



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, October 20, 2005**

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**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

## Members of the Legislative Assembly

### Speaker

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**Hon. Brendan Bell**  
(Yellowknife South)  
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*Minister of Industry, Tourism*  
*and Investment*

**Mr. Bill Braden**  
(Great Slave)

**Hon. Charles Dent**  
(Frame Lake)  
*Government House Leader*  
*Minister of Education, Culture and*  
*Employment*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*Status of Women*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*Workers' Compensation Board*

**Mrs. Jane Groenewegen**  
(Hay River South)

**Hon. Joe Handley**  
(Weledeh)  
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*Minister of the Executive*  
*Minister of Aboriginal Affairs*  
*Minister responsible for*  
*Intergovernmental Affairs*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
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(Yellowknife Centre)

**Hon. David Krutko**  
(Mackenzie-Delta)  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*NWT Housing Corporation*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*NWT Power Corporation*

**Mr. Jackson Lafferty**  
(Monfwi)

**Ms. Sandy Lee**  
(Range Lake)

**Hon. Michael McLeod**  
(Deh Cho)  
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*Minister of Municipal and Community*  
*Affairs*  
*Minister responsible for the*  
*Public Utilities Board*  
*Minister responsible for Youth*

**Mr. Robert McLeod**  
(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

**Mr. Kevin Menicoche**  
(Nahendeh)

**Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger**  
(Thebacha)  
*Minister of Health and Social Services*  
*Minister of Environment and*  
*Natural Resources*  
*Minister responsible for Persons*  
*with Disabilities*  
*Minister responsible for Seniors*

**Mr. Calvin Pokiak**  
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**Mr. David Ramsay**  
(Kam Lake)

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(Inuvik Boot Lake)  
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*Minister of Finance*  
*Minister responsible for the Financial*  
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*Minister of Public Works and Services*

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Thursday, October 20, 2005****Members Present**

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

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**Speaker's Ruling**

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, Members. Welcome back to the House. Before we begin, I will now provide my ruling on the point of order raised by the Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee, yesterday during oral question period.

Ms. Lee rose alleging that earlier, during oral questions, the Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen, contravened Rule 23(c), (h), (i), (j), (k) and (m).

Firstly, Ms. Lee alleged that in referencing a previous decision to close the Dene K'onia facility, Mrs. Groenewegen contravened Rule 23(c) in rising on a matter that had been decided by the House during the current session. On this point, I find that there is no point of order since the matter had been considered and decided during the budget debate of the Third Session and we are now in the Fourth Session.

With respect to the matter of 23(h), alleging against a Member; 23(i), imputes false or hidden motives; 23(j), uttering deliberate falsehood; 23(k), using abusive or insulting language; and 23(m), offending the practices and precedent of the Assembly, your Chair will deal with these together.

To establish the context of Ms. Lee's point of order, I will quote Mrs. Groenewegen's comments from page 875 of unedited Hansard in her question to the Honourable Brendan Bell, Minister of Justice, "Would the Minister of Justice consider reopening the Dene K'onia Young Offenders' Facility? I maintain to you today that if we had an ounce of support from the Yellowknife MLAs to keep the Dene K'onia operating for all these same reasons, we wouldn't be having this discussion today." Before we go any further, I will rule no, that the Member for Range Lake does not have a point of order under rules 23(h), 23(j), 23(k) or 23(m). I find no explicit allegation, charge of uttering a falsehood, abusive language, or an offence against the practices and traditions of the House in these statements. The question remains, however, whether Mrs. Groenewegen's comments constituted an imputation of motive on the part of the Yellowknife MLAs.

First, your Chair is not interested in whether there was support or not from Members of any previous question before the House or any Member's perception of support or non-support. The question before the Chair is whether Mrs. Groenewegen's comments bring in the motives of other Members.

In allowing debate to the point of order, Mrs. Groenewegen attempted to clarify her comments. I refer

to page 911 of unedited Hansard, where Mrs. Groenewegen explains, "I am saying if we had, and if that had affected the decision, I am saying we would not be having this discussion today, because we wouldn't have an empty building to be moving TTC into." Your Chair finds these remarks helpful in determining that the honourable Member for Hay River South did not intend to impute motives in this matter and, therefore, on the final matter of Rule 23(j), I find the Member for Range Lake does not have a point of order.

I would like to thank those Members who shared their thoughts during the debate on the point of order. It serves to illustrate that during the often highly charged proceedings of this House, there are often conflicting opinions, points of view and interpretation of what is said and done. Your Chair recognizes this fact of parliamentary life, and I encourage all Members to recognize it, as well.

Colleagues, with your indulgence, I would also like to take this opportunity to make a comment on the use of question period generally. Given what I have observed over the past few days, question period, Members, is not an opportunity for debate. It is a forum for seeking information from the government. It disturbs me that, increasingly, Members are using preambles to questions to make statements, argue points of view, comment on other Members' references, and generally debate the merits of one position or another.

While your Chair has been lenient and permitted a great deal of latitude in allowing meaningful public debate, the result, as illustrated by Ms. Lee's feeling on a need to rise on a point of order, is not in the best interest of the House or the people that we serve. I don't have to remind Members that the public does pay attention to the debates in this House. Our rules are in place to ensure the dignity and the importance of the work done here. Therefore, I will ask all Members to use question period in the manner intended, and to review the rules and guidelines we have in place and conduct yourselves accordingly. Thank you, Members, for your attention.

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 45-15(4): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to provide an update on the negotiations for the Devolution and Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we continue to focus our attention on the benefits from resource development that should flow to the Northwest Territories to address the immediate pressure and impacts resource development is

having on our communities. We remain of the view that the long-term solution to this issue is the negotiation of a fair devolution agreement that provides NWT governments with the resources and authorities to mitigate these impacts.

It is for this reason we believe that northern control of northern resources is the principle at the heart of our participation in the Northern Strategy. Any effective, sustainable strategy for the North must be based on the transfer of responsibility for northern lands and resources from the federal government to northern governments. Equally important, this transfer must be accompanied by an agreement that makes northern governments the primary beneficiaries of the revenues generated by these northern resources.

After the last formal negotiating session last spring, several issues remained outstanding, the most important being the language describing net fiscal benefits in the agreement-in-principle. A resolution to this issue has been made particularly difficult, given the position taken by the federal government that a final determination on this matter cannot be reached until the Expert Panel on Equalization and Territorial Formula Financing has issued its report.

As I noted in the sessional statement, it is for this reason that we worked, over the summer, to ensure the expert panel and the Panel on Fiscal Imbalance established by the Council of the Federation fully understood our views on the fiscal issues facing the Northwest Territories. We expect both panels will make recommendations on the treatment of resource revenues for provinces and territories, recommendations that will profoundly impact on devolution negotiations.

