable Charles Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Hawkins, Honourable David Krutko, Ms. Lee, Honourable Michael McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Pokiak, Mr. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Zoe

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Members, it is my duty to inform the House that the honourable David Krutko has resigned as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. I will now open the floor to a motion to elect a new Speaker. Mr. Krutko.

Motion 11-15(3): Election Of Speaker, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the honourable Paul Delorey from the electoral district from Hay River North, take the chair of this House as Speaker.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now ask the mover and seconder of the motion to escort Mr. Delorey to the chair.

---Applause

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Thank you, honourable colleagues. Good afternoon. I wish to express my gratitude for the confidence you have demonstrated in choosing me as your Speaker. It has been with a great deal of pride that I accept the honour of being the new Speaker for the 15th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories.

I want to direct my first comments to my constituents in Hay River North and all the people of Hay River. I want them to know that I did not accept the nomination for Speaker without considerable thought. The role of the Speaker is one which I feel carries great importance in our system of consensus government. I have great respect for the institution of the Legislative Assembly and the work that is done in this Chamber. I want to assure my constituents, however, that my accepting the position of Speaker in no way diminishes my efforts to serve each and every one of them to the very best of my ability. The way that I do that may change within the confines of this Chamber, but my dedication to them is stronger than ever.

To the Members of this House, my first obligation is to give you my commitment to ensure that the rights and privileges of all Members will be upheld and to ensure you are each able to carry out your duties.

The most important and fundamental right is the freedom of speech in your debate and freedom from interference in carrying out your duties. I can assure you that I will do my

best to ensure that these rights are upheld, as well as all other rules and procedures that this House has adopted.

At this time, I would like to acknowledge the contribution of my predecessor, Mr. David Krutko, who has set a very high standard for me to follow. I am sure you will all join me in extending our thanks to Mr. Krutko for the dedicated effort and service he gave to his constituents, and particularly for the admirable performance of his speakership duties within this Chamber.

---Applause

Last but not least I would like to acknowledge the support I have received and continue to receive from my family, without which I certainly would not be here today.

As a legislature, we will continue to face many critical decisions in the days and years ahead. While we may not always agree on these decisions, we must remember to always treat each other with respect, dignity, compassion and understanding. In conclusion, my ability to preside over this House ultimately rests in your hands. I will continue to work hard to maintain the trust and confidence that you have placed in me today.

My door is always open and I look forward to working with each of you on both sides of the House for the remainder of the 15th Legislative Assembly.

I would like to draw your attention to the flags hanging behind me here today. This year, the House is not scheduled to be in session on National Aboriginal Day, June 21st or Canada Day, July 1st. As such, I have decided to fly the flags commemorating both of these important days for the remainder of this sitting. I know the Premier will have some words to say later this week regarding National Aboriginal Day. As Speaker of this House, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all Members and all northerners a safe and happy Aboriginal Day and Canada Day. Please take some time to celebrate the many great things about being Canadian.

I would like to recognize two persons in the gallery: the Chief Electoral Officer of the Northwest Territories, the former Clerk of this House, Mr. David Hamilton.

---Applause

And the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer for the Northwest Territories, Mr. Glen McLean.

---Applause

We will now proceed to orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 37-15(3): National Aboriginal Day**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me first congratulate you as Speaker. I assure you that we look forward to your guidance as we serve in this House over the balance of our term.

Mr. Speaker, the spirit and character of the Northwest Territories and, in fact Canada, is greatly defined by the traditions and customs and talents of our aboriginal people.

Our artists, carvers and entertainers are world renowned. Our drum dances, traditional games and cultural activities are highlighted and promoted in countless documentaries, films, stories and brochures. They represent and promote our territory and country around the globe.

It is fitting that the Northwest Territories also leads the way in Canada in recognizing and paying tribute to the contributions of our First Nations with a holiday on June 21st, National Aboriginal Day.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is, once again, proud to offer its support to over 45 aboriginal organizations in the Northwest Territories who will be hosting and planning community celebrations for their people in honour of National Aboriginal Day.

But, Mr. Speaker, our commitment to the Dene, Inuvialuit and Metis people of the Northwest Territories extends well beyond this annual celebration of their culture and traditions.

As I outlined to Members of the assembly last week, it includes a promise to work in partnership with aboriginal leaders towards the successful negotiation and implementation of aboriginal lands, resources and self-government agreements in all regions; to pursue economic development in a matter that respects, balances and preserves the social, culture and environmental values of our aboriginal people; and, to work together with all northerners to ensure a strong and unified voice for the North in Canada.

Mr. Speaker, National Aboriginal Day is, in many ways, a celebration of the history, identity and values that we so proudly identify with as northern Canadians. I hope that everyone from around the North will participate in their community's celebrations of National Aboriginal Day on June 21st. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Mr. Dent.

Minister's Statement 38-15(3): Supporting NWT Official Languages

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Congratulations on your appointment to the Speaker's chair.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to update Members on work being done to address the recommendations of the 14th Legislative Assembly with respect to official languages. Members of the assembly have indicated that continuing

attention to the support and revitalization of all NWT official languages is important.

The last government placed a priority on the establishment of two new language boards. Members are aware, the Official Languages Act provides for the creation of an official languages board and an aboriginal languages revitalization board.

Regulations have been drafted to create the two language boards. In the coming weeks, I will be consulting with the official language communities of the Northwest Territories for nominations to these boards, with the expectation that members will be appointed by July 1, 2004.

The boards will provide advice on key priorities for fulfilling our obligations under the Official Languages Act. In addition, I will be seeking the advice of the boards on key priorities as they relate to the GNWT response to the review of the Official Languages Act by the 14th Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to take this opportunity to update Members on the status of the Canada-NWT cooperation agreement for French and aboriginal languages in the NWT. The last five-year agreement ended March 31, 2004. We had anticipated that negotiations for a new agreement would commence earlier this year. However, the federal government announced that they were not ready to begin new negotiations until they had completed an evaluation and program review process.

Mr. Speaker, we now expect negotiations to start this fall at the earliest. As we heard into the negotiation process, we will be consulting the language communities for input into key objectives to include in the agreement. In the meantime, the federal government has committed to extending the terms and conditions of the expired agreement for the 2004-05 period.

In addition to these activities, we have started to strengthen communications with the groups representing various language communities and in ensuring that all departments, boards and agencies are aware of their responsibilities under the Government of the Northwest Territories Official Languages Act. For example, I have met with the Federation Franco-TENOise and the Commission scolaire francophone de division during the last few weeks to make sure they know my door is open and we will work cooperatively to address matters of concern.

Mr. Speaker, it is essential to note, that the protection and revitalization of many of the NWT's official languages will not be successful without the continued commitment from northerners to use their languages in their homes and communities. A broad family-based effort is necessary if we are to maintain the unique languages of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

Minister's Statement 39-15(3): Veteran's Licence Plate To Honour Canada's Veterans

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to offer my congratulations.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Allied D-Day landings in Normandy of 1944, the Department of Transportation in partnership with the Royal Canadian Legion Alberta/Northwest Territories Command have introduced a special Veteran's licence plate in honour of Canada's veterans living in the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, the veteran's licence plate is trimmed in poppy red with the letters V E T followed by three numerals. It will be available to residents of the Northwest Territories who served in wartime as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces or an allied force, or in the Merchant Navy or Ferry Command. People who have served at least three years or are still serving in the Canadian Armed Forces, a U.N. peacekeeping force or the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are also eligible for the plate.

The veteran's licence plate is available at no charge to veterans of the Second World War and the Korean War who live in the Northwest Territories. For other eligible veterans, the plate is available at a cost of \$10.

In conjunction with the registrar of motor vehicles, the Royal Canadian Legion Alberta/Northwest Territories Command and all NWT Legions will administer the program as of June 30, 2004.

Mr. Speaker, during our break this afternoon. The Members may wish to join me when I will have the honour of presenting some veterans of the Second World War with the new veteran's licence plates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 40-15(3): Seniors Week And Disabilities Awareness Week

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You look like a natural there sitting in the big chair. Congratulations.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, this is Disabilities Awareness Week and next week is Seniors Week. As Minister responsible for these two portfolios, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the work being done to help people with disabilities and elders.

Mr. Speaker, while I have taken the lead on this work on behalf of the GNWT, it is important to recognize that success is only possible because of the efforts of many agencies and individuals. For example, the Housing Corporation has a program providing support to elders with age-related disabilities to carry out minor adaptations to their homes. Education, Culture and Employment has

a home heating subsidy to help low-income elders offset the high cost of heating fuel during the winter. And, of course, non-government organizations and community groups provide support for seniors and people with disabilities to live fuller, more active lives.

As we all know, people with disabilities are a valued part of our society, with a unique set of challenges. This year's theme is "Remember to include everyone...we all benefit." This is a great reminder to all of us that sometimes people may need a little extra help to do the things other people take for granted. All NWT residents should have access to information, programs and facilities in their communities. We are making a lot of progress, but still have a long way to go. I urge you to look around your community and identify the places where accessibility can be improved.

We are working with community groups to make it easier for people with disabilities to be part of our communities. This includes providing support to the people who care for them: usually relatives. For example, we have a pilot respite care project with the Yellowknife Association for Community Living. A trained worker provides care for up to 10 hours per week, to allow the primary caregiver a much-needed break.

We have a new toll-free line for people with disabilities to help them access programs and services, no matter where they live in the NWT. As well, the Council of Persons with Disabilities has a new state-of-the-art, accessible computer that is available for people with disabilities to use.

I am also pleased to report, Mr. Speaker, that the Department of Health and Social Services is developing a framework and action plan to improve and coordinate the delivery of services to people with disabilities. The framework will be part of the upcoming business plan, and we hope to release the action plan within the next few months.

Next week is Seniors Week and we are working to make it easier for seniors to access government services, including home care, supported living and facility living services. Mr. Speaker, we are continuing with the action plan items identified in the seniors action plan. All 28 recommendations have either been completed or are part of ongoing government business.

We have also made significant progress in providing seniors with new information resources in a variety of formats. As Members know, a toll-free line is available for elders who want to know more about programs and services they can access. We are also updating the Seniors' Handbook, which helps elders find the services they need. For seniors and their families who are comfortable with computer technology, we have a new seniors' Web site with all of this information online and answers to frequently asked questions. The site also has publications and application forms that can be downloaded.

Health and social services professionals work together in their communities to help seniors and people with disabilities. Doctors, nurses and specialists provide medical treatment and advice. Community health representatives provide support and, in some cases, assisted living programs are available. Social workers help elders and people with disabilities with family support

issues. Health and social services professionals also work with representatives from other territorial departments, community groups and aboriginal organizations, to improve the lives of seniors and people with disabilities. This is a great partnership.

In celebration of this year's Disabilities Awareness Week and Seniors Week, I would like to invite the Members of this House to two events to be held in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly. The first event will be a social tea celebrating Disabilities Awareness Week this Thursday, and the second, a social tea will be held for seniors next Wednesday. I invite you to join me, the Council of Persons with Disabilities and the Seniors' Society at these events where we will recognize the great contributions that both groups bring to the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Minister's Statement 41-15(3): National Public Service Week

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also want to congratulate you on becoming Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, June 13th to the 19th has been designated as National Public Service Week.

As the Minister responsible for the public service of the Northwest Territories, I encourage my colleagues to recognize and celebrate the significant contributions made by GNWT public service employees.

GNWT employees need a diverse skill set to deliver programs to the NWT public. Public service employees work on the front lines delivering programs such as health care, student financial assistance, education at the kindergarten to grade 12 level and college programs. They work behind the scenes to support these programs in areas such as policy development, finance and human resources. They maintain our roads and our community buildings; they observe and protect our environment and our wildlife; they keep our airports safe and they fight forest fires.

The GNWT is fortunate in that it has a public service that is highly professional and dedicated to delivering effective programs. On an ongoing basis, they show the desire to refine and improve their skills and provide the best level of service possible.

Mr. Speaker, the daily efforts of these employees often goes unrecognized. It is important that we all recognize the work of the public service and that we say thank you. Please join me today in expressing my appreciation for the hard work and dedication of the public service in celebrating National Public Service Week.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On 60th Anniversary Of D-Day

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I should congratulate you on your new appointment and to the new Minister, David Krutko.

Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, June 6, 2004, communities around Canada and around the world, including Yellowknife, will be commemorating the 60th anniversary of D-Day, the day that marked the beginning of the end of World War II. In honour of that, I would like to just share with you parts of an article from CBC reporter Robin Rowland, which gives a very good idea of what the Canadian soldiers had to experience on this day.

Mr. Speaker, the sun was just coming up over the Normandy coast at about 5:00 a.m. on June 6, 1944, D-Day. The Allied navies -- Canadian, British and American -- had just brought a huge invasion fleet from England to France in total darkness. For men on the ships, first light showed the black shapes of other nearby vessels. For the Germans on shore, the dawn revealed a vast armada poised to invade occupied France.

The military planners had given Canada a measured role on D-Day: to take one of the five designated beaches where Allied forces were to land to begin the liberation of Europe from Nazi Germany. The Americans had Utah and Omaha beaches in the west, then came the British at Gold, then the Canadians at Juno Beach and finally the British at Sword on the east.

The greatest seaborne invasion in history was aimed at 80 kilometres of mostly flat, sandy beach along the Normandy coast, west of the Seine River, east of the jutting Cotentin Peninsula. Canada's objective was right in the middle.

There were about 155,000 soldiers, 5,000 ships and landing craft, 50,000 vehicles and 11,000 planes set for the coming battle. For Canada, 14,000 soldiers were to land on the beaches; another 450 were to drop behind enemy lines by parachute or glider. The Royal Canadian Navy supplied ships and about 10,000 sailors, Lancaster bombers and Spitfire fighters from the Royal Canadian Air Force supported the invasion.

The Canadians who landed on Juno Beach were part of the British Second Army under the command of British Lieutenant General Miles Dempsey, who had served in North Africa and Italy with overall British commander Bernard Montgomery.

Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement? Thank you.

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. The Canadian assault forces were the Third Canadian Infantry Division, commanded by Major General R. F. Keller and the Second Canadian Armoured Brigade, with Brigadier R. A. Wyman in charge.

The units were from across the country; from east to west, from the North Nova Scotia Highlanders to the Canadian Scottish from Victoria.

The bombardment of the beaches began at 6:00 a.m. Within an hour the lead landing craft were away from the ships. Two hours later, the German defences at Juno Beach had been shattered and Canada had established the beachhead.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to also share with you the quick facts from World War II and the content of the D-Day that we are celebrating. There were 1.1 million Canadians who served in World War II, including 106,000 in the Royal Canadian Navy and 200,000 in the Royal Canadian Airforce; 42,042 Canadians were killed; 54,414 were wounded; and, 14,000 Canadians landed on D-Day. Mr. Speaker, during the first six days of the Normandy campaign, 1,017 Canadians died. By the end of the Normandy campaign, about 5,020 Canadians had been killed. About 5,400 Canadians are buried in Normandy. In the two-and-one-half months of the Normandy campaign, Allied casualties totalled 210,000. Canadian casualties totalled more than 18,000, including more than 5,000 dead. German casualties were up to 450,000.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for letting me share an article that gives a very good idea about what the Canadian soldiers and other Allied forces had to go through during World War II. I would also like to take this opportunity to invite the residents of Yellowknife and the communities around the NWT to come out and take this time to pay our respects for those who fought and those who gave up their lives for this just cause. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. I would just like to caution Members not to not take any exorbitant amount of time quoting directly from a document, more refer to a document, but ...

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The Honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Member's Statement On Passing Of Sahtu Elders

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will extend my congratulations to you. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words about a group of people for whom I have a great deal of admiration and respect: our elders. They are the carriers of traditional knowledge and wisdom. Most recently we, in the Sahtu region, have sadly seen the passing of a number of our elders: George Masuzumi, Fred Hotti, Fred Widow, Mrs. Bayha, Mrs. Tatti and many more. I extend my sincere condolences to the families. These remarkable individuals would be greatly missed by their families, friends, and the whole communities in our region. With the passing of these valuable members of our community, we in the Sahtu region have lost a wealth of knowledge, history and culture. That is hundreds of years of history that is gone. That is quite a loss, considering the number of elders that have passed on. We are all dependent on our elders for judgments and insights. As leaders, we especially look to them for guidance in our decision-making, especially when in conflict about our land and the people.

The elders in our communities have lived through a lot of changes, Mr. Speaker. Throughout their lives, they have been active participants in making decisions about the futures of our people. Many have been involved in the same issues we continue to struggle with today including land claims, economic development of our lands and resources, as well as the cultural upheaval that flows from this. Their experience is invaluable. Look at the laws that they have taught us, the Yamoria laws of the aboriginal people in the Northwest Territories. We must take the utmost care for them, Mr. Speaker. I encourage Members of this House to consider the values of involving elders in this House as we grapple with the assembly. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 3, Members' statements. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Member's Statement On Tribute To Corporate Sponsorship In The Northwest Territories

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to congratulate you on your new position with this House. I rise in the House today to speak about the great corporate citizens that we have in the Northwest Territories. Whether it is for community groups, sporting events, or individual pursuits, it is the corporate sponsors and supporters that, time and again, make so many things happen for so many of us. Mr. Speaker, many times, corporate citizens step up to the plate and often they do not get the full recognition that they deserve.