Mr. Speaker, we have also been working to resolve the remaining issues frustrating the negotiating process with federal Ministers. Since last spring, Minister Roland, Minister Bell and I have met with the Deputy Prime Minister and other federal Ministers. At my last meeting with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, the Honourable Andy Scott, at the end of September, I proposed a number of potential solutions to resolve the remaining issues and move us toward an AIP. Minister Scott agreed to consider these proposals as a basis for resuming negotiations, and promised to respond to us in the near future. It is our hope that the federal government will respond in a positive manner and honour the commitment made by the Prime Minister to reach an AIP this year and a final agreement in 2006.

Over the summer months, I also had the opportunity to meet individually and collectively with aboriginal leaders to discuss these negotiations. We agreed to continue to work together to seek resolution of the outstanding issues in a collaborative way, resulting in a fair and equitable deal for the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, a Devolution and Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement is a crucial element to the continued development of the Northwest Territories and to increase investment in critically needed programs in our communities. It is a goal we must continue to work toward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

#### **Minister's Statement 46-15(4): FASD Conference**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. FASD is a lifelong disability. Early diagnosis, supportive environments and a range of special supports and services are necessary to assist individuals and their families in their journey toward self-reliance and well-being.

Today and tomorrow, the Department of Health and Social Services is hosting an NWT Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Conference in Yellowknife.

The theme for the conference is, Diagnosis: Creating a Path for a Healthy Future. Leading national specialists in the field of FASD, as well as northern FASD experts, will be giving presentations related to FASD diagnosis. The conference has over 75 participants, with representatives from every region in the NWT. The participants include a wide range of health and social services professionals including, among others, social workers, nurses, physicians, NGOs, counsellors, early childhood consultants, school principals and community justice workers.

The conference will focus on sharing information about the Canadian FASD diagnostic guidelines. We want to increase awareness of these guidelines and the necessity for diagnostic and community teams to address the needs of children and their families.

Through a number of break-out working sessions during the conference, participants will be able to provide input to determine what we need to do to utilize the guidelines, what the challenges will be, and how we will apply these guidelines in smaller community settings.

This conference will analyze different program models from across Canada. Participants will examine all levels of services from public health nurses to early learning, and from childcare consultants to NGO support providers. At the end of the conference, direction will be provided for the development of FASD teams and a communication mechanism to keep people informed.

As a member of the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership, I recently met with the Ministers from Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Nunavut and Yukon in Calgary. The partnership is an alliance of seven jurisdictions working toward the development and promotion of an inter-provincial/territorial approach to prevention, intervention, care and support of individuals affected by FASD. At the meeting in Calgary, we discussed the progress and development of the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network and the need for more collaboration between the federal government and the partnership jurisdictions.

This weekend, the Canada Northwest FASD Research Network is conducting a research forum in Yellowknife, initiating a research network to promote the development of evidence-based practices in supporting adolescents and adults with FASD. This is the final of three forums that the network has been conducting this fall; the previous two took place in Winnipeg and Calgary in September. Approximately 35 participants will engage in

the discussions related to FASD research with representatives from each of the seven jurisdictions of the partnership, including physicians, psychologists, researchers and those who work in the areas of social services, justice, FASD and mental health.

Mr. Speaker, solutions lie in the networks of community supports available to at-risk women and their families, and we believe that every community can make the commitment to the next generation of children so that every baby in the NWT has the potential to enjoy a healthy life. We are committed to preventing FASD in our territory. It is an important task and, with conferences such as this, we are working together to achieve this goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

**Minister's Statement 47-15(4): NWT Games Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to provide Members with an update today on the NWT Games Program. As Members will recall, the first NWT Winter Games were held earlier this year in Fort Smith, from March 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. The first NWT Summer Games followed in Inuvik, from July 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some of the highlights from these events:

- In total, there were 28 of 33 communities represented at both games.
- In Fort Smith, a total of 257 youth and coaches participated. In Inuvik, the number increased to 272.
- Fort Smith featured 17 events, including curling, cross-country skiing, speed skating, biathlon, tae kwon do and gymnastics. The Inuvik games included 16 different activities, including trap shooting, swimming, canoeing, softball, tennis, lacrosse, wrestling and more. Both events included Dene and Inuit games.
- As part of the cultural component, the Fort Smith hosts arranged sessions on making medicine bags and carving, and in Inuvik, the host community welcomed the Fort Good Hope Drummers, who performed over the weekend, and held sessions on beading and drumming.
- Fort Smith wowed the participants with a tobogganing party that included fireworks and a bonfire. In Inuvik, a major highlight was the recently opened Family Aquatic Centre. For many youth, this was a real treat.

Mr. Speaker, the primary objective of the NWT Games Program is to create opportunities for youth to participate in a multi-sport event, and encourage them to make healthy choices, such as getting involved in sport and physical activity.

The NWT Games Program was made possible through a unique funding arrangement between our government, the Government of Canada, and Sport North Federation.

Mr. Speaker, events like the NWT Games are not possible without contributions from a large number of people, and I would like to publicly recognize the following:

- all members of the Legislative Assembly; in particular, my colleagues who were able to attend both events;
- the Honourable Stephen Owen, Minister of State for Sport, and the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, Western Arctic Member of Parliament, for their support and contribution;
- volunteers and staff of the Sport North Federation, who were responsible for managing the program, and who had a significant presence at both events;
- Municipal and Community Affairs staff from all regions, who supported both games through a significant contribution of time and effort;
- the Aboriginal Sport Circle of the Western Arctic, the Mackenzie Recreation Association, and the Beaufort-Delta Sahtu Recreation Association, for their collective support;
- the departments of Health and Social Services and Education, Culture and Employment, for funding support and assistance with healthy choices events that took place;
- finally, and most importantly, the volunteers in Fort Smith and Inuvik, who took on the monumental challenge of staging these incredible events, and for giving our youth the experience of a lifetime.

Mr. Speaker, now that these two events are completed, Municipal and Community Affairs is conducting an evaluation to assist in discussions with Sport Canada on future initiatives, and for consideration in our own long-term sport and recreation planning. Once this evaluation is completed, I will report back to the Members with an update on the long-term plans for the games. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

**Minister's Statement 48-15(4): Small Business Week (October 16-22)**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is Small Business Week in Canada. Since its inception in 1979, Small Business Week has become a nation-wide celebration of entrepreneurship, organized by the Business Development Bank of Canada.

This year's theme is: "You're the Power Behind the Canadian Economy, Let's Share the Energy!"

Entrepreneurs have become the primary driving force behind our national economy by identifying and supplying market demands, responding to change, and being prepared to take risks. Nowhere, Mr. Speaker, is this

more apparent than here in the Northwest Territories, where 91 percent of our business community have annual sales under \$1 million.

These small businesses are the foundation of our smallest and vibrant sectors, and key components of our emergence as a leader in resource exploration and development.

I would like to pay tribute today to the men and women who, as northern entrepreneurs, are transforming their ideas into solid business plans and providing the energy and innovation to fuel our competitive and prosperous northern business environment.

Our tourism industry, Mr. Speaker, is a prime example: built almost entirely on the commitment, hard work and endurance of small enterprises and their owner/operators.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, through its support of the NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation, and the Canada/NWT Business Service Centre, is committed to supporting and promoting small business in the NWT. We recognize small business is, and will continue to be, the backbone in the development and diversification of our rapidly growing northern economy.

The NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation facilitates access to capital for small businesses in the NWT by promoting business financial programs and assistance available from the GNWT, other governments, government agencies and the private market.

The Canada/NWT Business Service Centre offers a combination of products, services, publications and expert referrals to help clients get current and comprehensive business information on a wide range of topics, such as writing a business plan, starting a business, finding new markets and preparing for exporting.

Together, we are working to build a prosperous, diverse and sustainable business environment for the benefit of all residents of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

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

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Energy Efficient Building Designs

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Earlier in this session, Mr. Speaker, I started off with a statement on energy related issues, and I would like to continue on that same theme today. In fact, it was just today, at noon hour, that I had the pleasure of, at the invitation of the NWT Architects' Association, having a brief discussion with them about energy related issues. They are having a work-up here in Yellowknife, on best energy practices in designing northern buildings.

Mr. Speaker, this organization is made up of professionals in the design, architecture and engineering practices from both the public and the private sectors. They have years of good work behind them in designing and building

structures here in the NWT. Something that I have learned more about, and this Assembly should be paying a lot more attention to, is not just how to build a building so that it looks good and functions well, but that in the years that it will be up and running, we are paying attention very closely to the lifecycle operating costs of that.

It is politically expedient in this environment, Mr. Speaker, to want to build something big, build it quick, and take advantage of maybe being there to help cut the ribbon and take the credit for it. But we have got to be much more cognizant of stepping back and making sure that the departments and agencies include our boards and agencies in this, because they are big consumers of building space and utilities. They have got to be incorporating the very best practices in building design and operating costs.

One of the messages that the architects would have for us, Mr. Speaker, is that, in the NWT, if we had incorporated best building practices and technology for everything we built in the last five years, we could have saved enough money to build a whole school. If we add about five percent on to the upfront costs of putting up a building, it will pay for itself many times over.

Mr. Speaker, we need to look at policy and, potentially, legislation to help reinforce what is already going on in our design and build world. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### Member's Statement On Effect Of Rising Fuel Costs On Traditional Lifestyle

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to speak about the effects of the rising energy costs on the lifestyle that this territory and this country was built on. That lifestyle I am speaking about, Mr. Speaker, is our ability to continue to live a traditional lifestyle. We still have many people in the NWT who continue to try to live off the land. Even with the cost of everything going up, residents will still continue to go out and live on the land, because it is just the way of life in the NWT. Fur harvesters are still trying to earn some kind of living by trapping. People go to whaling camps, go fishing, and continue a tradition that has been carried on for generations. Not much is going to prevent these harvesters from trying to earn a living off the land, Mr. Speaker.

When all the harvesters return to their communities, now they have to contend with the high cost of fuel to heat their homes, and the high cost of power and food. There was a time when it was cheaper to go out on the land to harvest for food. Now it costs less to go to the grocery store and buy pork chops. The former RWED had some good programs to help the trappers with the fur harvest industry. But more needs to be done with all the harvesters who are battling the high cost of living. All they want, Mr. Speaker, is a chance to be a little more independent. They are not looking for handouts; they just want a good break.

We live in a territory that is absolutely rich with resources, yet people in Inuvik probably paid more for natural gas than southern Canada would have to when the gas is shipped there. Now it is time for this government to share some of these rich resources with the people of the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Gasoline Tax Break For Harvesters**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** (Translation) Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I am concerned about the welfare of hunters and trappers in my region. Because of the rise in fuel costs in my region, hunters and trappers are finding it very difficult to continue their long-standing way of life.

Mr. Speaker, hunting and trapping is not a hobby; it is a way of life for aboriginal people. It is a way of life that has been seriously threatened by resource development, climate change, the missing caribou herds and, most recently, the price of fuel. Gas prices have gone up so high, it is putting the cost of hunting and trapping in jeopardy. The cost of living is constantly rising and is very difficult.

Mr. Speaker, as a provider of food, the farmers are very important to the development of civilization. In other provinces, like Alberta, farmers get tax breaks on fuel they use for farm equipment. Mr. Speaker, the hunters and trappers in my region are the farmers. Their harvest provides us with food and some of our clothing. It allows our culture to be preserved and our traditions to continue. In fact, from all the aboriginal cultures in the NWT, the Tlicho traps the most. There are 300 trappers in my region. Forty percent of us hunt and fish. We can see where we benefit from using our land for food, but it takes fuel to get us out on the land in my region. Now we have to pay \$1.31 to \$1.56 per litre for gas. That is not reasonable. Again, Mr. Speaker, the government should recognize the importance of hunters and trappers to the aboriginal culture by providing them with a tax break in terms of road gas rates in order that they may continue to live their traditional way of life. At this time I would like to say thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Member's Statement On Subsidies To Counter Rising Fuel Costs**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I will be addressing heating and fuel, affordable fuel for all residents and fuel subsidies for our elders. Last week, many of us identified and discussed the skyrocketing costs of fuel. I have reservations as to the Minister's approach to these problems, Mr. Speaker, by launching another information campaign to the residents to reduce their usage of energy as an immediate solution. Most changes such as these require time and start-up costs. The Arctic Energy Alliance has been

campaigning on these issues already. Thirdly, who really benefits from these campaigns? Mainly communications and consulting firms; not our residents. Rebates can be delivered to the residents in many ways across the territory: lower retail fuel costs in the communities, not higher; more flexibility in the home heating subsidy programs; and additional funding for smaller communities to assist with fuel expenses.

I would like to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, that no one should ever have to choose between food and heat. Mr. Speaker, that is happening today in our communities throughout the Territories. Seniors often need special care, and in response, family members assist and live at the elder's home permanently or temporarily. During this time, benefits and programs must not be denied to them. Without this very important program, the extraordinary heating costs experienced in the North would be overwhelming for the elders and others with limited income.