Just a few weeks back, the YK seniors' raffle had a book of tickets stolen from them. It was valued at \$400. Without blinking an eye, Diavik stepped in and gave the Seniors' Society a cheque for \$400. Diavik also gets full marks for stepping in and helping the City of Yellowknife complete the second half of the Multiplex project. I would like to publicly thank Diavik for that kind of commitment to our community.

Big events in Yellowknife and the rest of the Northwest Territories do not happen without corporate support. DeBeers has recently come to the calling of Folk on the Rocks with a multi-year sponsorship deal. The tournament coordinator for the Canadian North Balsillie Cup Tournament, which was recently held in Yellowknife, wrote MLAs a letter at the beginning of the month expressing how pleased he and the organizing committee were with the level of corporate support they received and the dedication of the volunteers. They identified Canadian North as playing a key role in the success of that tournament. In addition, his letter stated that the tournament had received donations of money and promotional items from over 40 local businesses.

I am also in receipt of a letter from the Yellowknife Ski Club who also commends the corporate support of Canadian North, Blachford Lake Lodge, and Air Tindi for helping them put together their annual high performance and biathlon raffle.

There are many other valued corporate citizens out there. As I mentioned, they often do not get the recognition they deserve. What brought this statement together for me was when a young constituent of mine, Mr. Kevin St. Germaine, was accepting his award for youth male athlete

of the year last Saturday evening at the Sport North awards banquet, and he singled out Mr. Rick Bolivar from Ryfan Electric as being the reason he was financially able to compete and have his best season ever. It is the strong corporate citizens of this community and territory that make events happen and allow individuals to pursue their goals and dreams.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot mention all of the great corporate citizens we have here today, but I just want to say your efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 3, Members' statements. The Chair recognizes the Honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Member's Statement On Elderly Couple's Housing Needs

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Speaker. I recently received a complaint from an elderly Tuktoyaktuk couple, aged 77 and 67 years respectively, with regard to the difficulties they are having in applying for funding to renovate their home. They applied on numerous occasions under the home repair program and have been turned down by the NWT Housing Corporation.

They know of some individuals in the community who have received funding from the NWT Housing Corporation, and they are not even elders. The husband has been retired for a number of years now, and the wife will be retiring from her employment this year. Mr. Speaker, to give the Members a brief history of their dilemma, the information provided to me by this elderly couple is as follows. If the Members may recall, government provided subsidized housing to their employees. Eventually, government decided to get out of housing their employees and put the units up for sale, with the first offer going to the employees. The elders decided to purchase a unit, and I am happy to say that today they own the unit. Mr. Speaker, prior to purchasing the unit some 20 years ago, there were a number of deficiencies with the unit. The Housing Corporation was to replace the wooden windows and the window handles and renovate the floor. For your information, that was 12 years ago, and he fell through the rotten floor. The corporation installed one window because the rest of the windows did not fit. The corporation took measurements and said that they would come back the following summer to install the windows. It is 14 years later, and they still have the wooden windows, not to mention the floor.

Mr. Speaker, the elderly couple are wondering why they have to wait all these years and yet she never let the Housing Corporation wait for one payment on the mortgage. The elderly couple indicated to me that if they could have afforded the renovations, they would have done it years ago. Many elders today cannot afford to purchase their own unit let alone pay for operations and maintenance. Mr. Speaker, I will be asking questions to the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Member's Statement On Benefits Agreements Required With Outfitters

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to offer my congratulations to you on your new duties as Speaker of this esteemed House. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories is well known for its natural resources, both renewable and non-renewable. In recent years, we have seen the world arrive on our doorstep to exploit our diamond resources. Soon, with the construction of the Mackenzie gas pipeline, our energy resources will be exploited to meet the needs of the foreign nations. The cornerstone of the agreement to allow this kind of development has been the negotiation of socioeconomic agreements with affected communities.

There are impact benefit agreements, access agreements, and northern hiring quotas. It has not always been like this. Developers have not always been required to provide benefits to the people who live here. Many of you will recall the experience of the Norman Wells pipeline. Developers were not required to provide impact benefits, they paid no access fees, and they were not required to hire local people. Fortunately, that situation has begun to change, and it will continue to change as we take our rightful place in this world as masters of our own destiny.

But the situation has not changed in all sectors of our economy. In the renewable resource sector, southern business interests are still allowed to operate without recourse to the needs and aspirations of our communities. This is certainly the situation in my riding of Nahendeh where we have a number of big outfitters operating on traditional lands. It is time that the outfitters also are required to provide meaningful benefits to the people who live here. Giving away a little meat as a charitable donation does not qualify as a meaningful benefit. In my riding, the confrontation has grown between outfitters and the Deh Cho First Nations, and a solution needs to be found. Since all outfitters must be licensed by the Government of the Northwest Territories, the government has a key role to play in negotiating a solution.

Mr. Speaker, there is a new way of doing business in the North, and it is time that all businesses and all sectors of the economy subscribe to this new regime. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 3, Members' statements. Honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement On Passing Of Anne Buggins On The Hay River Reserve

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Tuesday, May 25, 2004, Ms. Anne Buggins, a great northerner and prominent elder of the Hay River Reserve, passed away. She was the eldest person on the Hay River Reserve. Anne Buggins was born at Buffalo Lake to William and Madeline Buggins. As a young girl who lived on the land in the area of Buffalo Lake, she became a very skilled hunter and became very efficient in the ways

of the Dene. She was also known across the Northwest Territories for her kindness and generosity. Anne never married and, although she did not have any children of her own, after her sister passed away, she took her sister's children in and raised them up and also adopted three other children. Anne is survived by her brother, Pat Buggins.

Mr. Speaker, last month, I had the opportunity to watch Anne being interviewed on television. She spoke of many things that happened throughout her life. What stood out in my mind is the fact that she had a very deep concern about people and especially her people, the people of Katlodeeche. She talked about how happy she was to see certain ceremonies revived, especially the feeding of the fire. She was also very happy to see drummers once again in her community. She also spoke about finding a young man lying in the snow bank because he had too much to drink. She stated about how concerned she was about today's youth and the toll that alcohol was having upon them.

Mr. Speaker, many people relied on this lady for her advice. Many people went to her when they did not have any place to go and no one else to talk to. In many cases, they went to her when they did not have a place to stay. In the last couple of years, she dedicated a lot of time to the aboriginal Head Start program, sharing her language, skills and culture. She was also very dedicated to her family. Mr. Speaker, Anne was a vibrant, active lady who was loved by her community. On Saturday, May 29, 2004, the community, friends, and family said goodbye to Anne. On behalf of the people of Deh Cho, I would like to send our condolences to her family and let them know that she will be very deeply missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. Honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Member's Statement On Acknowledgement Of Scholastic Success Of Deninu Kue Students

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate you on your new role as Speaker of this House and also send out my congratulatory notes to the new Minister-elect of the Executive Council, Mr. David Krutko. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome my colleague, Mr. Zoe, to this side of the House. Hopefully he will fit in well.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the success of four of my constituents of Deninu Kue, who have graduated and shown a lot of progress from various educational institutions, both in the NWT and Alberta this year. I want to publicly congratulate Mr. Dennis King, who is graduating from the management studies program at Aurora College; Kristen Boucher, and Ms. Leanne Boucher, for both graduating from the office administration program also at Aurora College. Finally, I want to congratulate Mr. Kevin Giroux for completing the second of the three-year civil engineering program at the Northern Alberta Institute of Technology. It is my privilege to not only acknowledge the hard work and dedication that these individuals have displayed thus far, but also their remarkable achievements given circumstances and surroundings that they all come from. I believe these achievements will not only benefit them each personally,

but also have a positive rippling effect on all the younger people of Tu Nedhe, those in schools and to those who may not be in schools who may now consider returning to school after seeing that these local individuals succeeded in their endeavours of higher education.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I again wish continued success to all of these individuals in their future endeavours and aspirations. I look forward to personally meeting and congratulating each one individually in the near future. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Item 3, Members' statements. Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Member's Statement On Pursuit Of A Northern Agenda In Ottawa

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I rise, I would like to wish congratulations to you for your new appointment to your station. I know you will do a great job. I wish to say, for the record, as a senior, you certainly put up a good fight. If you suffer from any bruises, I am sure they must have been the affliction of Mr. Krutko.

Mr. Speaker, as a territorial government, we are in a particular strategic position with our federal leadership yet to be determined. I would like to talk to you about a northern agenda today. Candidates for the Western Arctic riding in the upcoming federal election are looking to us, our current leaders, to share some of our northern views with them. It is important that they know them. Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity, if I may say, we truly have the obligation to engage in these candidates to ensure that they realize and understand true northern issues and make sure that these concerns are brought forward at a national level. Mr. Speaker, issues such as health care needs, resource sharing, environmental, cultural awareness, and devolution. I can go on endlessly, but it is important that we ensure that these candidates, our potential new Member of Parliament, understand these issues.

Mr. Speaker, this new Member of Parliament will be an advocate, so it is important that we make sure that they are truly educated on our needs. However, some of these needs and issues may seem similar to those in the South. I demand that they bring forward the issue and understand, in the sense that they educate the South of the higher cost of living and the higher cost of delivering these basic services that should be enshrined to everyone. Mr. Speaker, it is incumbent that the rest of Canada truly recognizes the Northwest Territories as a distinct society. As I stated yesterday in the debate with regard to a motion on provincehood, I would encourage our potential candidates and hopefully someday our new Member of Parliament to make sure that the rest of Canada knows that. Mr. Speaker, as they are recording us presently, the commitment should be on us to bring forward a strong message and educate them on northern priorities.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will further be asking more questions to the Premier with regard to possibly educating our candidates for the Western Arctic riding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 3, Members' statements. Honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement On Social Housing Needs Are Critical

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My congratulations and compliments to you, Mr. Krutko, and Mr. Zoe for your new views and new perspectives on your respective seats in the Assembly. I look forward to working with all of you.

I don't like to miss a chance at least once in every session, Mr. Speaker, to talk about housing. Like my colleague, Mr. Hawkins, who has reflected on the opportunity before us with the federal election campaign, I think this is an opportune time for this Assembly and, indeed, for everyone in the NWT who is affected by housing issues to bring this to the floor, and make sure that it is on the campaign trail for the candidates in the June 28th federal election.

Housing, especially social housing I believe, Mr. Speaker, is the most critical issue facing the NWT today. I know working as an MLA that just about every issue that constituents come to me with when there are family and personal issues, have some kind of connection to an inadequate housing situation. In fact, in just the past few days in the small community of Colville Lake we have had a tuberculosis crisis, and this is a classic symptom of inadequate and overcrowded housing situations.

Here in Yellowknife, to bring it closer to home, transitional housing and emergency housing needs are staying relatively consistent, Mr. Speaker, and that means that there is a tremendous demand continuing for them even though hundreds of new units have been built. Federal programs that used to come under the auspices of the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation have been dramatically cut since the 1990s, and I think it is time that we really got this back on the federal agenda and got it restored.

I don't want to get partisan about it in this House this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, but I would urge every federal candidate, and every federal party, and everyone in the NWT who carries housing as a concern, to take this into this election and make sure that it gets to the top of those federal agendas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Congratulations To New Speaker And Cabinet Member

MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of my constituents in Inuvik Twin Lakes and all of the people of the Northwest Territories, to offer congratulations to you as our new Speaker. I want to extend our well wishes and convey our confidence in your role as the Speaker of this Assembly. Also, Mr. Speaker, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Krutko, the newly-elected Cabinet Minister for the north region of this Assembly. I look

forward to working with Mr. Krutko on a number of issues that impacts or affects the Mackenzie Delta region.

Mr. Speaker, the democratic process we have in Canada is a world envy. It is known that we have the ability to speak freely and without fear of retribution. Therefore, I know you will require us to uphold this level of excellence. Again, I congratulate both of you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 3, members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, and a local businessman, also president of the Royal Canadian Legion, Mr. Lloyd Lush; and to Mr. Lush's left, Mr. Lorne Power, general manager of the Royal Canadian Legion. I have one more person up there, a former business mentor of mine, prominent northern businessman Mr. Ray Anderson from Matco. Welcome. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for YK Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to recognize one of our esteemed seniors in Yellowknife Centre, the Right Reverend Sperry.

---Applause

I would also like to recognize as well, as you did earlier, Mr. David Hamilton and Mr. Glen McLean.

---Applause

As well as Mr. Ramsay, I would like to also recognize Mr. Lloyd Lush and Mr. Lorne Power. Finally, I would like to recognize a constituent of mine, Sue Glowach. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm also pleased to recognize Ray Anderson, president of Matco. Ray was one of the strong supporters when we had the business coalition working with us in the last government. With Mr. Anderson is Anne Martin, president of United Van Lines. I recognize her as well. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize my constituent, Major Karen Hoefft from the Salvation Army. Thank you.

---Applause

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize several people who will be joining me for the launching of our new veteran's licence plate today. We have two veterans, Brock Parsons.

---Applause

We also have Bishop John Sperry...

---Applause

...and the president of the YK Royal Canadian Legion and also the representative for the Alberta/Northwest Territories Command, Lloyd Lush.

---Applause

We also have with us Gary Walsh from the Department of Transportation, motor vehicles and licensing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Zoe.

MR. ZOE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize the former mayor of Rae-Edzo and former Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, Mr. Dan Marion, and his daughter Gizelle Marion. Welcome to the House, but I believe they just left the gallery. Thank you.

---Laughter

---Applause

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everyone who has been recognized, I am not going to repeat names, but one who wasn't mentioned is Ms. Lydia Bardak who now is with the Salvation Army. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a visitor in the gallery who made an impact on my life, Mr. David Hamilton. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to recognize a friend of mine, Ms. Kat Nicholson in the gallery who is no stranger around the Legislative Assembly. I would like to welcome everyone who is in the gallery today and taking part in our proceedings. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 184-15(3): Highway Contract Concerns

MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is not often that we would debate an issue of a sentence. In the Minister's statement today there was reference made to a specific economic development matter that respects, and it goes on and on. I won't quote it all, but it is important to know that the Minister's statement is in contrast to actions taken by the Department of Transportation with respect to MOUs signed between the Gwich'in and the Government of the Northwest Territories on a highway contract in Inuvik. I want to ask the Minister of Transportation if he is willing to sit down with the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council to resolve all the outstanding concerns that are included in the letter. Would he do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 184-15(3): Highway Contract Concerns

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure what document the Member is referring to. We did meet with the Gwich'in Tribal Council, the president, and a number of the chiefs. We had a fairly lengthy discussion about contracts, the Gwich'in MOU, and how we would deal with some of the issues rising from the previous year, and there are a number of issues that we are currently working on. That was just two weeks ago, so I am not sure why the Member wants us to get together again so quickly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 184-15(3): Highway Contract Concerns

MR. ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps in recognition that the Minister may not be in receipt of the same letter, I want to assure the Minister that we are in receipt of a letter as recent as this morning. So I just wanted to have the Minister confirm if he is willing to follow up to that initial meeting to ascertain what the problems are that may have occurred in the last two weeks between the department officials and the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 184-15(3): Highway Contract Concerns

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we certainly commit to that. I don't believe I am in receipt of that same letter that the Member is referring to. We would certainly follow up on any issues that are in the letter. It is difficult to speak to a document I don't have, but we'd certainly follow it up. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 6, oral questions. The Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Question 185-15(3): Benefits Agreements With Outfitters

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, at lunch today we heard Claudia Barlow from the Council of Canadians speak about the negative effects of globalization whereby foreign companies will be able to override local laws of interests with impunity. In the future, these companies will not be required to provide any benefits locally. They will be free to come and exploit our resources, and take all the profits from those resources home with them. But, Mr. Speaker, in some ways we are already in that situation. Southern owned big game outfitters in the Deh Cho are not required to provide any benefits from their use of local resources to local people. On both a small scale and a large scale, the prosperity of our northern citizens is threatened. In the face of this threat to our economic well-being, will the Minister of Renewable Resources take a stand to ensure in policy that northerners benefit from all activity on their land? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoché. The Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 185-15(3): Benefits Agreements With Outfitters

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Member for the question. In his statement today the Member referred to an new era, and a new era of doing business in not only the Northwest Territories but I believe the country, and I think those businesses in the Northwest Territories embrace meaningful partnership with aboriginal organizations. Meaningful partnership with community groups will be successful businesses. I think that makes good business sense in this day and age, and I think we all recognize that. So I would certainly urge all businesspeople, any proprietors throughout the Northwest Territories, to sit down, meet with local people, understand their needs, understand their desires and do what they can to make sure that benefits accrue locally. That to me, Mr. Speaker, as I say, just makes good business sense. But I am certainly willing to discuss with communities and with regional organizations any concerns they might have with specific outfitters. I am willing to do that at any time, and will certainly make the time to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoché.