This year, the GNWT will be increasing the cost of fuel in many communities. The rationale given is external conditions. If the GNWT purchases and delivers the fuel once or twice a year far in advance, then the current market conditions should not influence the overall price.

Secondly, if, and only if, the GNWT is projecting a revenue surplus to offset the operating costs, then why are small communities bearing the brunt of this change? Why are we raising our fuel costs when everywhere else in the world is dropping, Mr. Speaker? We need to maintain our comprehensive strategy, not recover the costs from the little communities and the people who have no long-term fixed incomes, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Review Of Housing Corporation Programs And Services**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had a Member's statement ready to go today about energy, but, after hearing the interview on CBC Radio this morning with the president of the Housing Corporation, I am sorry, but I have to come back to the Housing Corporation again.

How can this corporation have the audacity to go on the radio and try to defend itself by contradicting the observations of the Members of this House? As far as I am concerned, the gloves are now off. I will make it my personal mission to point out, in painstaking detail, the tabled documents and the information in this House that will back up my comments. Obviously, the president doesn't get my point. I have no problem with investing money. I have no problem with spending money. I have a very big problem with wasting money. I also have a problem with lack of transparency and accountability.

---Applause

In the interview, it was stated that there are three units occupied in the Tuktoyaktuk seniors' complex. I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, that I, and almost all the Regular Members of this House, toured that facility with the

caretaker this spring, and I could see with my own eyes that the units were not occupied. So let's not split hairs over whether there are now three occupied units. One is the caretaker and his wife, for sure. My point, which seems to be getting missed here, is that the NWT Housing Corporation has limited resources. We have a critical shortage of housing in the North. We cannot afford to build multi-million dollar facilities, operate and maintain these, and accumulate costs of tens of thousands of dollars per year with no one in it, even if we had the money to throw away, which we don't. Sure, we can reprofile after the fact, but that is not the solution.

The other point of bringing up this facility is that it is not an isolated occurrence. I said that if the seniors' complexes in Deline and Fort Resolution have not yet been profiled, they also missed their target audience of housing seniors in those communities. Surely, with all the consultation and surveys about poor housing needs that the Housing Corporation has undertaken over the years, they can do a little better than this. Consultation in the community should have revealed whether or not there would be uptake or buy-in from the seniors. Admittedly, there are some cultural issues that needed to be taken into account, but those concerns should not be foreign to this government. We have a critical housing shortage. We have a budget. Is it too much to ask that we try to match those resources to those needs? If we don't have...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mrs. Groenewegen, your time for your Member's statement has expired.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Is it too much to ask that we try to match those resources to those needs? If we don't have a housing shortage, then we need to ask ourselves if we have a housing mandate. If public housing has been turned over to ECE, and our local LHOs and district offices are doing a good job of delivering local social housing and regional housing programs, what do we need the NWT Housing Corporation for? Let's just roll them into another department.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Hear! Hear!

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** They do have an overstuffed headquarters. If they transferred \$30 million to ECE for social housing, and ECE had to hire 12 positions associated with that transfer, why didn't the staff in the Housing Corporation go down, and why weren't the PYs transferred with the program?

Mr. Speaker, I stand by everything I said in my Member's statement. Hopefully, over the next few days, I can create enough concern about the operations of this corporation to warrant an in-depth review of its programs and policies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 3, Member's statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### **Member's Statement On Options To Address The High Cost Of Living**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today will be on the high cost of living that is plaguing many of the residents here in the Northwest Territories, and the government's inaction towards this high cost of living.

For the past two years, I have been mentioning ways in which the government could ease the pain for our residents and put more money back in their wallet. Mr. Speaker, the government just does not seem to be paying attention to the fact that some people cannot afford to buy groceries for their kids because they are paying \$1.00 per litre for home heating fuel and \$1.20 a litre for gas. This, Mr. Speaker, is in Yellowknife. Outside of Yellowknife, in the small communities, it is even more of a burden. The term "working poor" has never been more of a reality than it is today. There are obviously worldwide implications like hurricanes, geopolitical events and business moves that can impact the prices we pay for gas, home heating fuel and energy. Most of this, Mr. Speaker, cannot be helped.

As a government representing the 43,000 people who live here, we have to identify creative ways to put more money in people's pockets so that they can have the resources to battle these ever-increasing costs. A number of ways that we can accomplish this is not only giving our residents more money to pay their bills, but also to track and retain people to live here. Firstly, I do not understand why the federal government, who knows full well the dispute we have with them on resource revenue sharing, do not agree to put this money aside and look at establishing a resource revenue trust fund. This would ultimately benefit all residents for years to come. The State of Alaska has a fund that pays out dividends yearly to all residents of between \$900 and \$2,100 per resident. The province of Alberta has a heritage trust fund that has been very successful in earning income for residents of the province. Last year alone, that fund had investment income of \$934 million, which is almost our entire operating budget, Mr. Speaker.

From a tax perspective, I have maintained that we should be lobbying the federal government to exempt the territory from paying the GST.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Hear! Hear!

**MR. RAMSAY:** We should also look at tax credits for interest paid on mortgages. This would provide immediate help to many residents. The hardest part of it is we have the oil, gas and natural resources here, and we have to have some type of direct benefit from our own resources. If the Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline goes ahead, it will join the Norman Wells line leaving the territory. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We wave goodbye to this natural resource at the wellhead, and then we pay outrageous prices to bring it back. Why can't a small refinery be built in Norman Wells, or Inuvik, to supply this territory the fuel that it needs? My opinion certainly mirrors that of public opinion; that is that this government has not done nearly enough to address the high cost of living here. It is high time that it had a serious look at options to try to finally give some relief to our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Challenges Faced By Small Business Operators**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak in honour of Small Business Week, and start by saying that this government would not know the meaning of the theme "You have the Power Behind the Canadian Economy - Let's Share the Energy" if it were written on their foreheads.

Mr. Speaker, last week, I met with the representatives from the Canadian Federation of Independent Business. I learned, again, the challenges and opportunities our small businesses face in the North. I learned that they are very concerned about the ever-increasing input costs, like the high insurance premiums, cost of energy, fuel, taxes, from all three levels of government, and WCB premiums and, on top of all that, mountains of paperwork and red tape from this government, and chronic shortage of trained labour.

In spite of that, Mr. Speaker, they continue to provide our economy with good jobs, even if they keep losing them to bigger employers like the government and large industries. They give generously to numerous organizations and causes in communities they operate in. They go through endless ups and downs, but they persevere. They stick around. They are investing money and time and their sweat, because they believe in what they do because they have faith in our economy.

It is just too bad, Mr. Speaker, that this government does not have half as much of faith and confidence in them. For years, this government has been pointing its finger everywhere outward as to why we don't have economic development opportunities going on in so many of regional centres and small communities. They say it is because we don't have EDA funding. We don't have resource revenue sharing...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Excuse me, Ms. Lee. The interpreters cannot keep up with the translation. Can you please slow down a bit in your Member's statement? Thank you, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry. I will slow down. Where was I? They go through endless ups and downs, but they persevere. They stick around. They are investing money and time and their sweat, because they believe in what they do. It is just too bad, Mr. Speaker, that this government does not have half as much faith and confidence in them. For years, this government has been pointing its finger everywhere outward as to why

we don't have economic development opportunities going on in so many of our regional centres and small communities. They say it's because we don't have EDA funding, we don't have resource revenue sharing money, no royalty dividends, no money, no industries. The list of blame and whining goes on and on. So what does this government do when it gets a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to some real money and real investment opportunities that these die-hard northern businesses can really sink their teeth into, Mr. Speaker, like the \$200 million plus housing and infrastructure project that could come from the pipeline development?

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** 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. Mr. Speaker, what do they do? They become hypnotized by the charming, magic spell of one former Finance Minister of this government, who now wears the hat of a consultant for Echo-Novel. This Cabinet has become completely blinded and deaf to the pleas of MLAs or anyone with contrary opinions. I guess we just don't have that magic spell, Mr. Speaker. They don't talk to northern people. They ignore proposals submitted by builders in Yellowknife and Hay River. They so shamelessly announce to the world we have no capacity here, we can't build housing here. They cannot fly fast enough to take their money to give to Calgary, Alberta, and to the already bloated Ralph Klein coffers, Mr. Speaker. Shame on this government. Mr. Speaker. These businesses have earned their right to insist that this government's long-term economic plan includes them, and I will do everything I can to make sure that the northern businesses have the first right of refusal to every penny of that \$220 million plus. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Taking Control Of Northern Energy Resources**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement is on the big picture of energy in relation to some of my honourable colleagues' Member's statements. We are like the Eveready bunny rabbit on the TV commercial that keeps going and going and going, with the emphasis on Eveready. Mr. Speaker, we, in the North, have a tremendous amount of opportunities to deal with energy resources. We're on the verge of the biggest single mega project in Canada: the long-awaited pipeline, to the various hydro potential opportunities we have in the North. This is only the tip of the iceberg as to what we, as northerners, are allowing the federal government to dictate our quality of living and lead us around.

Mr. Speaker, we don't have enough means to deal with our energy issues because, Mr. Speaker, we don't have constitutional protection or clout to tell the federal government enough is enough. We can, and do, pay our own way and make a significant contribution to Canada.

Mr. Speaker, I made reference to the Eveready bunny, earlier in my statement, that keeps going on and on and on. The question that may be asked is, is this government the Eveready bunny in that we just keep going and going and going and rely heavily on the feds to change our batteries or to wind us up and keep leading us on to what we are doing today, whining about the sad state of our government, the need to get a fair share of the resource revenue sharing, to look at our energy in the North here?

Mr. Speaker, until we have the clout, as may be in the constitutional rights in Canada, we will continue to deal with our energy issues as we are doing with our communities by creating various awareness campaign programs and taking responsibility for personal energy use and to make the tough choices. We have to decide either to pay for food or pay for fuel today. Mr. Speaker, we, as northern people, are losing a lot of energy, both in resource development payments and the ability to take a stand against the federal government. As a territory, in the early days of Confederation, we appreciated their guidance, and now that we're big enough, we have to realize that we need to say to this federal government, can we leave our sandbox now, and allow us the dignity to be rightfully participant in the nation we call Canada.

The Premier has called himself, has been referred to as Ghandi as other Members...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Yakeleya, your time for Members' statement has expired.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I see unanimous consent to continue my statement, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. The Premier has been referred to as Ghandi, by other Members. He's also called himself the Maytag repairman in the House here. Mr. Speaker, I want to give the Sahtu vision to our Premier. The Sahtu would like to call him the Eveready bunny. Go get him, Mr. Premier. Tell all the world that our energy is not for sale, and to get their hands out of the pockets of the northern people. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Surplus Hydroelectric Power**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the wise use of energy, energy conservation and energy consumption in the Northwest Territories are all topics in today's session. I'd just like to touch on some of the not-so-wise use of energy by this government.

Mr. Speaker, the Taltson hydro system is both currently underused and underdeveloped. Since the closure of the Pine Point Mine in the late '80s, demand on the system has been steadily declining. The average of 10 megawatts being used for most of the year, with the capacity of 20 megawatts in the system, leaves us with 10 megawatts of

excess power that represents a significant loss in potential revenues for the Power Corporation, which, in turn, results in higher energy costs for consumers.

Mr. Speaker, when this government had an opportunity to sell the surplus power as interruptible power to prospective consumers, and possibly utilize some to heat many of the government buildings at a very reduced rate, they did not take the initiative seriously and, subsequently, nothing materialized. Mr. Speaker, these recommendations, along with many other good suggestions on how this government could realize more energy revenues, thus resulting in lower rates for individual households overall, and the recommendations on how this government can reduce government infrastructure heating costs, were all reviewed and compiled in a detailed report paid for by this government five years ago.

Mr. Speaker, five years ago, when the prices of crude oil and other fossil fuels were at record lows, not taking action on any of these recommendations was construed as the best practice. But today, Mr. Speaker, we are in an energy crisis situation, one that requires immediate action on all fronts by this government. So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to stress the importance of rising energy costs to northerners, and urge that this government make a wise decision and take a proactive approach to lessening some of the pressures of these rising, higher costs of living in the North for northerners, by seriously incorporating or revisiting some of the recommendations made in the report that was shelved five years ago. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Smart Energy Solutions**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise again today, as I did in October 2004, and even last week during this session, to again urge this government in a common sense approach, a proactive approach on implementing smart energy solutions that will ease the burden on this government that we are faced with. I'm not suggesting, in any way, that we create a new, bloated bureaucracy, department or added infrastructure, or let alone open up the flood gates to the consultants on a new study feeding frenzy. It's time that we stopped this callow behaviour and we start with some cerebral activity on this matter. There are simple solutions out there, Mr. Speaker. Let's start using them.