Supplementary To Question 185-15(3): Benefits Agreements With Outfitters

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased with the Minister's answer, and I am sure the Minister is aware that the Deh Cho First Nations has taken a stand against the outfitters in the Nahendeh riding. As well as that, the Government of the Northwest Territories required diamond companies to negotiate impact agreements before they use our resources. Will the Minister of Renewable Resources require the same commitment from the non-NWT-owned big game outfitters by requiring them to negotiate benefits agreements as part of their licensing process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoché. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 185-15(3): Benefits Agreements With Outfitters

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is certainly correct that we do sit down and, as a government, negotiate socioeconomic agreements with big industry. We've done it with a couple of the diamond mines; a third one just recently completed. We look to do that with the Producers Group and the Aboriginal Pipeline Group in terms of oil and gas development. These are negotiations between our government and industry, and they speak to opportunities, benefits for northerners right across the territory. As it relates to access agreements or IBAs between regional groups and industry, we are not specifically involved in those negotiations and are not privy to them. We do get involved in the respect that we generally work toward helping local organizations build capacity. But, Mr. Speaker, I would certainly encourage industry and business to be willing to sit down and work with local people to make sure that there are meaningful, tangible local benefits, because obviously without those, businesses, I think, can expect resistance. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoché.

Supplementary To Question 185-15(3): Benefits Agreements With Outfitters

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a result of the firm stand that the DCFN has taken, our local businesses in the Nahendeh riding do not want to be impacted more than necessary. Will the Minister at least provide guidelines by which southern companies are expected to operate if they want to be considered as good corporate citizens operating in our North?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoché. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 185-15(3): Benefits Agreements With Outfitters

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that I will certainly commit to sitting down first with committee Members to discuss the kinds of things that might be involved in a framework in dealing with industry. Even with small individual businesses I think there is certainly merit in sitting down to discuss the kinds of benefits that can be left behind. So I am certainly willing to meet with regional organizations to understand their concerns, and will also meet with industry if I can play a role in supporting the efforts of local and regional organizations. I think it is very important that we do recognize this is a new era in the Northwest Territories of doing business. As I've said, those that embrace it, acknowledge and accept it, and try to work within that framework, I think will be successful businesses. So I certainly look forward to further discussion with committee Members and with the Member opposite on this very important issue, and let him know that our department and our government does not take this lightly. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 185-15(3): Benefits Agreements With Outfitters

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, mahsi cho. There is at least one outfitter whose licence is due this summer. I am just wondering if the Minister knows of a process or at any stage of the permitting system where there is allowable room for input from the communities and local interest groups with regard to having these outfitters provide more benefits locally. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 185-15(3): Benefits Agreements With Outfitters

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously the management of big game outfitting in our territory is governed by the provisions of the Wildlife Act and the wildlife business regulations. Licenses are issued; I believe they are typically issued for 10 years. They can be cancelled if there are no activities for a couple of years or if there are major concerns with the individual outfitter that have been raised. Upon investigation if we find them to be in violation of the acts, then we are able to do that, and typically those concerns are raised by regional people, by regional organizations who have been working with and have firsthand knowledge of potential infractions. So any time there is a licence up for renewal, we would certainly sit down, and our regional staff would consult with regional organizations to better understand any concerns, if there are any, with an individual outfitter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 186-15(3): Oil And Gas Training Strategy For The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today my question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment with regard to the oil and gas training activities in the Sahtu region. Mr. Speaker, I have some great concerns about the message about the number of opportunities available to our people in the Sahtu with regard to the oil and gas training activities. I understand that they are most concerned about the low enrolment of some of these courses, and I want to relay that this government is doing nothing to help the people in the Sahtu to take advantage of the training opportunities out there. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment if his department has a strategy for oil and gas training in the Sahtu, and how does the government know that it is offering the right kinds of courses within the Sahtu in time for the preparation of oil and gas activities? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Return To Question 186-15(3): Oil And Gas Training Strategy For The Sahtu

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we certainly want to make sure that we can take advantage of the opportunities that may present themselves with the development of a pipeline in the Mackenzie Valley. So there have been ongoing courses

for a number of years now that this government has offered to residents to make sure that we are starting the process for them to be ready. On top of that, this government has worked with the college. The college has worked with stakeholders in the oil and gas field, as well as aboriginal governments along the Mackenzie to develop a proposal to the federal government for a training program, and we're confident that we will see significant monies flowing for that program, which will make sure that we have training that is extremely well targeted to make sure that residents in the region can be ready for pipeline activity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 186-15(3): Oil And Gas Training Strategy For The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment how he advertises courses available in the Sahtu. Prior to coming here, I had a member of Tulita ask that question. There seems to be a lot of confusion in our region. What advertising does his department put forward particularly for the Sahtu?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 186-15(3): Oil And Gas Training Strategy For The Sahtu

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure exactly what methods are used to publicize the availability of courses. They are typically developed in cooperation with community and regional governments and industry. We do have a commitment, even in advance of the ASEP funding being approved, for \$350,000 in training and short-term programs. I will have to get back to the Member as to how we promote it in each of the communities that it is being offered because I don't have that information.

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

Supplementary To Question 186-15(3): Oil And Gas Training Strategy For The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to the Minister's answer with regard to advertising in the Sahtu region. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment tell me why the enrolment in the Sahtu is so low with only one or two students in some of the courses like electrician, truck driver or any other courses that have poor enrolment in the Sahtu region?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 186-15(3): Oil And Gas Training Strategy For The Sahtu

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately I can't answer the question as to why the enrolment is so low. We will have to see if we can do a better job of attracting people to do the training in the future. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 186-15(3): Oil And Gas Training Strategy For The Sahtu

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Could the Minister please tell me how and when these training courses for the oil and gas industries will be evaluated? What are the performance measures going to be and how will these results be made public? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Dent.

Further Return To Question 186-15(3): Oil And Gas Training Strategy For The Sahtu

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the most part, what we look for is an indication for potential employers that the training that is being offered is acceptable to them. We want to know from them that they will take people who successfully pass the course, and that's really the evaluation process. If the people who need to hire the folks who take the training say the training isn't any good, then we would have to change it. If they say yes, we will make sure people are ready to take jobs with this, then we are satisfied. It's done in cooperation with employers. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 187-15(3): Pursuit Of A Northern Agenda In The Federal Election

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Premier of the Northwest Territories. I will be calling upon his former educational skills to my first question.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I talked about a northern agenda and the importance of making sure that that is educated to a potential Member of Parliament and to all candidates who are running in the Western Arctic riding. Therefore, my direct question to the Premier is would the Premier be willing to bring forward the strategic plan that he laid out in last week's sessional statement and be willing to take forward that plan and address it to those potential candidates? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 187-15(3): Pursuit Of A Northern Agenda In The Federal Election

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, that is a document that is available to the public and I am sure most of the candidates, if not all of them, would have picked up a copy of the document. If it gives the Member comfort, I certainly have no problem in sending it to each of the candidates. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 187-15(3): Pursuit Of A Northern Agenda In The Federal Election

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a well-known fact to we Members in the Northwest Territories, but the Northwest Territories seems to be left out in the federal election system. Would the Premier be

able to initiate a letter to the leadership in the federal parties and send them a copy of the document, as well as invite them to the Northwest Territories and possibly speak to the citizens of the Northwest Territories? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 187-15(3): Pursuit Of A Northern Agenda In The Federal Election

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly respond to requests for information from the candidates and from the political parties. Mr. Speaker, we want to be very careful as a government that we don't get ourselves involved in the federal election anymore than we would want to see the federal government becoming involved in making statements on our election. So there's a line between providing information and then becoming involved in the campaign. So as a government, we want to have a good working relationship with whoever the next government is and we must maintain our impartiality. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 187-15(3): Pursuit Of A Northern Agenda In The Federal Election

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do respect what the Premier did say. Would the Premier be willing to consider something along the lines of a forum to talk about northern issues to all the candidates, not unlike what the Union of Northern Workers would do or another advocacy group would do? Would the Premier be willing to host a forum of some sort to get some discussion out on both the northern agenda, as well as what some of these potential candidates may be doing for the citizens of the Northwest Territories that they are saying they wish to represent? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 187-15(3): Pursuit Of A Northern Agenda In The Federal Election

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, we certainly want to ensure that all the candidates know all the issues that we deal with and hope that their staff, their researchers, and they themselves will make themselves aware of what is happening. But, Mr. Speaker, in my mind there is a difference between us as a government and an interest group or a union who may want to host such a forum. Mr. Speaker, my view would be that it wouldn't be appropriate for us, as a government, to organize and host such a political event during a campaign. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 187-15(3): Pursuit Of A Northern Agenda In The Federal Election

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier, for your answer. My concern personally is the fact that the northern agenda could be hidden somewhere on page whatever in who knows which text of the party policy. We don't really know what plans they have for us. What makes matters worse is they may be

overlooking us because we only have one candidate, and I want to make sure that our candidate is bolstered with the best education on the northern needs. So I further ask, once again, would the Premier consider a non-partisan type of discussion hosted by him or someone of that similar representation, so we can get a northern discussion on northern issues that are important to the Northwest Territories, rather than a special interest group strictly focussing in on their individual needs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 187-15(3): Pursuit Of A Northern Agenda In The Federal Election

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think the Member meant we have one Member, one MP, not one candidate. I believe there is more than one candidate.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think it's appropriate for the government to do that. It may be something that Caucus might want to do. As a government, we want to maintain our government-to-government relationship. Mr. Speaker, I don't think we should do it as a government, but if Caucus were to decide to do that, that may be very appropriate. Thank you.

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

Question 188-15(3): Request For A Meeting With NWT Seniors

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, I have been raising issues of importance to seniors over the last few days and one of them has been on housing. There are lots of other Members who have raised questions on that end. Mr. Speaker, I should say when we in this House are asking questions to the Minister, the least we expect is that the Ministers are responding to requests for meetings, if not requests for action. My information, Mr. Speaker, is the seniors' groups all across the Territories meet regarding housing, and I have brought a lot of issues up about seniors and the Minister has not agreed yet to meet with the seniors who wanted to talk to him about that. Could the Minister advise as to whether he's aware of any requests from the meetings from the seniors and why is it he's not meeting with them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 188-15(3): Request For A Meeting With NWT Seniors

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me concern that the Member has information from the seniors' groups stating that I have not been responding to requests. We have arrangements and dates picked out. I would be glad to share that information with the Member. We have been dealing with the NWT seniors' groups for some time now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 188-15(3): Request For A Meeting With NWT Seniors

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thought I could just pump up for the cause of the seniors, but I can see the Minister is getting a little testy.

---Laughter

He's not having a good day and I am not in the mood for a fight either. So maybe, Mr. Speaker, the Minister could advise as to when he has agreed to meet with the seniors to talk about seniors' housing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 188-15(3): Request For A Meeting With NWT Seniors

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to recall the exact detail. I don't have it on my calendar in front of me. I believe it's the middle of June; I believe it's the 11th. I would have to confirm that, however.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 188-15(3): Request For A Meeting With NWT Seniors

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the Minister does not have his Daytimer there. My understanding is the suggestion for a June meeting is not very good at all. Mr. Speaker, could he make the commitment to find the earliest opportunity for him to clear his calendar and sit down with the seniors and listen to their concerns about the housing needs in Fort Liard, in Simpson and in Yellowknife? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 188-15(3): Request For A Meeting With NWT Seniors

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we spent several days going back and forth with the president of the Seniors' Society. We did finally manage to nail down a date. I can share that with the Member. If she wants me to cancel that and start over again, we would be looking some time into the month. I am serious about meeting with the seniors. I would like to go ahead with this meeting. If there are other seniors' groups out there that the Member is referring to, I would be willing to meet with them also.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 188-15(3): Request For A Meeting With NWT Seniors

MS. LEE: I don't know why he can't just say yes, Mr. Speaker. I am compelled to say that it's my understanding that the seniors have been asking to meet with him since March. With the change in the leadership of the Housing Corporation, that was not possible. The Minister was not available during Senior Citizens Week. The next meeting is difficult, as well. If I could kindly ask the Minister to say yes. I understand he is busy; I am doing my job. Could he

just say yes that he will nail down a date within a week or two to meet with them? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 188-15(3): Request For A Meeting With NWT Seniors

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I don't understand what the Member is requesting of me. I have already nailed down a date. I do apologize to the seniors for not being able to meet during the week requested. I was not available. What more can I commit to? I am willing to meet. We've already set a date. It's done. I am not sure what the Member is asking for.

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

Question 189-15(3): Interjurisdictional Water Management Agreements

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question this afternoon is for Mr. Bell as the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. It concerns some reports in the last few days about water management deals that are being negotiated, finalized, between the provinces of Alberta and British Columbia. One part of this, Mr. Speaker, apparently concerns the potential construction of yet a third dam on the Peace River system. We all know the impact that this river has on the northern river systems, the Great Slave Lake, the Mackenzie Delta, yet more large-scale development is being considered. I wanted to ask Mr. Bell if he could advise the assembly just what kind of relationships we have with the governments of British Columbia and Alberta on these major watershed decisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 189-15(3): Interjurisdictional Water Management Agreements

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have also seen the media accounts of an MOU that appears to be in the final stages of negotiation between B.C. and Alberta. I have asked the department to look into it and to provide me with an update. I would not say this was a surprise, Mr. Speaker, but it was the first we had heard that they were potentially this close. All western governments, I should say Saskatchewan west as well as the Yukon and the Northwest Territories, are members of the Mackenzie River Basin Board. We have two seats on that board. That regime has provisions for bilateral agreements between governments that deal with trans-boundary water issues. For instance, we have one that has been negotiated with the Yukon, and we are in the works with Alberta and doing similar with Alberta. So it's not a surprise to hear that Alberta and B.C. are this close, but obviously, as you say, we have concerns where it relates to tributaries that eventually make their way to the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 189-15(3): Interjurisdictional Water Management Agreements

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that information. I would share his disappointment -- I think I can use that word -- with the fact that our neighbours are planning something and we haven't been to the table. It's disappointing because I know there have been some kinds of attempts to set up some kind of protocol for years, if not decades. So could the Minister explain how it is we have something like the Mackenzie River Basin Board, and yet things of this nature are going on behind the scenes? Are these deals worth anything to us? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

Further Return To Question 189-15(3): Interjurisdictional Water Management Agreements

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess it's important to know that one of the processes that the Mackenzie River Basin Board oversees is this trans-boundary water management agreement. That includes prior notification and consultation protocol which was recently put into place. We are aware of that and party to that. I suppose it's further complicated for us because DIAND really has control over waters in the Northwest Territories, but we are involved in these discussions and typically are apprised, but that is not to say that there aren't provisions for bilaterals. I think that's what we are seeing here between Alberta and B.C. We have an MOU with Alberta. Minister Miltenberger is responsible for that. I am aware that he has recently met with Alberta and given them a briefing on some of these issues. I beg your pardon; it's coming up this week. We will be meeting to brief them on issues of concern. Trans-boundary water issues are on the agenda and we will certainly bring this to their attention. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 189-15(3): Interjurisdictional Water Management Agreements

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to press the Minister and Mr. Miltenberger on this one, not just to make sure that this is on the agenda, but that the NWT has a meaningful if not equal place at the table in this decision-making. They are talking about a \$2.1 billion hydro project. It would flood 5,125 hectares of land in B.C. and could be a threat to several fish species. The spokesperson for the Alberta Environment admits they don't have a water sharing agreement. This is not just for ourselves, but also with the Northwest Territories because the whole watershed flows up there. So we have some work to do there, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to ask the Minister to consider undertaking a pledge to negotiate a seat for the NWT at the decision-making table on this project. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 189-15(3):
Interjurisdictional Water Management Agreements**

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly the Member is right and anything that has the Bennett Dam has, and anything that impacts on the Peace and Athabasca systems which eventually makes its way to Great Slave, to the Slave River and up into the Mackenzie Delta I think is of critical importance to this government, critical importance to the people of the Northwest Territories. We will certainly press the case for a seat at the table where development could potentially have a negative or adverse impact on the Mackenzie River Basin. Again, I would reiterate that Minister Miltenberger, when he meets on June 8th with Pearl Calahasen, will raise this issue and sit down and press the case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 189-15(3):
Interjurisdictional Water Management Agreements**

MR. BRADEN: Thank you. I'll take that for now and look forward to progress in the fall. I guess a last issue I would flag on this one is that this government does, at the highest level, have some kind of a protocol agreement, at least with the province of Alberta. This is done, I believe, at the Cabinet level. I would ask the Minister if he's going to bring this agreement to bear in this situation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 189-15(3):
Interjurisdictional Water Management Agreements**

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly bring this, and obviously my Cabinet colleagues are aware of the issue, to the Cabinet table. I think we need to have some discussion about this and try to ascertain what the best mechanism would be for making the case with Alberta and, indeed, British Columbia. I think it's important that we talk about this and I will commit to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

**Question 190-15(3): Home Renovation Assistance For
Elderly Tuktoyaktuk Couple**

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Member's statement, a Tuktoyaktuk elderly couple applied on numerous occasions for funds to renovate their home. To date this couple have been denied assistance and indicated they cannot afford to renovate their home at their own expense. Mr. Speaker, elders are living on fixed incomes and should be able to take their earnings and spend them elsewhere, not on renovations. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Honourable Michael McLeod, the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. Is he willing to direct his department to assist this elderly couple from Tuktoyaktuk to receive the necessary funds to renovate and complete their home? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

**Return To Question 190-15(3): Home Renovation
Assistance For Elderly Tuktoyaktuk Couple**

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seniors are a very valuable part of our communities and at the Housing Corporation we're very sensitive to their needs. We have many programs that they can apply for. We have a total of 16 programs, and I believe seven of them are targeted towards seniors. However, the request that the Member is putting forward is to override a decision that has been made by the LHO. I certainly will agree to review the situation and sit down to discuss the matter with the Member, however, at this point I don't have the details. I have to have more information. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 190-15(3): Home
Renovation Assistance For Elderly Tuktoyaktuk
Couple**

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's well known that the LHO do take some responsibility with regard to reviewing applications, but it's up to the NWT Housing Corporation to come up under the district management from Inuvik. Again, these elders, like I said, over the last 20 years they've been living in a unit that they purchased from the government at that time and they were promised then that they would renovate the windows and the floor. To date it still has not happened. Will the Minister assist with the elderly couple to sit down with the district manager in Inuvik to work out the problem with the elders? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 190-15(3): Home
Renovation Assistance For Elderly Tuktoyaktuk
Couple**

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is asking if I will sit down with the district manager to discuss this issue. I certainly will do that. There are not many instances where we take the time out to make sure the seniors understand, if they've been refused, why they've been refused. Is it because of arrears? Is it because of income over the income threshold? I'd certainly like to sit down with the district manager and Member and talk about this issue and look at all the details before I commit any further than that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Pokiak.

**Supplementary To Question 190-15(3): Home
Renovation Assistance For Elderly Tuktoyaktuk
Couple**

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time I will gladly sit down with the Minister and talk with the district manager in Inuvik to indicate the individuals in question here to work with them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 191-15(3): Dealing With Diabetes In The NWT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago we had a luncheon with the diabetic association in the Great Hall here. We talked about the many facts of diabetes, especially in the Sahtu region where there is very little work that has been done in terms of diabetic screening in the Sahtu. My question to the Minister is if he could inform the House as to the strategy of the Northwest Territories in the process of the diabetes strategy that's going to be coming out shortly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 191-15(3): Dealing With Diabetes In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've been dealing with the issue of diabetes through the regular course of work but, in addition, in 1999 the federal government started the Canadian diabetes strategy and we take part in that. There are a number of components to that: the national diabetes surveillance system, the aboriginal diabetes initiative, prevention and promotion, as well as the overall national coordination. We take part in the first three areas that I've just outlined. The concern we have is there has been no signal given to us that the federal government intends to keep the program going past this next year. It's a very critical piece of our strategy. Through this particular funding and program we have been able to develop the first part of our own diabetic strategy, part of which was talked about here the other day in the Great Hall. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 191-15(3): Dealing With Diabetes In The NWT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, diabetes is here in the Northwest Territories, it's staying here for a long time. It's a killer disease. For people in the smaller communities, some of them don't even know they have diabetes or are aware of some of the opportunities for communities to get involved and to deal with diabetes at the community level. The Premier had talked about that in a special statement about working in partnership. I'd like to know from the Minister what opportunities there are for people in the small communities, practitioners, individuals, to talk about diabetes prevention, treatment and education, assets to inform our people in the Sahtu and the other communities about the diabetes strategy that we can proceed further with this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 191-15(3): Dealing With Diabetes In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct; the issue of diabetes is with us and will continue to be with us. The one saving grace for us is that our numbers are not at the national average in terms of prevalence. We still have an opportunity to do proactive, preventative work that will help limit any possible growth. Mr. Speaker, at present there are three diabetes education programs out of Stanton, Inuvik and Hay River, as well as the regional centres that are developing their own programs to work with the communities in their region. Stanton, as well, plays a key role. We also have a promotion and prevention section here in the department that does some work in that area as well, in terms of education and information to the communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 191-15(3): Dealing With Diabetes In The NWT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is correct that we worked very well with the Inuvik diabetes specialists last year and for a couple years in the Sahtu region. I guess I would look at what type of guidance or light the Minister would give to the people in the Sahtu in terms of having their own diabetes team in the small communities, especially to work with the local stores in the communities. One of the biggest contributing factors to promoting diabetes is because of the number of junk food and things that they have available in the communities, not really having an incentive for the communities to look at healthy foods that they could consume during the school time for school age children. I would like to ask the Minister if he would look closely at the local stores such as Northern Co-op to promote healthy lifestyles. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 191-15(3): Dealing With Diabetes In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, clearly this is a shared responsibility and we have some resources and capacity to provide expert advice and come in and work with communities. There is also a tremendous amount that can be done at the community level, as the Member indicated. At the end of the day, type II diabetes tends to start with personal choice with what we eat and we drink and if we smoke. Places like Inuvik, for example, have taken junk food vending machines out of the schools. That was a decision that was made at the local level. Parents and elders play a very clear role in terms of being role models, in terms of demonstrating the proper habits. As well, I do believe there is an opportunity, as the Member said, not only with the government but with communities talking to their local stores to talk to them about putting in the proper kinds of food and not have all the junk food front and centre and the other healthier alternatives in the back somewhere.

So this is a shared responsibility. I will commit that the Department of Health and Social Services and the whole system will work collectively and collaboratively on this issue. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 191-15(3): Dealing With Diabetes In The NWT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am encouraged by the Minister's comments here. Mr. Speaker, it seems like some of the funding programs that have been with the federal government are being terminated or sunsetted, and it's no surprise that the aboriginal diabetes initiative will no longer be available as of March 31, 2004. Can the Minister advise this House if there are any new sources of funding being sought after to ensure that the diabetes programs in the small communities stay because it's desperately needed? Mr. Speaker, I speak about it because it hits close to home, talking about the diabetes issues in the small communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 191-15(3): Dealing With Diabetes In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we continue to work with the federal government, who has made many loud and clear pronouncements on their interest in working on prevention on their interest in working on issues like diabetes, and we're still confident that we will be able to get them to commit and that they will commit nationally to continue the funding for this program. It's not one that they can walk away from; not if they are going to be true to their concern that they have for prevention and doing what they can to work with the regions, provinces and territories on this very preventable illness. Thank you.

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

Question 192-15(3): Construction Standards To Eliminate Mould

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I just want to ask the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation a couple of questions with regard to construction season being upon us here in the NWT with a lot of new houses being currently under construction or about to begin construction right now in the NWT. With the issue of mould that was brought up in last week's session, due to some shoddy construction practices and use of old or cheaper materials by contractors, I just want to ask the Minister what kind of system the Housing Corporation will put in place to ensure that all new materials that are being brought to construction sites for new houses are being used and accounted for by contractors who are contracted out to build these houses to CMHC standards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 192-15(3): Construction Standards To Eliminate Mould

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I think there are a couple of different issues that came up there. In reference to the issue of the mould, that was a question that was raised the other day, and we have hired a person who specializes in environmental concerns with regard to housing. There is a study being conducted and we should have that shortly. We're looking at the construction practices that may allow it. We don't really know right now if it is construction or shoddy practices, as the Member said. However, it may be ventilation or other things including design. At this point we're unclear as to what's causing the mould. We are looking into it and are hoping to come to a better way of doing things so we can eliminate this problem.

With regard to material being accounted for on construction sites, we do have a practice right now where our contractors are responsible for the sites, for the material on the sites, and we do have the practice of holding back a portion of their contract until this is all concluded and is acceptable to us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 192-15(3): Construction Standards To Eliminate Mould

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to see that this government has found a mould specialist to make sure that...

---Laughter

...this practice does not continue or that mould does not overcome all the new houses that the Housing Corporation is currently working on. I just want to ask the Minister, with the project managers who oversee the construction of a lot of these housing units, in the smaller communities these project managers are not always available 24 hours a day and during the whole construction season to oversee and ensure that all housing materials and practices are being followed and adhered to according to the standards as set out in the Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation. I just want to ask the Minister, just as an example, there's construction of a new unit that's going up in Deninu Kue and the owner of the unit has approached me and indicated to me that the contractor was not using the new insulation that was given to him as part of the materials that were supplied to the construction site. In fact, they were using the old insulation that he pulled out of his old warehouse and had kept the good stuff. I just want to know how the Minister is going to ensure that these contractors are really adhering to their contracts in building these houses with the materials that are supplied to them by the Housing Corporation and not...I know, like I said, there's no project manager available 24/7, so how are they going to ensure that the practices are being followed and adhered to because they can't go in there and drill a hole in the wall and make sure the stuff is new? Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 192-15(3): Construction Standards To Eliminate Mould

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the material that comes with the houses, especially in the cases of the homeownership programs like the IHP or independent housing program or the expanded down-payment assistance program. The materials belong to the homeowner. We make every effort to keep a close eye on the property, on the site. We have our program officers attend the sites very regularly. However, we are not able to have security there 24 hours a day. We do check, we do have our technical people do inspections. We are working on increasing our inspections and making it mandatory that there is in every step of the way a checklist, and that will be implemented this construction season. We hope to eliminate any opportunity for use of old materials or material wandering off the site. We are also going to be asking our LHOs to help us out. That is what we're doing this year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Just to remind Members to keep your supplementary questions and answers fairly short respecting the time allowed for us to make oral questions. Your supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 192-15(3): Construction Standards To Eliminate Mould

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear that the inspections will be increasing and that the local housing authorities will be ensuring that all the materials are being used where they're supposed to be used. I just want to ask the Minister how much weight he would put toward a client of a housing unit when he comes forward and says the contractor is not using the correct materials or the appropriate materials in the construction process. Are any considerations put forth or any recommendations made or any contact with the contractors made after that point of concern that any of the clients might make to the Housing Corporation? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 192-15(3): Construction Standards To Eliminate Mould

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we take any issues into consideration of the homeowners and the people who are going to be receiving the units. If they bring the issues to the attention of our district office or to our LHOs or to a tenant relations officer or somebody in the area of housing who has responsibility for some of these projects, we would certainly take it very seriously and respond accordingly. We need more eyes than what we can offer a lot of times. If there are people receiving units, we certainly have to ensure that their concerns are met and we can take the Member's recommendation to respond and put high importance on it. We do that now and would continue to do that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Your final supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

Supplementary To Question 192-15(3): Construction Standards To Eliminate Mould

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Minister with their partnership agreements with the LHOs, that during construction season, since the project officers can't always be on construction sites 24/7 to ensure that everything is being done according to the guidelines of the government, if they should set up some kind of a system where they demand some reporting requirements from the LHOs or from the project officers at each stage of the construction process at each unit to ensure that sometimes the clients these houses are being built for are being brushed off by their local housing authorities or not really paid much concern because it's basically their unit and not a public housing unit. I want to ask the Minister what kind of reporting requirements does the government demand from these individuals? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. McLeod.

Further Return To Question 192-15(3): Construction Standards To Eliminate Mould

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of any formal reporting requirements at this time. I believe what we use in terms of progress payments would be to have our technical people go into the units and do the inspections and sign the appropriate documents. I don't believe we have any kind of written formal requirement at this point. I would have to go back and check to see if that's something we have. I don't believe we do it right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 193-15(3): Telecare Service In The NWT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently residents of the Northwest Territories received a mail-out from the Department of Health and Social Services describing a new service. It's a 1-800 number that can be accessed toll-free from anywhere in the NWT and it's called Telecare.

Mr. Speaker, I am somewhat familiar with this and I know the Minister did unveil this and held a press conference and so on, but for the benefit of people who may have inadvertently thrown that envelope in the junk mail pile, I just wanted to ask the Minister a few questions about it more or less just to create some awareness around it. Could the Minister please inform the House what the intent or motivation for such a service in the NWT is? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 193-15(3): Telecare Service In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intention of this particular phone line is to enhance capacities we have in communities to provide service to the people on a 24-hour/seven-day-a-week basis where they can now be in

touch with a registered nurse anytime of the day or night on issues they may have, either information issues or symptoms they want to check out. It's an enhancement. It's not a replacement of service. They will get a very timely and professional service. They will assist with and hook them up with other services. So we believe, like other jurisdictions across the country, that this will be a good service for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 193-15(3): Telecare Service In The NWT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Northwest Territories, we are unique in the fact that our regions are far-flung and remote in many instances. There's quite a variety of services available to residents in these communities which vary in size greatly and so does the level of service. I want to say that I think it's a good idea. Sometimes a little reassurance or a little help can go a long ways to meeting the needs of people. Given the uniqueness of our surroundings here, I would like to ask the Minister where the services are provided from. Where is the nurse you are speaking to when you dial this 1-800 number? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 193-15(3): Telecare Service In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this particular project has been in the works for two-and-a-half years and we have an arrangement, a contract, with an organization called Clinidata. They have a call answering service staffed by registered nurses out of New Brunswick. They have all the information there on their computers of every community and every program offered in the communities, all the resources that we have available in the Northwest Territories. So as well as access to interpretive services where they have services in over 100 languages, including the majority of our official languages. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 193-15(3): Telecare Service In The NWT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Minister, if he could, to inform us as to when this service has become available and if he has received any feedback to date on any glitches in the service or the uptake so far from residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 193-15(3): Telecare Service In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the technical launch was on April 19th and the public launch took place on May 18th. Reports to date have been that it's been well received by

people who have had a chance to use it. People have phoned just to see how it would operate. We, as well, have gotten a lot of positive comments that people think it's a very good supplement to have to see a doctor or nurse, and gives them an added opportunity to get some professional advice or reassurance that they require. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The time for question period has expired, but I will allow Mrs. Groenewegen a final supplementary. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 193-15(3): Telecare Service In The NWT

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister made reference to the contract that we have with these folks who are located down east. I was just wondering how we are procuring this service in terms of payment. Is this a contract? If so, how much or is it on a per call basis? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 193-15(3): Telecare Service In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this contract is approximately \$600,000 a year and I think it's a three-year contract with the possibility to extend. Every call is tracked. When people call, we ask if they have any objection and we keep track of files for call-backs so we can be more responsive. So we are going to get a complete and regular update in terms of statistics and usage types of issues and those things that will help us adjust the service, as well as look at some of the issues that are affecting the people to give us an idea of some possible trends and patterns. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The time for question period has expired. Before we go on, I would like to call a 15-minute break. Before I do, I would like to inform the Members that the Minister of Education, Mr. Dent, is hosting a ceremony to honour the winners of the Ministerial Literacy Council Awards for 2004 in the Great Hall at the break. I encourage Members to go and also to acknowledge the veterans. We will call a 15-minute break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Good afternoon, colleagues. We will reconvene. Orders of the day. Item 7, written questions. The Honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 23-15(3): Overtime Payment And Vacancy Rates At The North Slave Correctional Centre

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a written question to the Minister of Justice, the Honourable Charles Dent, with regard to overtime payment and vacancy rates at the North Slave Correctional Centre.

1. Please provide me with the vacancy rate for correctional officers at the North Slave Correctional

Centre over the last 12 months on a month-by-month basis.

2. Please provide the amount of over time paid for the corrections officers in comparison to the regular salary allocation for the entire staff over the last 12-month period.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. 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. Mr. Menicoche.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 6-15(3): Standing Committee On Accountability And Oversight Report On Priorities And Objectives

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is pleased to provide its report on the committee's priorities and objectives and recommends it to the House.

The Members of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight held a two-day operational planning workshop in Deline on April 14 and 15, 2004. The purpose of the workshop was to review the committee's mandate and to develop an approach to how Members will carry it out over the life of this assembly.

The committee agreed to maintain its existing terms of reference, as outlined in the rules of the Legislative Assembly, and adopted the following vision and mission statements:

Vision

Our vision is a strong, effective consensus government that has the confidence of the people of the NWT.

Mission

Our mission will be to take purposeful and unified action, where appropriate, to support, question or oppose government initiatives and to hold government accountable. We will also use our collective power to influence government to take action and/or to change its policies when in the public interest.

Priorities And Objectives

In the course of our workshop, Members identified a number of priorities and objectives we want to address during our term. We expect that some of these items will be pursued more directly by the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development and the Standing Committee on Social Programs in keeping with the mandates of those committees. This is, of course, only an initial list that will need to be revised to meet changing needs and circumstances.

As committee Members were also active participants in developing the 15th Assembly vision and goals, that document reflects many of the items we discussed, such as ensuring that northerners benefit from resource

development, completing aboriginal land, resource and self-government agreements, clear, accountable and efficient governance structures, and adequate, affordable and accessible housing for residents.

One of our key priorities will, therefore, be to hold the government accountable to our collective 15th Assembly vision and goals.