Mr. Speaker, there are smart things we can do. Smart energy is a culture, so let's stop trying to force it; let's finally embrace it. Let's stop buying vehicles that don't fit our need. Let's create a territorial replacement policy on vehicles that purchases vehicles that truly suit our needs and our usages. Let's stop buying four-by-four trucks when mid-sized vehicles will do. Let's stop buying full-size vans when minivans will do. If we continue to buy vehicles on the worst side of the miles-per-gallon scale, we're just throwing money down the drain. Let's buy smart vehicles. On smart vehicles, I would never suggest that we should put our highways or patrol folks or ENR patrol folks in those types of vehicles, but mid-size vehicles would do, and they truly would serve the purpose.

So, Mr. Speaker, what's stopping us from finally putting our pens to paper with a simple policy to say let's buy smart vehicles that use energy wisely? Mr. Speaker, later today, our lucky Premier will have questions from me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

#### ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me pleasure to introduce, in the gallery, a professor that's visiting with us here in Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories. He's been involved in the first ever distance education program from the University of Melbourne in Australia. Dr. John Owen is joined with his wife, Pam, both from Melbourne, Australia. Also with them is Karen Hicks, programs advisor to FMBS, who's been helping with the delivery of the program and has helped with the program. I believe we have 19 GNWT staff involved in that program. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to recognize Dr. David Malcolm, the executive director for the Arctic Energy Alliance,...

---Applause

and a man who recently saw the light and just moved to Weledeh. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce Mr. Darrin Guinan and a local business man, Mr. Gord Humphries, up in the gallery. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Ms. Pauline DeHaan, the communications coordinator for the Arctic Energy Alliance. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I don't know if he's still there, but I'd like to recognize the federal Conservative Party rep for the NWT, a past chief and the original constituent of Tu Nedhe, Rick Edjericon. He was up there, but I don't think he's there now.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Again, I can't see if he's there, but I know that Mr. Jim Lynn, a parent, one of the affected parents of the Territorial Treatment Centre decision, was going to join us in the Assembly this afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the leaders from the Akaitcho Territory: Rick Edjericon, Peter Liske and Mr. Crookedhand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

---Laughter

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Oh, you had me worried there for a while, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Paul T'seleie, elected council member from the charter community of Good Hope. I'd also like to recognize Chief Peter Liske and Rick Edjericon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we've missed anybody in the gallery today, welcome to the Legislative Assembly. It's always nice to have an audience present. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

#### ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 185-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Closure

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Today, I know that all the Members were talking about energy, and it's very important, but there's an issue in my riding that's far more important and pressing than stranded gas. It's stranded residents there, Mr. Speaker. The residents have been given notice that the ferry may shut down for the season beginning tonight. Residents are extremely concerned, as there's not enough notice to get in their last minute supplies. So I'd like to ask the Minister if there's truth to the fact that the ferry at the Liard River crossing will be closed today. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 185-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Closure**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct. The department was given notice that the contractor would not be able to provide service as of sometime tonight. It was not notice that was really sufficient enough for us to provide advance notice. We have put the word out in the communities, to Wrigley and Fort Simpson, and we're trying to advise the general public that there will be a disruption of service. We are not in a position, right now, to confirm whether the service will be halted for the season, or on a temporary basis, and we will be making that decision later on today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 185-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Closure**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The concern, of course, is from the community of Wrigley, as well, who hasn't finished their fuelling resupply, and they may, in fact, run out of fuel for the freeze-up season, and that's an extreme concern. It's too bad the federal government didn't rule that an essential service, because it would have prevented the situation as it is, where a community and the residents and the whole fabric of the community could be shut down. So once again, if this government says there will be a disruption of service, can you assure the public and the communities that there will be some type of continuation of service? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 185-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Closure**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are trying to do an analysis of the urgency to have some winter supply brought in. We are contacting the communities. We are contacting some of the larger facilities to see how many organizations, how many companies, will be left in a situation without supply, whether it's food, or whether it's fuel or propane. So we will be compiling that information today. We are doing that currently, as we speak. We will be getting together with some of my Cabinet colleagues to discuss some of the options that are coming forward as to what we can do for the short term, and also to discuss this whole situation on a longer term basis. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 185-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Closure**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's a huge thing to the communities of Fort Simpson and Wrigley to be shutting down the ferry and actually closing it for the season, because the resupplies haven't been finished. Some people have propane tanks at 10 percent level, and it just won't last the six or eight weeks, Mr. Speaker. So once again, if the Minister can tell me what strategy they have in place to provide continuation of service with regard to the disruption of the ferry service there, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 185-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Closure**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I have answered part of that question earlier. But we are looking at what the options are, what we can do and what's feasible. In a normal season, our average for shutting down the ferry is usually the beginning of November. The earliest we have ever shut down is October 24<sup>th</sup>. We're a little short of that. We are talking to the different communities to see how urgent it is and what supplies really need to get across. We will be measuring what the options are in front of us, and we will be deciding that today sometime whether that means we will be looking at alternative methods of bringing supplies and people across. For the short term, we haven't decided what that will actually be at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 186-15(4): Gasoline Tax Break For Harvesters**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I highlighted in my Member's statement, my question will focus on a critical need for gas tax relief for hunters and trappers. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the FMBS if he would consider making an exception for hunters and trappers to consider an off-road gas tax break for hunters and trappers which would allow them to continue with their traditional harvesting. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Roland.

**Return To Question 186-15(4): Gasoline Tax Break For Harvesters**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the energy costs, the fuel prices across the North, definitely have climbed substantially since this time last year, and we're having to try to adjust with that even from the government's prospective. The idea of a gas tax relief for hunters and trappers would be a difficult one to try and implement as to who would qualify for that and what amounts they would qualify for. That would be a consideration we'd have to look at, but it would be a difficult thing to try to implement. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 186-15(4): Gasoline Tax Break For Harvesters**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with that in mind, I would like to ask the Minister about his statement on energy that government will be requesting funds for a conservation and education campaign designed to help residents cope with the increase in fuel bills they will experience this winter. So my question to the Minister is, how specifically will this help hunters and trappers in the North? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 186-15(4): Gasoline Tax Break For Harvesters**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what I spoke to briefly are some of the things we've yet to deal with in the House through a supplementary appropriation that will be coming forward to Members. So I'm unable to speak to the specifics of it, but there are a number of initiatives the government across the board is looking at, and a number of departments are being involved in that process. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 186-15(4): Gasoline Tax Break For Harvesters**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. As the Minister indicated, I'd like to ask what kinds of other initiatives the department is looking into to help subsidize hunters and trappers with the high fuel costs to retain and continue with their harvesting? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 186-15(4): Gasoline Tax Break For Harvesters**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm informed that there are a number of programs out there that help those involved in traditional harvesting through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, as well as through Industry, Tourism and Investment. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 186-15(4): Gasoline Tax Break For Harvesters**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister outlined identifying hunters and trappers would be a difficult task for the department, but I would like to make a suggestion as a question to the department. We do have registered hunters and trappers in our region, and different regions as well, who are regular trappers and hunters. I'm sure the department can work with that status. So if the department can work with that, can they commit to working with the communities to identify those registered hunters and trappers? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 186-15(4): Gasoline Tax Break For Harvesters**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is right about the list that each group would have, and I'd be familiar with that, myself, as before I got involved in this line of work, I was involved with the hunters and trappers committee back home. So there are a number of programs out there that we do work with, and maybe through those programs we can look at what can be done. Again, I'm informed that what we call CHAP, or Community Harvesters Assistance Program, is one that was put in place to help harvesters throughout