Other, more specific objectives we plan to pursue are:

- Restructuring of the GNWT's internal human resource services to provide a more efficient and accountable system
- A reconsideration of past reports and recommendations on the GNWT's affirmative action policy
- Division of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development
- A review of all GNWT boards and agencies
- A review of the operations and mandate of the NWT Housing Corporation, including the rent scales for social housing
- An operational review of the Workers' Compensation Board, and completion of the amendments to the legislation
- Consideration of new legislation to protect whistleblowers
- Consideration of new fiscal responsibility legislation
- A review of the Liquor Act
- A review of the Residential Tenancies Act
- A cost/benefit analysis of the business incentive policy
- Improving the land transfer process, and in particular accelerating land transfers to municipalities
- Increased investment in early childhood development programs
- Equal access to student financial assistance for trades students and persons with disabilities
- Increased investment in trades and apprenticeship programs
- Introduction of measures to mitigate the impacts of past hydro developments
- Development of a hydro project on the Bear River
- Construction of an all-weather road between Tuktoyaktuk and Inuvik
- Consideration of a logo for the NWT.

Ongoing goals of our committee that are explicitly included in our mandate are:

- The comprehensive overview of the GNWT's budget and fiscal framework
- The consideration of bills, budgets and financial management of the Department of the Executive, including the executive offices, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs, and the Financial Management Board Secretariat, and the Department of Finance
- Examination of Auditor General's reports
- Examination of the reports of statutory officers including the Commissioner of Official Languages, the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Equal Pay Commissioner and the Human Rights Commission
- Coordination of House business scheduling and planning in cooperation with Cabinet.

Conclusion

The committee has a full agenda and a great deal of work ahead of it in order to fulfill our mandate. We look forward to working with the government to advance the vision and goals we set out together as the 15th Assembly, and the more specific priorities and objectives we have identified as a committee.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Accountability and Oversight committee's report on priorities and objectives.

Motion To Receive And Adopt Committee Report 6-15(3), Carried

I move, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Committee Report 6-15(3) be received and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Do you have a seconder for your motion? Mr. Yakeleya, the Member for Sahtu, seconds the motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Committee Report 6-15(3) has been received and adopted. 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 Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION**Motion 12-15(3): Recommendation For Appointment To The Executive Council**

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, June 3, 2004, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that this assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that Mr. David Krutko, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, be appointed to the Executive Council.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion he gave notice of. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with your motion, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS**Motion 12-15(3): Recommendation For Appointment To The Executive Council**

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues.

WHEREAS section 61(1) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act requires that there shall be an Executive Council of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS Members of the Executive Council are appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of this Legislative Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that this assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that Mr. David Krutko, the Member for Mackenzie Delta, be appointed to the Executive Council.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

---Applause

Congratulations, Mr. Krutko, on your appointment. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS**Bill 7: An Act To Amend The Legal Profession Act**

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Legal Profession Act to provide that members may pay over to the Law Society of the Northwest Territories trust money that they have been unable to disburse for at least two years because the persons entitled to the funds cannot be located. The Law Society would hold the transferred money for five years, and during that period a person who would be entitled to claim the funds from the member may claim them from the Law Society. At the expiry of the five-year period, the transferred funds held by the Law Society, less administration fees, are paid to the Northwest Territories Law Foundation and may be used to further the objects of the foundation. The Law Society is empowered to make rules to facilitate the program.

In addition, the Legal Profession Act is amended:

- to provide that the discipline committee shall be composed of a majority of resident members;

- to provide that certain notices of the Law Society that must presently be mailed may be sent by other means;
- to delete references to "treasury branches;"
- to replace references specific to the Yukon territory with a term that also includes Nunavut.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 7 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Bill 8: Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2004

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 8, Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2004, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in the statutes of the Northwest Territories. The bill also deals with other matters of a minor, non-controversial and non-complicated nature in the statutes and repeals statutory provisions that have ceased to have effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 8 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Bill 9: Write-off Of Assets And Debts Act, 2004-2005

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Bill 9, Write-off of Assets and Debts Act, 2004-2005, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of assets and debts in accordance with the Financial Administration Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 9 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Bill 10: Forgiveness Of Debts Act, 2004-2005

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 10, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2004-2005, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the forgiveness of debts in accordance with section 25 of the Financial Administration Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 10 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

Bill 12: An Act To Amend The Education Act

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Education Act to provide that persons who are employed as superintendents are not employed in the public service. Amendments are also made to the Public Service Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 12 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 5, Tlicho Community Government Act; Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 2004-2005; and, Committee Report 4-15(3), Report on the Review of Bill 5, Tlicho Community Government Act. By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 2-15(3), I hereby resolve the House into Committee of the Whole to sit beyond the hour of adjournment until such time as the committee is ready to report progress, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'll call Committee of the Whole to order. Before us today is Bill 5, Tlicho Community Government Act; Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, 2004-2005; and, Committee Report 4-15(3), Report on the Review of Bill 5, Tlicho Community Government Act. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Madam Chair, the committee wishes to consider Bill 5 concurrently with Committee Report 4-15(3), as well as Bill 11. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Then I will ask the Minister if he would like to provide opening remarks to the bill at this time. Mr. Handley, please.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you for the opportunity to provide opening remarks on the Tlicho Community Government Act. Given the importance of this piece of legislation, I want to take a few moments to speak about where this bill came from, how it was drafted, and why it was drafted the way it is.

I would also like to outline for Members how this bill is similar to the other legislation establishing community governments, specifically the Cities, Towns and Villages Act, the Charter Communities Act, and the Hamlets Act. But I will also address how it is different and why it is different. My opening comments are lengthy, but I believe it is important to provide Members with the background to how this bill came to be.

As Members of this Assembly are aware, the Tlicho Community Government Act is one of the last major steps in a process that started in 1921 with the signing of Treaty 11. The Tlicho Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement was signed by DIAND Minister Nault, Minister Antoine and Grand Chief Rabesca on August 25, 2003. Prime Minister Chrétien and Premier Kakfwi also attended and witnessed this historic event.

In order to begin meeting our government's obligations under that agreement, the Tlicho Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement Act was approved by the 14th Legislative Assembly on October 11, 2003. That act confirmed that the Government of the Northwest Territories supported the agreement and agreed to take the necessary steps to implement it.

The Tlicho Land Claim and Self-Government Agreement Act was the first of three pieces of legislation the agreement required our government to implement. This bill deals with the implementation of the new community governments for the Tlicho, and the final bill yet to be introduced concerns the establishment of the intergovernmental services agency.

The Tlicho people are implementing their inherent right at the community level through a system that allows all residents in the communities to have a say in how things

are run. This approach is unprecedented in land claims and self-government agreements.

Officials from the Government of the Northwest Territories worked very closely with representatives of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council to develop the Tlicho Community Government Act. There were many meetings where the agreement was reviewed, other laws were reviewed, and community perspectives were incorporated.

The key principle to keep in mind is that we are implementing a self-government agreement. As a result, a new form of government is being created in the four Tlicho communities, one that brings together aboriginal and public governments. We are taking elements of the agreement negotiated by the Tlicho to protect their rights and culture and melding it with the rights all citizens enjoy in our communities.

One of the things the agreement states is that once this bill is passed, the Legislative Assembly will not be able to change it without the consent of the Tlicho people. There were some initial concerns raised, questioning why this assembly would limit its ability to act. Implementing self-government is new for all of us and, as such, requires collaboration in sharing power. Given the Tlicho's precedent-setting agreement to realize their right of self-government through public community governments, we in turn provide them with the assurance that the model of governance they have established will not be changed without their input.

It is important to point out the close relationship between these new community governments and the new Tlicho government. The Tlicho have set up a government that is closely based in the communities. Only the chiefs will be elected by Tlicho citizens alone. The rest of the Tlicho government will be made up of members of the community governments, where everyone may run and vote for council members.

Questions have also been raised about the size of councils, the longer terms of office, and different eligibility requirements for voters. The Tlicho wanted these provisions in their agreement and Canada and the Northwest Territories agreed.

During review by the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development, some Members asked about the restrictions on the sale of land in the communities. The bill states that communities cannot sell the land for 20 years and, after that, only if the voters approve the sale. Once again, this is in the agreement and, therefore, it has to be in the act.

In this case, it is also worth noting that this is similar to restrictions set up by the Inuit in the Nunavut Agreement. It is designed to give the communities a little breathing room to get their new government up and running before they have to consider questions like, "should land be sold to individuals or should it be managed collectively for the whole community?"

In the meantime, land is still available for development, just as it is today. The new community governments will have land administration bylaws under which they will lease land to the public and it will be under the same terms and conditions for all citizens.

In summary, many of the features of this legislation come directly from the agreement. Having said that, it is also important to note that much of this legislation is based on the municipal legislation that the Government of the Northwest Territories recently updated. This bill is very similar to the new Hamlets Act and the Charter Communities Act which came into effect on April 1, 2004.

Some Members have asked questions during the standing committee review about delegations, about the ability to set up boards and commissions, about the ability to borrow money and make investments. These are all new features that were added to the new municipal legislation and, as such, are available to all municipal governments throughout the Northwest Territories. The Tlicho Community Government Act also provides these provisions.

There are some unique features in the bill before you that differ from existing legislation and are not rooted in the Tlicho agreement. This bill raises the level of indebtedness required to prevent someone from running for office. It updates the numbers from the 1980s -- the last time limits were set -- to numbers that reflect today's dollar and the type of business that a citizen might have with the community, especially for land leases.

It also proposes some unique provisions as to who can run for elected office. First, communities can decide that certain employees of the community government may run. The exception would be employees who are in management or who are appointed as officers of the community government. Employees are restricted from running for office elsewhere because community governments felt there was potential for conflicting roles. The Tlicho were emphatic in wanting this provision within the act, partly because these communities are very small, but mostly because in order to be on the Tlicho government you have to be on the community government first. Preventing community government employees from running for elected office would prevent them from ever participating in the Tlicho government. There are a number of other minor differences resulting from consultation with the Tlicho, dealing with terms of office and election cycles.

The last item I want to speak to in this area concerns the limited authority that the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs will have over these communities compared to others. Under municipal legislation, the Minister has the authority to remove the council and replace them with an appointed municipal administrator if there is valid reason to do so. While this is a rare occurrence and only happens if the community government is in real trouble and refuses to work in partnership with my department to solve the problem, the Tlicho didn't want the Government of the Northwest Territories to have that kind of power. It was agreed to limit the Minister's power to appoint a municipal supervisor to work with a community government for only very specific things, such as serious financial difficulty, and even then to only allow that in consultation with the grand chief. If a plan of action cannot be agreed to or if the supervisor thinks the council can't do what needs to be done, then the Minister can call an election. When considering this difference, it is important to remember that the Tlicho community councils are also the Tlicho government and it wouldn't be right for a GNWT Minister to have the authority to fire all or even some of them.

To summarize, the bill has its origins in three places: in the Tlicho agreement itself, in the existing GNWT legislation, and from negotiations and consultations with the Tlicho. The Government of the Northwest Territories is required, under the terms of the agreement, to consult with the Tlicho on this legislation. We have worked in cooperation with the Tlicho to develop the bill and if the Legislative Assembly should propose changes as a result of our discussions here today it will be appropriate to consult the Tlicho before giving final approval.

The final issue I want to address has to do with the Government of the Northwest Territories' authority to pass this legislation. Given the timing issues with the federal enabling legislation, this question has been raised by some Members. The answer is that the federal bill will give our government that authority. It says the authority is retroactive. This is how the Yukon Agreement was approved and implemented. There is a coming into force provision in the bill that authorizes our government to conduct the first elections prior to the effective date when the rest of the bill comes into effect. We have asked Canada to make sure there is sufficient time between when they pass the bill and the effective date so that this can happen.

The importance of this legislation cannot be understated. It is historic in its own right, and it is a demonstration of this assembly's willingness to move ahead in working with aboriginal governments as new powers and responsibilities are negotiated, agreed and shared.

Madam Chair, I would be pleased to answer questions on the bill. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Premier Handley. At this time I'll ask Mr. Villeneuve, as the deputy chair of the Governance and Economic Development committee, if he would provide the committee's review of the bill. Thank you.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development conducted a public review of Bill 5 and our findings were reported to the House in Committee Report 4-15(3). For the record, I would like to thank once again all of those who contributed to our review through presentations to our committee and written submissions. Committee Report 4-15(3) is a matter of record, Madam Chair, however, Members of the standing committee may have additional comments on Bill 5 as we proceed here in Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. At this time I will ask the Minister if he would like to bring witnesses while we consider the bill.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, I would. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Premier Handley. Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Then I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if she will escort the witnesses in for Premier Handley.

Thank you. Premier Handley, for the record, would you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. With me are Debbie DeLancey, deputy minister of Municipal and Community Affairs; Mike Kalnay, director of community governance, Municipal and Community Affairs; and Mark Aitken, director of the legislation division, Department of Justice.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Premier Handley. At this time I'll ask the Members of the committee if they have any general comments on Bill 5. General comments. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to indicate, first of all, that I will be speaking and voting in favour of this bill. The environment surrounding the Akaitcho work to achieve their self-government and land claim agreement is well documented. I won't go into any of that. There is one aspect of the Tlicho process that I did want to see if the Minister could, for the record, put some accounting before committee. That concerns the Metis people and their belief or their concern that their rights or access to land and other privileges that they believe they should have access to may be curtailed or hampered by the wording of this particular agreement. I had a constituency meeting in the Great Hall here a few weeks ago, Madam Chair, and heard from representatives of the Metis community with great strength. I recall also at the committee hearing similar concerns were expressed.

I won't pretend to speak on their behalf of exactly what their concerns are, but they've been well documented for the public and I would like the Minister to give some explanation from the government's point of view of how the Metis' concerns are addressed or being managed in the course of this bill. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Premier Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe Mr. Braden is referring to a lot of the issues that have been raised by the North Slave Metis. They've been raising those concerns for a number of years and have also been lobbying the federal government to establish a process for them to be able to negotiate their particular interest. We have worked with them. We have helped to facilitate meetings between the Metis and the federal government, but until the federal government recognizes or agrees to a negotiation process for the North Slave Metis, then there really isn't a lot that our government can do to answer the questions or deal with the interest that they have expressed.

In the meantime, while they have been doing that, the Tlicho and the Government of Canada have proceeded with the negotiations of the Tlicho agreement. That agreement was signed almost a year ago and that is now in effect. So the legislation we have before us today follows up on that legislation and we are bound as one of the signatories and certainly bound because of the Tlicho agreement to comply with the terms that have been laid out in the Tlicho agreement.

I realize having said that, Madam Chair, that the North Slave Metis are not happy with that situation, but there is not much that our government can do other than

encourage them to continue to try to convince the federal government to set up a process. Unless we have that, we really can't do anything. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Premier Handley. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. In the context of that whole process then, has our government taken any steps to bring the federal government around and get these concerns addressed? Is it something that we believe should be looked after? Are we prepared to or have we done any advocacy on the part of the Metis people in this? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, I have raised this issue verbally with the Minister of DIAND, mainly to bring to his attention that there is an outstanding issue here which is creating some difficulties for us in terms of defining every aboriginal group or government authorities and responsibilities. Madam Chair, in the last government, we certainly assisted the North Slave Metis in their efforts. We paid for trips to go to Ottawa to meet with the federal government. If I recall correctly, the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs at the time also wrote a letter encouraging the federal Minister to resolve this issue. But beyond that, it's not our government's role or responsibility to try to resolve this. This is really an issue between the North Slave Metis and the federal government. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Any further general comments? If not, we will move on to the consideration of the bill clause by clause. If you will turn to page 16 of the bill, we will stand down consideration of the clauses at this time and consider the two schedules to this bill as the first step. They are located on page 99, schedule A, boundaries of community governments. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Schedule B is on the next page, consequential amendments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Committee Members, if you could turn back to page 16, Bill 5, Tlicho Community Government Act, interpretation, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 20, Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 4.

- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 5.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 6.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Part I, establishment, clause 7.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Part II, administration, clause 8.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 9.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 10.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 11.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Page 24, clause 12.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 13.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 14.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 15.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 16.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 17.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 18.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 19.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 20.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 21.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Page 30, clause 22.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 23.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 24.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 25.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 26.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 27.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Page 32, clause 28.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 29.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 30.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 31.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 32.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 33.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 34.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Page 34, clause 35.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 36.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 37.

- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 38.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 39.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 40.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Everyone is very agreeable today. On page 36, clause 41.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 42.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 43.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 44.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 45.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 46.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Part III, general powers, clause 47.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 48.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 49.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 50.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Page 40, clause 51.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 52.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 53.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 54.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 55.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 56.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 57.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 58.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 59.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Page 44, clause 60.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 61.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 62.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 63.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 64.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 65.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Part IV, legislative powers, clause 66.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 67.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 68.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 69.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 70.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 71.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 72.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 73.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 74.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 75.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 76.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 77.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 78.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 79.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 80.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 81.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 82.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 83.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 84.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 85.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 86.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 87.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 88.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 89.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Part V, financial affairs, clause 90.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 91.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 92.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 93.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 94.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 95.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 96.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 97.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 98.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 99.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 100.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Only 76 more clauses. Page 63, clause 101.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 102.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 103.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 104.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 105.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 106.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 107.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 108.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 109.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 67, clause 110.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 111.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 112.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 113.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 114.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 115.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 116.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 117.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 118.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 119.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 120.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 72, clause 121.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 122.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 123.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 124.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 125.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 76, part VI, liability and enforcement, clause 126.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 127.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 128.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 129.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 130.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 131.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 132.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 133.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 134.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 80, clause 135.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 136.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 137.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 138.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 139.

- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 140.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 141.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 142.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 143.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 144.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Page 84, clause 145.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 146.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 147.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 148.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 149.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 150.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 151.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 152.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 153.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 154.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Page 88, clause 155.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 156.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 157.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 158.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 159.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 160.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Part VII, other matters, clause 161.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 162.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 163.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 164.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 165.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 166.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 167.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Page 94, clause 168.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 169.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 170.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 171.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 172.
- SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.
- CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Clause 173.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Clause 174.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Commencement, clause 175.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Consequential amendments, clause 176.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, committee. To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Does the committee agree that Bill 5 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Bill 5 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank Premier Handley and his staff for their help on this bill. Thank you.

---Applause

Does the committee agree that consideration of Committee Report 4-15(3) is also concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Consideration of Committee Report 4-15(3) is also concluded.

We will now proceed with Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2004-2005. I will ask Minister Roland if he would like to provide committee with opening remarks.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2004-2005 requests authority for additional appropriations of \$14,349,528 for operations expenditures and \$29.150 million for capital investment expenditures.

Major items included in this request for operations expenditures are as follows:

1. \$2 million for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for increased contribution funding to divisional education councils and the Yellowknife district education authorities for forced growth expenditures in school programs.
2. \$1.4 million for the Department of Health and Social Services for the additional costs associated with the new four-year contracts with general practitioners and specialist physicians.
3. \$950,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services for the continuation of community

demonstration projects that were started in 2003-2004 as part of the GNWT's response to the social agenda.

4. \$877,000 for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment for the continuation of the language nests component of the early childhood development action plan.

5. \$850,000 for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development to establish a Mackenzie Valley pipeline office.

6. \$825,000 for the departments of Finance; Municipal and Community Affairs; Education, Culture and Employment; and Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development for activities impacted by recent resource development in the NWT.

The operational funding request also includes \$5.5 million for contribution funding for the continuation of infrastructure projects not completed in the 2003-2004 fiscal period. Funding for these projects was approved and lapsed in 2003-2004.

The operations funding requests are within the 2004-2005 supplementary reserve of \$20 million.

The major request for capital investment expenditures is \$28 million in capital carryovers from the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

Madam Chair, I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. With the supplementary appropriation, there is no report by committee. So at this time, we will ask the Minister if he would like to bring in witnesses.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Yes, I would, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Roland. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Roland. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if she would escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister Roland, for the record, could you please introduce the person with you?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. To my right is the secretary to the Financial Management Board, Mr. Lew Voytilla.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Are there any general comments on Bill 11? Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. This supp covers a number of different areas; that's to be expected. The one aspect of this that comes through in several departments, Madam Chair, mainly through RWED, but also in Education, Culture and Employment, MACA and Finance, are a number of initiatives related to pipeline preparation and planning. The largest of these is, I believe, under RWED and this is to provide funding to

establish a Mackenzie Valley pipeline office. We are talking about the creation of six positions here, six-and-a-half positions actually. There are other new PYs being created from some of these other areas. In the research that committee has undertaken, Madam Chair, it seems that with existing positions already dedicated to pipeline research and preparations, plus these new ones, plus some of the auxiliary ones that other departments are starting up, we are looking at assembling a force here of somewhere in the neighbourhood of perhaps a dozen or 15 different people involved in the pipeline preparation.

This is something that I think is long overdue. A fair amount of profile has already been given on this topic by this assembly, Madam Chair, in the creation of a joint committee of three Ministers, three Members, a rather large group that is going to undertake from a political direction some of the administration here. Of course, now we are seeing an administrative team being put together here and we are also seeing our counterparts with the federal government and in private industry assembling their teams. So all this seems to be moving along quite nicely.

My concern here, Madam Chair, is that in all of the positions that have been outlined in this supp with the research available to us so far, we see nothing in the GNWT's preparation that covers the interest of what I would call the social agenda. All of the positions, Madam Chair, relate to a regulatory, administrative or bureaucratic or policy kinds of issues very much directed at serving and feeding the interest of government. Madam Chair, there have been consistent cries from the communities that their social infrastructure is very vulnerable to the impacts of this sudden boom or impact that is going to happen. We all have a pretty good sense of what it's going to be like. We've had experience here with the Norman Wells pipeline in the 1980s. We don't want to do that again.

So the concern that I am flagging here, Madam Chair, is so far our attempts at coordinating pipeline-related activities are going to fail the people in the small communities, large communities on that route as well, for that matter. We just don't seem to get it, Madam Chair, that this isn't all an economic and efficiency exercise. This is something that is really going to make a difference at the street level, at the community level, at the doorstep of virtually every family that lives in the community. We are not paying attention to our obligation and our duties to coordinate.

So I think I can leave it there, Madam Chair. By the time I can get to that page, I can have some other information to present. I would like to serve notice here in committee that I am prepared to move deleting this \$850,000 item anticipating, of course, that committee or that the government will go back and look at how it's balancing our efforts at coordinating these activities and that we can anticipate a new supp but better addressing the social concerns perhaps later on in the year.

The question I would like to put to the Minister in general comments, Madam Chair, is at this very senior coordinating level, why aren't we seeing representatives and officers and duties and mandates that will address social infrastructure needs of a Mackenzie Valley pipeline project? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. What is here in the supplementary appropriation bill in the area of resource development and impacts is our first go at staffing up our departments, particularly this one item with the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, to be prepared for the wrapping up of preparation for the pipeline, the regulatory end. We feel that's a minimum. There are other areas that we know as a government we need to focus on, and that is in the planning process. But we felt that this was a minimum, that there needed to be that coordination the Member was talking about so that all departments and levels of government are prepared for the next phase, but at minimum it was felt that this portion needed to proceed, so that we can be at the front end starting to be prepared for the regulatory process. At this time, we don't have that ability within the existing budgets of the department. So it is something that we, as a government, are not forgetting about. It's not on the radar in the sense of this supplementary appropriation, but it is on the planning calendar overall through government trying to ensure that we are going to be prepared and wrapping up. So departments have been told that we needed more coordination and we needed to go forward in a business plan process to begin to be prepared in those other areas Members highlighted. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Roland. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Isn't that part of the regulatory process that we are going to be engaged in soon I hope? Doesn't that also cover the socioeconomic impacts of this project, and how the companies plan on managing some of those things? Am I mistaken there? If what Mr. Roland is saying is we are preparing for the regulatory stuff, well isn't the social impact part of the regulatory questions that are going to be answered? Have I got that correct? I will leave it at that for now, Madam Chair. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the Member is correct in this. As we begin to try and be prepared for this as a government we are focused on doing what we can within our available funding that we have and that the resources departments have. So the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and Health and Social Services are working on issues that they need to identify and deal with, and try to be prepared with. So it is something that we are doing. Unfortunately, in a sense, a lot of what is being done is being done within existing resources so we are stretching our human resources as well as our financial resources at the front end trying to do this work, but it is in fact something that we are working on and preparing as a government overall, and departments will have to put into their budgets what they feel is necessary to be more involved in this process. So that is something that is in consideration and will be part of the business plan process as we go into it. But this was felt that at this time within our resources and what we need to get prepared for that these requirements in the supplementary appropriation are required at this time, and

it was felt that they needed to go ahead through the supplementary appropriation before us. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Next for general comments I have Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. With respect to supp number one, I kind of make the same observations as my honourable colleague for Great Slave, and that is for me I am happy that our government is going to prepare for the pipeline, but my concern here is that perhaps we are branching in the wrong direction because some of these things in this appropriation looks like each department wants to set up their own pipeline readiness office, and that is not something that I am prepared to endorse. I think the proposal by RWED is the one strength that we could go forward with, and I'd like to see that be kind of the overall pipeline...our pipeline readiness office as opposed to having one person in Finance, one person in ECE and one person in MACA because that is the kind of thing we have been speaking about in the House and that is let's have a coordinated effort, and get all our departments working together for the benefit of the people, and this is just not the way it is turning out at first face. But, I think we are in the right direction. I think with more consultation with regular Members, and as our pipeline committee meets more often, we will provide some coordinated effort for the benefit and strive toward some of the things that we are heading towards, and of course the social aspects of the pipeline readiness and the development is key. I am not too sure of all these positions that are in the supp. Research has indicated it looks like 13.5 PYs. I will be asking more questions on that later, but at first face it looks like 13.5 PYs are dedicated towards the pipeline and being ready for it. It is probably not something that I am really looking at right now, and that is to grow our bureaucracy more. Some of them are necessary, but we will point it out as we go into line by line as we deliberate the supp here. Perhaps the Minister can detail for me if it is true in the overall supp there are 13.5 persons indicated in there. That is some of the things that kind of jumped out to me. Otherwise, I think this supp looks like a huge amount, but I understand a lot of it is lapsed contributions from last year that they are just restating. Perhaps the Minister can speak to that as well, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe we are looking at 12 positions that would be established if this were to go through in a number of areas. Again, there are two pieces of this within the supp. One is the other departments being prepared, and getting more involved in staffing up because we felt that there are not the adequate resources from within. For example, in Finance it is in the area of the Bureau of Statistics so that we can be more prepared and have the resources to work on developing the information required for all departments to use. Estimates of cumulative resources impacts, employment, population, income and economic growth so that again all departments can use that information so that they can build their business plans in a more effective manner, and more up-to-date estimates.

Municipal and Community Affairs is to work with the coordination of the permitting process within the municipal

boundaries because we know that each community along the way will be impacted. So the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs needs to be more involved and prepared. So that will help out with communities.

Education, Culture and Employment in the area of the Aurora Institute for licensing or for research licensing and activity that is within the areas impacted again by the resource development, and they need those. As well as the heritage resources side of it, so that we could once again be prepared in accounting for some of the rights-of-way and the surrounding areas that would be impacted so that we can collect the right kind of information to ensure that the land is protected, and the cultural aspects of the areas are protected. So that is in there.

Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development; part of this supp is for the environmental protection technical assessment in that area again for the regulatory process. Then much the same with the other area. The second part of this, as the Member had referenced earlier, the section specifically for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development is particularly identified for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in establishing the pipeline office. We know as a government, the 15th Assembly knows that there is much work needed to be done and that we have to catch up to this in being prepared and moving forward. So we have started down that path. It was felt initially when the submissions came forward that we needed to have a more coordinated approach, so departments were sent back to begin working together on the approach of how we deal with this. So this is what we see now as the first stage of that being prepared as a government to at least deal with the critical areas that we feel there are shortages in. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Chair, no further comments at this time.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. I've got Mr. Hawkins next.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think at this time I'll just be rather brief. This time it appears that the government is addressing one of my personal and heartfelt concerns of legal aid. So I have to admit I must compliment them in the sense that they are addressing the problem. Of course, we'd like to know that they found these resources internally, but unfortunately that is not the case. So I guess I have to admit my hands are kind of tied in the sense that I'm seeing the action that I much need. In the sense of building community, we've got families at risk. So I will be supporting this as it stands. I would hate to see that get bumped out of this. We have families at risk, and, therefore, they will have my support at this time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Minister, do you care to comment?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to just thank the Member for that comment. Again, it is an area of the fiscal times we find ourselves in. Trying to address the concerns across the board requires some new infusion of cash, and unfortunately that is what we

see ourselves doing is having to come up with the new dollars to put into the system. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Further general comments? Clause by clause. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to pursue a little bit more of the concerns about the lack of social prominence profile in the pipeline preparation office. I am looking at some correspondence, Mr. Chairman, between the president of the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories and the Premier. This is quite recent correspondence. In it the Status of Women Council again flags their concerns over social impacts; where are these concerns being addressed. The Premier, in part of his reply, indicated that the issues raised concerning social impacts will receive a high profile within the Government of the Northwest Territories. I guess my point here, Mr. Chairman, is that I would challenge the government on the lack of profile that it has given pipeline preparation on the social impacts side, especially given that it has been in front of us for years now, Mr. Chairman. Given that we have decided to go into debt in areas such as legal aid and for literacy and language nests, I don't want at all to be seen as being critical of the value of those programs, but an area there, Mr. Chair, is when the government hears sort of sturdy resounding support for a given program such as...I believe several Members of our committee were strong on the loss, through the last budget process, of the language nests. Mr. Hawkins individually pressed on the issue of legal aid, and we see now that those are two issues that our government has chosen to give profile to; in fact, go into debt for. Why then or how is it that we can't see something as significant as the impact in this area, and not take it on? It would be really easy here for the government to take on and say oh, gee, you know the people on the other side really think this is a good program, we'll just go out and take on more debt, which is another aspect of this supp, Mr. Chairman, that I am uncomfortable with. The Ministers take signals from us seemingly as approval to go into new debt, and I sure don't like that. When I speak in support of something or regret that it is not there anymore, that doesn't mean that I am signing a new line of credit that they can just dig us deeper into the hole. If that is the way they are going to operate, then I must insist that they should come back to committee and say look you guys, if you really think this is a good idea, are you prepared to go as far as going into debt for it. Come back and ask us that, please. I feel very uncomfortable with some of the things that are in this supp. As good as they are, they are forcing us into more debt, and I put that forward as a criticism of the way some of these things have been managed.

The lack of profile and prominence on social impacts in the pipeline preparation remains, Mr. Chairman, a significant concern of mine. I haven't heard yet that the Minister or this government has a plan for that. Mr. Roland has indicated, and I am not arguing, that gosh we just don't have the cash to take on these responsibilities, we are still coordinating with those departments. It is pretty flimsy actually, Mr. Chairman. You know we seem to be prepared to go into debt to finance regulatory and paper pushing kinds of jobs, necessary ones, but where is the emphasis on the social side? We don't seem to get it. I guess I would leave it there, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, on an annual basis, or as we go through our budget exercise, we build in a supplementary reserve into the business plan to take in unforeseen items that would come forward, and have some flexibility in trying to deal with business of the day as it would come upon us. So in this case, in this budget for 2004-05 we have for operations expenditure a supplementary reserve of \$20 million. By approving this budget, part of this supplementary appropriation will take out \$8.8 million of that supplementary reserve. So we won't actually be going into debt. Now I share the same concerns as the Member that we are early into our mandate and already taking up almost half of the supplementary reserve, and the message is being sent consistently back to departments coming forward with supplementary reserves that items we feel that should be in the business plan should go back to the business plan process, and a number of them are not being approved on that basis of looking at our budget situation. But to say that we have totally not dealt with the issue of the social side of the scale, on an ongoing basis we are dealing with those things. That is why we have included items such as \$2 million for Education, Culture and Employment on the school side of things to make sure that the schools in the North have the resources to have enough teachers because we are feeling some of those impacts. As development happens more families remain in the North, and more children are going to schools. As well as when you have a hot economy, we have to be more competitive in a sense of keeping teachers or healthcare workers and social workers in the North. So that means adjusting our pay ranges accordingly when negotiations do come up. So we are dealing with some of those issues. Now they are round about in a sense of everyday issues, but we feel that is necessary, that we have to put in the cash that is required to maintain an adequate level of service, and we are doing that because we are feeling the impacts of that development already on the social side. We put \$950,000 as part of this appropriation for the Department of Health and Social Services that addressed one of the areas of the social agenda, and those were the projects that were started in 2003-2004. The language nests, there is another \$877,000 that we initially didn't plan to put in, but because of support from Members of this House, that made it into the supplementary plan. Again, dealing with increased costs of providing healthcare for physicians in the Northwest Territories. So I don't think it is accurate to say that we are not doing anything for the social side. We are in dealing with the day-to-day issues that we are feeling the impacts of that development already in the Northwest Territories, and we will continue to do so, at the same time being prudent with our fiscal situation as we've instructed departments to go back and look internally for what areas they can start saving money, and being prepared for the next business plan cycle. So I agree there is concern around our fiscal situation, especially seeing that our supplementary reserve on the operations side is we are cutting into it by approximately half of it within the first two months after passing a budget. But I continue to urge departments to look internally, as well as put some of the initiatives into the business planning process that we feel are not needed in a critical nature at this point. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The ongoing work through various other programs can easily be dovetailed into preparation for pipeline, and we deem to be playing a role in it that there is always something out there. I do feel though, Mr. Chairman, that from a kind of a political and a senior administrative level, certainly from an optics point of view, that the government is still missing the boat on this one. A Mackenzie Valley pipeline office, you know, that is going to be, I think, a pretty important place. I think it is going to be a pretty important office for our government in our efforts to cope with this, and we are not starting off with a good balance here of addressing all of the regulatory, the bureaucratic and fiscal, as well as the social stuff. We don't have that balance here. It is just not here and that is what is missing, and my objection to this particular item remains, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Braden. I don't have any other speakers on my list. So we will move into detail. We'll stand down consideration of the bill and deal with the detail book as a first step. Is that all right with the committee?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Okay. On to the bill. We will consider the schedule to the bill first and then return to the clauses. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Under tab 11 in your grey binders. Page 5, Legislative Assembly, operation expenditures, office of the clerk, not previously authorized, \$115,000, total department, \$115,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 6, Finance, operations expenditures, Bureau of Statistics, not previously authorized, \$120,000. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Perhaps the Minister can detail for myself again an explanation of this line item. It looks like perhaps it's a PY. Perhaps the Minister can detail that for me.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is a salary and benefits for about \$95,000 in there, travel transportation estimates are about \$5,000, material and supplies about \$20,000, and they are looking at a resource statistician, and those responsibilities will include areas of development in maintaining and making available estimates of cumulative resource impacts so that these can be used by other departments. Use impact information in conjunction with departments and FMBS to provide support in the development of cost driver models, to assess costs of development. So, Mr. Chairman, this position, again, is one of the ways that we think that we can use in a sense of being more coordinated in having the necessary information so departments can build their business plans and impact models so that we can try to resource the sections properly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm not entirely convinced that we are going to need such a person. Perhaps the Minister is aware of utilizing existing resources within the department to perform this function. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Minister.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the area of the Bureau of Statistics right now is not a huge area within the Department of Finance. It is a small shop and when we go to do surveys we hire casual staff to do the necessary legwork when it goes out to communities. It is felt that within the department it is required that we hire somebody with the proper qualifications so that we can do this, and commit ourselves to a longer period of work, not just short-term so that we can be prepared as a government. When we look at the impacts and cumulative effects on our government, we need to be able to plan properly, and this is one of the areas without the coordination of other departments we'll continue to squeeze things, and it will take longer. That is what we are doing right now, and it is going to take longer to develop and have models prepared so that departments can use that information as they build their plan. So it was felt that this is a necessary piece to ensure that we can get the minimums done, and get the critical areas underway so that as a government we can be better prepared for what is potentially coming down the valley. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Perhaps the Minister can detail for me just how big our statistics department is, just for my information. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information immediately available, but the total budget for the Bureau of Statistics is just over \$700,000, and if this was to be approved we would be looking at \$848,000, and that is for the total operations. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: No further questions. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I share some similar concerns as my colleague, Mr. Menicoche, does on this. I know in the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, I realize that is not your department Mr. Minister, but there are positions that deal with economic analysis and assessing impacts of numbers, statistical information, things of that nature. Don't we have somebody who already does this sort of function in our government, albeit in another department? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, again, when the issue of being prepared as a government, the submissions that came forward from the departments were looked at, and we'd sent them back to the departments and asked them to be more coordinated in how they would do that. With that work it was still felt that this area is required within the Finance section, and that is being the NWT Bureau of Statistics. This level of resource person would be required in developing the models that would be required for us as a government. So there may be similar positions within another department, but we feel that even with those that from within a section here this is needed to ensure that we are prepared to just get prepared as a government overall. So I am not aware of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development if they have a particular skill set that is comparable to this or not, I don't believe so. With what we have done is request departments to come forward in a coordinated fashion, and this was done, so and that is why we see this one as it is. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are starting out on a road to try to coordinate some of our efforts in terms of the Mackenzie Valley development. We look at this and see this position, not that I really agree with the \$850,000 later on in this supplementary appropriation act, but the \$120,000 that appears here, Mr. Chairman...We set off on a course to try to get some coordination and here we are in this act trying to find another way to set up a person in another department that isn't directly associated with our Mackenzie Valley pipeline office to do some of the work for the Mackenzie Valley pipeline office. That's what this position looks like it will be doing. So, again, we want to get some coordination, but it appears even in this supp we are not getting the coordination. So where is that coordination, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Member referenced other positions within government and this not being dovetailed with the other departments. A resource economist would have a certain skill set in how they would develop models and plans. What we are looking for here is something that would help government overall, not just for the pipeline area but for all impacts in the Northwest Territories, and it just so happens that we have a very large one on the horizon being the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. We know as a government that we are not prepared for that at this time. So we need to take the necessary steps to ensure that we are prepared and that we have the right information so that all departments can build their plans around that, and as we build our fiscal equation as well, that we have the right information when we make our arguments, whether it's to the federal government or how we put our other deals together with companies that would be working in the Northwest Territories. So this area, even though there are similar positions within RWED, they are more on the resource economist area of work and this would be much