the Northwest Territories. So that might be one of the programs we can look at. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 187-15(4): Control Of Northern Energy And Resources**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I made reference to how the Sahtu made me describe our Premier as the energizer bunny in terms of the energy plans. More specifically, I made reference to how much we're depending on the federal government. Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier of the Northwest Territories is, when will this government, or his government, go forward with a solid position, supported by all northern people, that will provide the North with a vision, once and for all, that we are the drivers of our own destiny with respect to any type of energy legislation being planned for the North here? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 187-15(4): Control Of Northern Energy And Resources**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have begun to work on defining our vision and our strategy for getting there. That document is referred to as the Northern Strategy. I hope that we can see a signing of that this fall, if the main pieces are included. One of the main pieces, Mr. Speaker, is devolution and resource revenue sharing. We have to come to an agreement with the federal government on a fair share of the revenues that come from our resources. I'm hoping we can do it this fall. If not, we will continue as long as it takes to make sure that every northerner gets their fair share of the benefits from our resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 187-15(4): Control Of Northern Energy And Resources**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories, especially the Norman Wells oil field, has been pumping oil out of this region for the last 80 years or so. Today, I understand, we have 24,000 barrels that runs through the pipeline each day in the North here. The life expectancy is between 2020 to 2030, give or take a few years. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier of the Northwest Territories, in terms of the Northern Strategy, what type of insurance can we expect from this devolution, resource sharing, Northern Strategy, that we don't have a dry bucket to deal with the Norman Wells oil field? I mean, it could run out, and then we could sign a deal. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 187-15(4): Control Of Northern Energy And Resources**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I'm working as much as I can every hour I have on this very issue. I've had recent meetings with the Minister of Indian and

Northern Affairs, who is the lead Minister on devolution with the federal government. I hope to meet with the Prime Minister in the next month and intend that we make progress on this, at least to the point where we can sign an agreement-in-principle on devolution and resource revenue sharing.

Mr. Speaker, I also recently met with the aboriginal leaders who participate in the Aboriginal Summit, and we have an agreement with them that we will work together on a bilateral position on resource revenue sharing for the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

#### **Supplementary To Question 187-15(4): Control Of Northern Energy And Resources**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Norman Wells oil field is a classic example, in terms of the types of things that the federal government will do to us if we don't keep track of them. Mr. Speaker, there are millions of dollars that the federal government is taking, and I think the Premier is well aware of this as we have spoken many times on it. I'd like to ask the Premier if he or his government will, within the lifetime of this government, have any type of plans in terms of bringing forward an energy legislation that will give us protection and not fall into something like the Norman Wells oil field where we get zero, nothing, in terms of the resources and royalties. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Handley.

#### **Further Return To Question 187-15(4): Control Of Northern Energy And Resources**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct; the Norman Wells oil field and the arrangement the federal government has with the producers in that area is one that has been frustrating for us. The federal government has taken the position that their part ownership in that project is not in lieu of taxes or royalties, and we're of the view it is. We will continue that argument. Mr. Speaker, I am optimistic that the federal government will realize that doing a fair devolution and resource revenue sharing arrangement with us is not only a good deal for all northern fuel, but it's also a good deal for Canada, because that's how we're going to see maximum benefits come out of our resources in the Northwest Territories. That is what's going to encourage people to promote development, not stand in its way. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm optimistic we can achieve this through negotiations. I hope that we can do it this fall. If we can't, I intend we do it within the next few months.

Mr. Speaker, if that is not possible, then it may be necessary for us, collectively as legislators, to put our heads together and figure out what other vehicle, legislation or whatever it may be, that we have to put in place to achieve what is right for northern residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

#### **Supplementary To Question 187-15(4): Control Of Northern Energy And Resources**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has been taking enough from the Northwest Territories, and it is time that Mr. Premier has taken a position that enough is enough. They have taken a lot of resources out of the Northwest Territories and now we are asking for what is rightfully ours, and they are having a hard time with that. I ask the Premier, in terms of supporting him and having all the people in the Northwest Territories support him, when will he be able to come forward to this House in drafting up energy legislation that gives us some clout with having this made in the North and for the northern people? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Handley.

#### **Further Return To Question 187-15(4): Control Of Northern Energy And Resources**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the commitment I have from the Prime Minister, a commitment that he made publicly, is that we work toward an agreement-in-principle on resource revenue sharing that would give us what is rightfully ours. We would have that agreement-in-principle in 2005, and that we would have a final agreement in 2006, and implementation of that agreement in 2007. I am going to hold him to that in every way that I possibly can. If that doesn't work, then Mr. Speaker, as I said, we will have to look at alternatives. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

#### **Question 188-15(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for Seniors, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, with respect to the Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program. I wanted to ask the Minister, with the rising heating costs for seniors, and the growing number of seniors that we are coming face to face with as the years go by in the NWT, we are going to have more seniors that are going to be applying for the Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program. I am just wondering if the Minister can let this House know, and the seniors of the NWT, that the numbers of cords of wood and the litres of fuel that the subsidy program covers are adequately reflective of the rising costs of living in the NWT today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Return To Question 188-15(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the seniors' subsidy is actually the responsibility of the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mr. Speaker, the amount of subsidy that we provide to seniors is based on the quantity of fuel, whether it is wood or fuel oil, or propane, or whatever they are using. It is not based on the price.

Mr. Speaker, they will get the same amount of fuel under this scheme as they did last year, and if we take fuel oil, it is 2,400 litres of fuel in communities in the southern part -- what we call zone 1 -- and up to 3,200 in zone 3.