different in terms of the social cumulative impacts of what would happen, for example, with the increased development. What happens with the crime rate? What happens on the social side of the scale and then building that information together so we can be better prepared?

As I stated earlier, when we initially looked at this, as this government, the 15th Assembly, we could see that a lot of departments were trying to be prepared and they were coming forward with different submissions all to do with something similar. We sent them back to say that it's not the right approach and we want to see a more coordinated approach to this whole area. That was done and that is why you see this. This one section deals with a number of departments, because we feel that it needs to be more coordinated and that's the approach we are taking. So it's not the best, but we do have to be prepared and this is the minimum that we are looking at to get prepared, so that we can have the proper information as a government to build the plans and the business case that we would need.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Minister, for the response. You do make a good case for this type of position to be located in this new Mackenzie Valley pipeline readiness office. If this is so important, why is it located in the Bureau of Statistics, Mr. Chairman?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, Finance is one of those departments that deals behind the scenes with all departments. With the Bureau of Stats being within the Department of Finance, the resources there are for the use of all departments, not one department to go do one specific area, but for work with all departments. So it's felt that this is the necessary location to put it in, so we can use the shop to look at the impacts of the development coming down the valley, as well as the other impacts that are now happening in the Northwest Territories and the other mines that would be coming online here. So Finance is one of those areas that deals with all departments and that's why it is felt that this area is required within this shop. That's why we see it in this area. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess I would disagree with the Minister. I think that given our current workforce and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, I believe we can cover off some of the social and cumulative impacts of resource development. That's what the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development's mandate is. They've got specialists on staff. They have the staff there and I know they have the resource economists on staff at RWED. Again, every time we look around, Mr. Chairman, the workforce just keeps piling up and snowballing. We try to make up reasons or develop reasons why we have to have another position. This just happens to be Finance; tomorrow it might be another department. At some point in time, we have to try to look around and coordinate with the resources we have in

place. To me, we are just not doing that because this belongs somewhere else. I believe we already have the expertise in place in another department to carry this out. I hear the Minister saying that that isn't the case, but maybe we should go back to the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and ask them some questions before we come before the Legislative Assembly with a supp for another position in Finance and I don't think we have done that, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development was fully involved in this process and working with other departments in building the submission that's here today. As I stated to Members already, when this issue was first brought to the FMB, we sent it back to departments to sit down and work together and coordinate how we would begin to deal with this. So this is a coordination of departments and building the situation. The duties, responsibilities and workload of a resource statistician versus a resource economist are not identical. They may be similar in areas, but they are different. The Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development was, again, involved in this process when the development of this submission was put together and brought forward. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to ask the Minister with this item here in terms of the coordination of the communities. We are now looking at the territorial government and the office here in Yellowknife, but I would like to really focus on the communities and see what type of assistance was given to the communities. I think this could be done in house and this money here could be used in our communities in the Mackenzie Valley. There are a number of resource developments happening in the regions and the communities are really crying for help. What is the message that we, as a government, are sending to them? We say we want to cut back and here we are increasing positions and hiring consultants and increasing the salaries in headquarters. So how is this going to be impacted in the communities in terms of the request that they are asking for and looking at the impacts of resource development, especially the social impacts? That's a real big one that seems to go off somewhere else and is not being talked about very much by this government here. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, we are unable to afford to put positions like this in each region or community. It's felt that through this position within Finance and tied already to the Bureau of Stats that works with the gathering of the information from all communities in the North in all areas, whether it's the economic side or the health status side. That's why this position is required. This position will help with putting together and building plans so that we can be better prepared for the community impacts that will be felt by this, not just at a territorial level but regional level right

down to the community impacts. That's the work required now for being better prepared. That's why it's felt that this position is required at this time so that we can build those cases and get the information, so the departments can be prepared, whether it is to put it into their business plan process for coming forward to request more money to spend in their areas where the impacts would be in the communities. As well, on a territorial side when we deal with the federal government, we need to have the best information possible, so that we can build our business case and show that the impacts of the North are being felt even though it looks like we are doing great up here in the Northwest Territories because of all the development. On the other side of it, we don't get the same treatment on the funding side or pay day at the end of this process, so we are spending up front. So this position is required at this time and would help build a case in dealing with the impacts that communities are feeling. It's the front end of what's going to be happening.

Initially when the supps in this area started coming forward, it added up to much more in requests, but we felt that it wasn't possible at this time and it was better to build some of this into the business plan, and that's what they have been directed to do. We felt that these were the critical areas that needed to be moved on, and brought it forward through a supplementary appropriation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate what the Minister is saying; however, I am reluctant to support this. I am still speaking for the communities in terms of less money to be used in the communities. Surely this government can look at other resources within headquarters and the regions to coordinate stuff like this and pull together other resources to look at the impacts of resource development that could be happening down the Mackenzie Valley. It's the communities that really need the dollars to do their own research, and that can somehow flow up to the region. I understand \$95,000 is going to be spent on wages and the rest of the dollars are going to be used for some other things. I think these dollars could be distributed to the communities to help them gather the information and formulate some report with regard to the impacts of the resource development. It will help this government through the business planning cycle to have somebody here. I am going to make the assumption, Mr. Minister, that this position is going to be in Yellowknife and we will have some consultant from outside Yellowknife do this work. I feel really strongly that the communities are asking for help and we are not giving them help, even a simple thing as helping with resource development impacts that we desperately need. Mr. Chairman, I am not sure if that's a comment or if the Minister wants to respond. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, part of this whole package, this supplementary appropriation, there are two areas that deal specifically with communities and that's the area of the health and social services community demonstration projects that are supported and there are 14 sites in 2004-05 that will be assisted with funding to deal with their projects, as well

as...I am sorry, that was the language nest area. The language nest is the money we're asking for in this budget, the \$877,000. I just stated there are a number of communities that are going to be getting that support.

There are a number of communities involved in the health and social services community demonstration projects. It was specifically designed to go to those communities that would be impacted by this type of development. Again, that one is \$950,000. When you look at some of the other positions that are being identified in the request from Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, those aren't all headquarter positions either. The majority of positions are within headquarters; that's straightforward. Within the \$120,000 that's within Finance, because the Bureau of Stats is already located here in Yellowknife. It would be much more expensive if we wanted to set this up outside of using the support that's already in place. That's one of the things we have to look at as we develop these scenarios, is trying to do this in the most cost-effective manner. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the cost of doing business in the small communities greatly increases outside the Yellowknife area. I concur with the Minister on that. I live in the Sahtu. I know the cost of living up there and even further north up in the Beaufort-Delta. However, as you go outside of Yellowknife and look at the resource development happening in the smaller communities, the people are greatly impacted and they are asking for help in the small communities. The message that we were given was that it tends to stay in Yellowknife because of the cost. Sometimes I think in some ways we should look at supporting the small communities. Otherwise, we all might as well move to Yellowknife or Hay River. That's the way it is looking. I can't support that, Mr. Chair. There are communities that desperately need help and there are major impacts that are happening in the Mackenzie Valley or in the Sahtu. In the Sahtu, 34 percent of the pipeline is going to be passing through the land mass. The amount of activity happening in the Sahtu has increased dramatically. I just think we could do more in terms of helping the communities. That's all I have to say, Mr. Chairman. I know my time is up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For the record, Mr. Chairman, even though I have taken on the position of a Minister within this government, I haven't forgotten my roots. I come from a community that is far removed from headquarters and my heart is still there. At the same time, being responsible for the financial end, we have to come up with an appropriate balance or try to come up with a balance. This area is one where as a government we are just beginning to really begin the work of trying to be prepared for the potential impacts of a pipeline. We need to do some of this upfront work, and what you are seeing is a start of what we need to do as a government to be better prepared so we can build a business case so we can look at the community impacts. So it's felt that this is an area that's required so we can do that type of work, so we can assist communities down the

road. Again, this is the start. This is where we start to build a plan of how we are going to deal with those impacts that are coming down the road, and departments will use this information in how they need to resource and be prepared for these impacts that come down the road. So the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs can use this information. The Department of Education and the Department of Health and Social Services, all departments will be able to access this information and build the appropriate business plans around them and they would ask for more resources if it shows that there is going to be much more demand for the services we provide today. So we are doing a number of things that are right now going to be helping with that, and this supplementary appropriation includes another couple of key pieces that are required on the front end so we can be better prepared as a government for the impacts of the development that's going to happen here in the Northwest Territories.

As well, within the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, they've done some initial steps. For example, they've hired the regional petroleum advisors in the different regions that will be affected. We've got Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, Inuvik and potentially another community. I believe Hay River is one of the ones identified, as well.

We are taking those steps, but again we need to be more coordinated. This is where each department that has some specific areas needs to be better prepared in planning for the impacts of development that are going to come down the road. If we don't do this, we are going to continue to scramble. We are going to continue to do one piece at a time and try to come up with the best plan. So we felt that this was necessary. This approach is the way to go and, believe me, it's much smaller than departments initially wanted. It was felt that this was what was required at this time to proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that information that he provided. I have to commend the Minister for his push for a more coordinated approach for various departments to develop better program models to deal with resource impact development.

I just wanted to make my comments short. I know there are a lot of other things to go through and I don't think \$120,000 is an exorbitant amount of money, but I think it's the principle of the matter that a lot of the Members were talking about over the past few years. The resource impact assessments and models that have been taking shape over the past several years are at the development of the diamond mines and other larger projects over the past couple of legislative assemblies. I wonder why all of a sudden, the Department of Finance, with all its wisdom over these changes that have been taking place over the last couple of assemblies and the programs that have been taking shape due to the impacts of the resource development over the past few years, how is this one position going to help make all these program models better for the government and for the people of the NWT?

I have to agree with some of the other Members. I think the amount of professionals we have in FMBS, Finance

and RWED and various other departments, insofar as dealing with the impacts on our dollars and our spending expenditures and operations, I am sure there are already statistics out there that can give us a pretty good assessment on what these impacts entail and what we have to do to support more resource development and to integrate some of this information into our business planning cycles. I just wanted to ask the Minister why this position has suddenly come to light after the diamond mines are going full speed ahead and we've got a couple of major projects on the horizon. I just want to know why there hasn't been any kind of model or assessment for impact on resource development taken place in the past.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I guess you could say we've learned from the past. We know that the next stages for potential development will increase significantly and what's going to be required of us to be prepared. We know that if we wanted to do it within existing resources, it probably could be done, but it would delay our ability to get the adequate information out within reasonable time limits. We would delay our response as a government in how we could deal with some of these and be better prepared for this type of development.

So if we are going to be serious about dealing with the potential impacts, we are going to have to resource to a certain degree and move forward. As I stated before, we've scaled this back from what was initially requested. We felt we needed a more coordinated plan, as well as departments needed to build some of this into their business plans, but this is required business planning so we can begin some of the critical work upfront in building the models required by each department.

Part of it is we have learned from the past. We know from our past experience that the timelines that are going to be required are going to pick up speed and move quicker than we can be prepared for. We know that now so we need to be more proactive in this area. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know we are always learning from the past, and this government is definitely growing from the past with each new appropriation that comes through. I am just wondering if the Department of Finance has looked at the stats to date with regard to some major resource developments that have been ongoing and are still ongoing in the NWT today. Obviously there are significant changes in their spending with new developments as they come and go. Have these or any other programs been developed with the Department of Finance and the experts, the guys who handle the money and balance the books, and know that the impacts of resource development, does include more spending and more hiring just to move forward. I wonder how a statistician is going to somehow coordinate all the government departments into developing better program models, which we already have in place today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There has been work done in the past and departments have used that to try to be prepared, but like I said earlier, we've also learned from past experiences with the larger development that's happened in the Northwest Territories. It's not to say that this one position will make everything better within every department. This position would help alleviate the workload now and allow us to better use our time and respond quicker and develop and gather the information, so that departments can react in a more timely fashion, can build into their business plans and do these things. So on its own, one position can have a significant impact by its ability to work with other departments. That's working within an existing area. To stand on its own if we were just creating this position and putting it out there on its own, it would be overwhelmed with the requirements out there and requests being made by departments. At this time, it was felt that with our existing structure that's in place to get the information together, to help departments, so that they can use the information in a more timely fashion. As I stated earlier, if we decided that this was not going to be done with the existing or additional resources and we had to live within the existing resources that are now there, that would just put us further down the line in the sense of timing. We wouldn't be able to react as quickly as we could if we had an additional position to help us deal with this and come up with the accurate modelling that departments can use. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for his response. So basically what I am gathering from the Minister's response is that right now each department is not capable of assessing the impacts of resource development within their own department. Is this why we need this person here to assist each and every department in doing their own assessments of resource development? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This position would help us as a government overall. Each department has some resources and some staffing that's in place to help them with their area in doing some development modelling and some of the impacts, as we do with forced growth. That exercise would continue. What this would do is help us as a government, on a territorial perspective, look at those impacts that we would be feeling and let the departments use that information, so they can build in a more timely manner their plans around dealing with those impacts. From a territorial perspective, it would allow us, again in a more timely fashion, to present our arguments and have the best information available as we deal with our other governments in Canada. So it's not that this position alone, we will start creating within each department a better way of doing things. What it will do is help each department within what they have now available to build a plan that we can deal with in a more coordinated fashion. It's one piece of the puzzle. Alone it can't do it, but it can help each department in its plans and us as a government overall. So it's a piece of the puzzle that can definitely assist us as we go forward. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Roland. Any further comments? Page 6, Finance, operation expenditures, Bureau of Statistics, not previously authorized, \$120,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, \$120,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 7, Municipal and Community Affairs, operation expenditures, land administration, special warrants, not previously authorized, \$295,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Regional operations, special warrants, \$1.382 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$889,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, special warrants, \$1.382 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$1.184 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 8, Health and Social Services, operation expenditures, directorate, special warrants, not previously authorized, \$50,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Health services programs, not previously authorized, \$1,955,528.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Community health programs, special warrants, \$263,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$637,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, special warrants, \$263,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$2,643,528 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 9, Justice, operation expenditures, public legal services, not previously authorized, \$266,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$266,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 10, Education, Culture and Employment, operation expenditures, advanced education and careers, not previously authorized, \$110,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Education and culture, not previously authorized, \$6.777 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$6.887 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 11, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operation expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$850,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Mr. Braden.

Committee Motion 16-15(3): To Delete \$850,000 From RWED Operations Expenditures In Bill 11, Defeated

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion. I move that \$850,000 be deleted from the corporate management activity, operations expenditures, not previously authorized in the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, as identified in Supplementary Appropriation, No. 1, 2004-05. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): There's a motion on the floor. To the motion. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Chairman, I have some comments at some length to this issue in committee already. I won't belabour the point. I have appreciated the information that the Minister and his staff have offered, but it is not substantive enough for me to avoid making this motion. I think it is very significant that as we engage again on a coordination activity related to a pipeline, that we start off with the balance of social and economic and regulatory priorities here. We just aren't doing that. The Minister made it clear that we are using available funds within our supplementary reserve to help get this started. If we are going to put that kind of priority on it, then we should give priority to the social agenda as well.

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to read, if I could, from a document that is already before this assembly, it's called A Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy for

the Northwest Territories, October of 2000; what was known at the time as the NRRDS strategy.

Page 31, strategy number nine, "Mitigating social impacts of development." It says, "History has shown that during a period of rapid development, the demands of entering the wage economy and the affluence associated with employment and work rotations can aggravate existing problems such as alcohol and drug abuse, child neglect and abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, spousal abuse and suicide. Given that the current health and social services system is operating at the limits of its capacity" -- remember, Mr. Chairman, this was written almost four years -- "the effects from resource developments are likely to have on the social safety net in the NWT are expected to be profound. Social indicators of development retract by the GNWT and others in communities affected by the Beaufort-Delta oil and gas development. So the 1970s, the construction of the Norman Wells to Zama pipeline and the Ekati Mine. Based on these experiences, increased pressures are expected to arise from daycare needs, spousal assault and marriage counselling, child protection and foster care, money management and counselling, mental health services, as well as addictions treatment and counselling.

Mr. Chairman, these are just excerpts from a study done four years ago. It is not acceptable for the government to say we are going to start a major coordinating office and not have this kind of profile and this kind of service attached to it right from the get-go and that is why I am moving this motion, and I hope that I can see some engagement in this from my colleagues as well. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am quite happy that Mr. Braden has moved this motion. I plan on supporting it, but I will start my comments off on the fact that I do believe this is an important initiative by this government. However, seeing as we have a \$1 billion budget that we just passed and by our estimates we are currently spending about \$2.51 million on PYs and activities that are directly associated with the pipeline development through various departments of this government, I find it very hard to swallow that this government couldn't have gone out to the various departments, coordinated some positions and some activities into this new pipeline office and not had to come back to this assembly for \$850,000. I have a great deal of difficulty with that. I know how important this initiative is for some of my colleagues and some of the ridings that they represent and I certainly wouldn't want to stand in the way of this happening, but Mr. Braden has some good points. I don't think the government has taken the full picture of this office and what it should be and what it was meant to be and try to coordinate some of the aspects of that and certainly the social side of things seems to be left out of the equation, left to maybe some other departments such as ECE or MACA, maybe even Health. Where is the coordination? I don't think the full government picture was looked at prior to developing this office.

As I mentioned, the Department of RWED has, I believe, close to 600 employees, maybe even more. I know some of them are tasked currently with pipeline. I know the Mackenzie Valley development section there has four PYs. What is going to happen to those PYs? Where are

they going to go? This government currently spends over \$2 million. I just don't see how you can, in good conscious, come back here looking for another \$850,000 when I believe we have the expertise, we have the personnel in place through various government departments to effectively -- and I mean effectively -- carry out this initiative without having to come back here for \$850,000. So I am going to support the motion and I would task the government with maybe doing some more homework on this and more coordination. Quite honestly, Mr. Chairman, I don't think that's all been done. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to say that I will not be supporting this motion. I would like to thank the Minister of RWED for bringing this supplementary appropriation forward and for the response of the Cabinet in their consideration of the items that they considered of high enough priority to make it into this supp bill. I was certainly one of the ones who raised the issue on the floor of this House that when we look at the coordinated effort taken by the federal government that I did not want to see our government do anything less than their absolute best in terms of ensuring that we were prepared for development of the magnitude of the Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline. So I am not entirely understanding of the position that to somehow delete this would enhance our ability as a government to respond to the issues that may come up. I again would just like to say that I think this is the right direction. As a result of our concerns that have been raised with the Minister, there's also been the joint committee that's been formed, three Cabinet Ministers, three regular Members, to work on this so that priority for this subject has also been demonstrated there. I see this initiative going hand in hand with that response. I support this item in the supp, so will not be supporting this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is our government's first attempt at getting out in front of this file. We generally understand and recognize that we are likely to see a filing by the proponents this summer, likely not in the fall, not next spring but this summer. I can state categorically that we are not ready for it. I hear the Members' concerns. I hear Mr. Ramsay's question about where the coordination is. As a government, we are not out in front of this with a coordinated approach to dealing with this pipeline and oil and gas development in the valley. That's why we need this office. If you look at the mandate of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline office, and I will reiterate the mandate here for Members: "To coordinate and facilitate government-wide planning and results reporting on all GNWT activities." Those include the activities of social program departments. It's also to provide support and advice in order to facilitate high level strategic planning of both the deputy ministers' Pipeline Steering Committee, and I will reiterate that the deputy ministers of social program departments were involved in the organizational development of this office and also the joint Cabinet and AOC Pipeline Planning Committee, this joint body that we have that is going to provide strategic advice in how to cope with all issues related to the development of this pipeline, including social issues, and provide us advice as a government on how to mitigate

some of the social impacts that we'll see from this development. It will also liaise at a senior government level with industry, with the federal government offices, the pipeline readiness office, the Northern Gas Secretariat, with NWT communities and with aboriginal governments. It will have an external and internal information communication management responsibility and it will coordinate, Mr. Chairman, the negotiation of nine separate impacts and benefit agreements with the Producers Group and lead the development of these mandates.

If you take a look at the positions, one of the positions is coordinator of interdepartmental planning. That's not coordinator of economic development department planning. It's coordinator of interdepartmental planning for the GNWT. Will ECE and Health be involved? Yes. It's important that we are on the same page and that we understand how GNWT programs are being developed and being delivered and that this is done in a cohesive and coordinated manner.

Another one of the positions is an agreement specialist. This person will be responsible for providing technical advice and doing a lot of work on socioeconomic agreement development stuff. What we are talking about here are training opportunities, business opportunities, jobs. We've been through this. I think we all recognize exactly how important the socioeconomic agreements are to us in terms of the diamond mines. To ignore this aspect of this pipeline project and to suggest that we don't need this office and we don't need anybody to coordinate and to work on these agreements I think is short sighted, Mr. Chairman.

We currently have two-and-a-half positions in this government. We have an ADM of Mackenzie Valley pipeline, we have a senior advisor and we have a half-time executive secretary to try to coordinate all of our government programs and services and try to see if we can't find our way through the regulatory process and support communities and support our other aboriginal government projects in being ready for this development. This is a \$7.6 billion project coming and we have two-and-a-half positions in terms of getting the anchor fields ready for that pipeline.

So, yes, we are talking about \$850,000 here. Yes, we are engaging in austerity measures in many other aspects of what we do as a government, but this is critical, Mr. Chairman. We have to spend this money, I would suggest. I hear the Members asking for us to find this internally. We simply can't. I would urge Members to give that serious consideration when we are thinking about this motion. We are faced with a filing this summer and we are not ready. I think when the Members ask where is the coordination, what we are telling you is that at this point we are not coordinated as a government and we need some resources in order to do that and this is what we are working toward. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Bell. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, for one, will not be supporting the motion just because one of the first things I did when I came to this House was say we aren't doing anything about development that's coming, especially when it comes to the arctic gas pipeline. So I believe I had a hand in creating this. I think it's a good

expenditure and it's the right way to head and the way we are supposed to head. With that alone, I will be voting against this motion. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would have to agree with a lot of points that the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development just stated. This office is definitely long overdue. This government has probably been behind the eight ball as far as developing a coordinated approach to assessing resource impact development in the Mackenzie Valley area. Where this office is going to be situated is still undetermined, but if it does go out into one of the regions, I think that would probably suit everybody better than being here in Yellowknife. I think the Minister of RWED has definitely taken the right approach in saying it has integrated the social aspects of pipeline development into the plan to develop this office. Being a Member of the joint Cabinet/AOC Pipeline Committee, we met last week to discuss this option. I think it's one of the few supplementary appropriations that I have to totally agree with. Therefore, I will not be supporting this motion either, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I want to say that when I was in Edmonton for the oil and gas symposium, I mentioned to the honourable Minister Bell that it would be nice to have the territorial government on a panel and show some leadership. It's good to have a panel that people could ask questions to our government in terms of our leadership in terms of oil and gas development that's happening in the Northwest Territories. We are behind the eight ball and we need some leadership from our government here. The communities are asking me what is the territorial government doing about oil and gas. There is a lot of confusion and we aren't really showing any leadership at all. I agree with Mr. Braden about the social impacts because that's a big concern and I don't think anyone has really addressed it yet. We talk about it, but where do we go, to our chiefs, presidents and mayors? Who is really coordinating it? There is Health, Education, Justice and I understand maybe through the regulatory hearing for the Mackenzie Valley oil and gas project, there might be an avenue there for us to listen to the social impacts. I think we have a lot of catching up to do and I am going to speak in support of this motion. I am going to sit on the planning committee. I think it's a good investment. This government stands to make a lot of dollars in terms of the Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline going through. I think it's a good investment. I will support that. We are looking for some leadership in our communities. It's long overdue. I think this should have been done in the 14th Assembly. Let's go with it. It's a good investment. I am trusting that the Minister has sought out many facts and opinions from the other side and will put something together for us to look at. I would definitely like to see something in the Sahtu because we have a direct impact, but that's not the point. The point is let's get this organization set up. We've got 2.5 people just to start it. That's pitiful. That's pitiful when you say that for a major resource development. It's a crying shame on this government here.

In terms of a major development coming through the Mackenzie Valley and the amount of dollars that's going to be coming through out of this and the impacts it's going to have on all the people in the communities, with 2.5 people for the whole Northwest Territories, it's long overdue. It's a real crying shame, Mr. Chairman, that something like this has taken this long. I think we are taking a good leap. We can use the blame game and blame the federal government. We have to put some money where people are asking. Hopefully it's coordinated well within the regions and communities that are directly impacted by that pipeline. It's coming through and they are going to be impacted. I hope that this office is going to answer those concerns of the people in the communities. If not, then we are going to have some tough answers to give to our people. I am hoping that we get this off the ground, so we can open up shop and get to work. The day you talk longer...

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. YAKELEYA: So I am not going to support the motion. I am going to support what they have put forward in terms of the supplementary, Mr. Chairman. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): At this time, I would like to identify Mr. Ramsay one more time.

MR. RAMSAY: You're a good chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will keep this brief. I know the hour is getting late. I certainly don't want anybody to think that I am trying to stand in the way of this happening. It's just the issue that I have is how it's being paid for. That's the issue here. There are some real alarms going off when the Minister says that there is going to be some filing taking place this summer and we are not ready for it. If you look at the PYs this government has in place, there are 13.5 PYs that are dedicated to the pipeline issue/resource development. We also have this Mackenzie Valley development unit. So what have we been spending our money on for the past five years? What have we gotten for that investment of money and time? Quite honestly, I don't think we have gotten anything or anywhere. It is a crying shame, as Mr. Yakeleya said, that we are here today to try to hammer out a \$850,000 supp to try to get this office up and running. To me it's really pathetic. I don't know who is to blame. Maybe it's the last government. I am not quite sure. But at least we are doing something now. We are going to set this office up and get something done. What I don't want to see lost in all of this is the coordination. I still think there are a lot of PYs out there government-wide. If the government wants, they should put their money where their mouth is, get the PYs from the departments and put them into this office so we can have a coordinated approach to this thing and we are not off all doing who knows what, this department doing this and the Mackenzie Valley office won't know what they are doing and people are going in different directions. I think until we get that full coordination, it has to happen. So I am not going to stand in the way, but I do support the motion because I disagree with the way we are paying for this. Given the fact that we have \$1 billion budget, I think the

government certainly has the ability to go in house and find this \$850,000 and it's a travesty that they come back here looking for \$850,000. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will be very brief. I want to address a couple of things that we brought forward. Mrs. Groenewegen made a very good point. What I am I doing here is moving that we just eliminate a program. If I hadn't made it clear before, I will do so now. I indeed support the need for coordination. The kind of thing that is proposed here is very necessary. The point I am trying to make is we are not getting off to the right start. We are way off balance here because the social impacts are not being coordinated at the same time. They are obviously going to be coming in playing second fiddle kind of half-baked. I am really disappointed in that.

The only tool that I have or the committee has at this point is to move to delete an item. We cannot defer it, we cannot amend it, shave it or add to it. Deleting something is the only way I can send a signal that I am unhappy with something. That is why the motion is here. I fully anticipate, Mr. Chairman, that the government is going to go ahead with this and maybe come back in the fall with yet another supp that will help to finance the social side of the agenda and then I will have something that I just might be able to speak in support of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, colleagues, in engaging in this discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Thank you. Page 11, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, operation expenditures, corporate management, not previously authorized, \$850,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Environmental protection, not previously authorized, \$125,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Resource management and economic development, not previously authorized, \$515,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.49 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 12, Executive, capital investment expenditures, Financial Management Board Secretariat, directorate, not previously authorized, \$28,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Government accounting, not previously authorized, \$53,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total for Financial Management Board Secretariat, not previously authorized, \$81,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$81,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 13, Municipal and Community Affairs, capital investment expenditures, regional operations, special warrants, \$4.319 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$3.226 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, special warrants, \$4.319 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$3.226 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 14, Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, special warrants, \$317,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Systems and communications, not previously authorized, \$183,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Petroleum products, not previously authorized, \$681,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, special warrants, \$317,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$864,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 15, Health and Social Services, capital investment expenditures, health services programs, special warrant, \$2.04 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$3.725 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Community health programs, not previously authorized, \$1.016 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, special warrants, \$2.04 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$4.741 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 16, Justice, capital investment expenditures, services to government, special warrants, \$185,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Public legal services, special warrants, \$216,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Registries and court services, special warrants, \$194,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Community justice and corrections, special warrants, \$595,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, special warrants, \$1.19 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 17, Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, advanced education and careers, special warrants, \$1.649 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$437,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Education and culture, special warrants, \$1.2 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$5.64 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 18, Education, Culture and Employment, capital investment expenditures, education and culture continued, special warrants, total department, \$2.849 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$6.077 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 19, Transportation, capital investment expenditures, airports, not previously authorized, \$875,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Highways, not previously authorized, \$896,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1.771 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Page 20, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, capital investment expenditures, corporate management, special warrants, not previously authorized, \$100,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Resource management and economic development, special warrant, \$610,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$618,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Forest management, not previously authorized, \$347,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total department, special warrants, \$610,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Not previously authorized, \$1.065 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Does the committee agree that the details are concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): We will stand down consideration of the bill and deal with the detail booklet. For now we will stand down the clauses and go to schedule A. Supplementary amounts appropriated for the 2004-2005 fiscal year, part one, vote I, operation expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for operations expenditures, \$14,349,528.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Part two, vote II, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary

appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$29.150 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Total supplementary appropriation, \$43,499,528.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): We'll go back to page 1, Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2004-2005. Clause by clause. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Preamble.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Does the committee agree that Bill 11 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Pokiak): Bill 11 is now ready for third reading. At this time I would like to thank the Minister, Floyd Roland, and Mr. Lew Voytilla for sitting in front of us here. Thank you very much.

---Applause

Since there is no further business before the committee, I will rise to report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Good afternoon, colleagues. Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Pokiak?

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 5, Committee Report 4-15(3), and Bill 11, and would like to report that Committee Report 4-15(3) is concluded, and that bills 5 and 11 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the

report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Is there a seconder? Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, there will be a meeting of the Social Programs committee at the adjournment of the House today.

Orders of the day for Wednesday, June 2, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 5, Tlicho Community Government Act

- Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2004-2005

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. By the authority given to me as Speaker, by Motion 2-15(3), this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 2, 2004, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:40 p.m.