Mr. Speaker, there is a formula for wood on the same kind of scale. I want to emphasize it is based on quantity, not on the price. The price should not be a factor for seniors who qualify for this subsidy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 188-15(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we are talking quantity, I know that from seeing seniors and the way they live, I know that as they age, the thermostat seems to be going up every year. They are obviously using more fuel every year, and I just wanted to ask the Minister -- because with these new, higher fuel costs today, more seniors are going to be using woodstoves and such -- whether the rates that are in the subsidy program are going to be reflective of the increased use in woodstoves and the increased consumption of fuel? Are they going to be changing at all? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 188-15(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, right now, I don't believe that there is any plan to change the amounts of fuel that eligible seniors could apply for. Mr. Speaker, the amount on wood, for example, is five cords in zone 1. Mr. Speaker, I should also emphasize that this is a subsidy. It is not meant to cover all of their costs, but to subsidize their costs that they are facing. It is based on amount, not on price.

Mr. Speaker, I should also point out that I believe lower income seniors would also be eligible -- again, I say this without a lot of the detail -- for the federal Fuel Subsidy Program or heating rebate that has recently been announced. There is some increased assistance to seniors and others. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Supplementary To Question 188-15(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi. I just need to ask the Minister why the Seniors' Fuel Subsidy Program doesn't include wood pellets, for instance, Mr. Speaker. They are environmentally sound, it is cheaper than a cord of wood, and more seniors are starting to use it because it is easier to use, for one thing. Why aren't wood pellets included in the Fuel Subsidy Program, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Premier.

**Further Return To Question 188-15(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the wood pellets are included, if seniors choose to use wood pellets. Again, if I can, for example, in zone 1 -- that is communities in the south -- eligible seniors would be entitled to up to 10,000 pounds of wood pellets in a year. That is what is called five skids of pellets. So pellets are included, as is cut

wood, fuel oil, propane, natural gas and electricity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Supplementary To Question 188-15(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ten thousand pounds of wood pellets, Mr. Speaker. That is quite something. I don't know...

---Laughter

I was just looking at the Fuel Subsidy Program, and I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, but I didn't see wood pellets included in there, and I got some inquiries from seniors who are on wood pellets. Let me just ask the Minister, the income threshold that is included in the Fuel Subsidy Program is approximately \$40,000 as the means threshold for that. As far as I am concerned, I think that any senior that is here, that is residing in the NWT, is entitled to some subsidy, regardless of their income level or whether they are still working or not. That is a good thing, if they are still seniors and still employed and making over \$40,000 to \$50,000 per year.

Is the department willing to entertain the idea that the mean income threshold should either go up with the rising costs of living in the NWT, or should it be adjusted to reflect the rising costs of living here in the North? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 188-15(4): Seniors' Fuel Subsidy**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The maximum net household income currently for zone 1 is up to \$39,999. Is that enough? I don't know, Mr. Speaker. Right now, we don't have a plan to move that up, but certainly, like all of our policies, we are interested in hearing what people have to pay. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I should say that if there is a thought that we would somehow be able to help every senior -- that is every person over 60 years old, regardless of income -- then that would be an expensive program and one that likely won't happen. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 189-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have so many issues that are on the floor this week, and I think the strike and the lockout at the ferry in Fort Simpson is not getting as much attention as it should. It is a pretty serious issue, and I would like to ask some questions of the Minister of Transportation.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned about the fact that there are replacement workers being used, and that the ferry operation is allowed to continue by the contractor in

that -- I don't want to take sides on this issue, but -- it is not allowing both parties to come in and negotiate. From my understanding, they are not negotiating. The employer has refused to negotiate. Maybe they are back at the table, but I think it is really important, in a situation like this, that all levels of government and anybody with influence, do everything they can to bring the two parties to the table. Because if they're not talking, there's no way you're going to resolve anything.

Last time we had replacement workers here, I know it was a completely different situation, and it's a different scope, but it still speaks to the importance of government stepping in. I really believe in that, and if I had anything that I want to argue for...So I would like to ask the Minister, what has this government done to bring both sides to negotiating, in terms of its own power or influencing the federal government? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

**Return To Question 189-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we totally agree; the strike and the disruption in service at the Fort Simpson/Liard River ferry crossing is an important one. It's an issue, up to now, that has been an issue between the employer and the employees, over wages. Our government has been monitoring the situation. The issue about replacement workers is something that is regulated through the Canadian Labour Code, which is a federal regulation, and it allows for replacement workers. It's a legal position. Our own government does not have legislation preventing the use of replacement workers, and we would encourage both sides to sit down and have a discussion and negotiation over this issue that's keeping them apart.

Early on in discussions, a conciliator was brought in, and it was decided, at that time, by the conciliator, that the two sides were quite a ways apart, and there was no room for him to play a role in this.

Recently, the federal Minister of Labour decided to bring in a mediator, and the mediator is working towards bringing both sides to the table. We did receive notice, however, today that the contractor will be ceasing operation of the ferry as of tonight. So we are looking at the situation. We've tried hard to encourage both sides to come to the table. The Premier has indicated yesterday that he will be contacting the Minister of Labour to try to get them to do everything in their power to get both sides to come to a satisfactory arrangement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 189-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the government's position, and government's preparation, on this issue may have implications for the bridge in Fort Providence. I know, for a fact, that when there were concerns raised about whether government might have less power, in case there was some kind of a

dispute, we were assured that we have written in legislation that it is a public road, and the government will have control over that. So I would like to know if the Minister can indicate as to whether in the government's contract with the contractor, do you have any provisions as to what the government's power is in situations like this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 189-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the provisions that we have in our contract is that the contractor will provide a service for a certain set amount of hours during the day, and support for that service. If there is a disruption to that, or if there's a breach to that, or abandonment of that contract for that service, we are in a position to do a number of things, including taking over the service ourselves, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 189-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Going by the media reporting, the things are getting very tense there, and there are some really serious allegations of safety infractions. I understand that much of the equipment that this contractor is using is owned by the government. So I believe that this government has a lot more power and influence than it realizes. I understand the labour issue is with the federal government, but in terms of what this government can do, we need to take action right away. Why does he not take over the service of running the ferry while these two parties decide whether they're going to get back to the table or not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 189-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have to recognize, first of all, that we're still bound by a contract that we have with a company out of Fort Simpson. Part of the equipment that is being provided, first of all, is the camp, the garage and the ferry itself. Those things are built into the contract. We provide it to the contractor. It's not a situation where we are providing directly to the employees. With regard to infractions, we have received those complaints. We are dealing with the Department of Justice. We brought them forward to investigate these complaints, and to ensure that there is adequate security, or the RCMP is providing security at the picket lines, and also there is a security person that works for the contractor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 189-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand the different jurisdictions of labour law; I

understand the obligations to allow contractors to carry on business, and all the codes and all this. I think the important thing is, when do we know, as public legislators, that it is necessary for the government to step in? When do we know that? Now we have a contractor...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. I'll allow the Minister to answer that.

**Further Return To Question 189-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, we have to decide a number of things, and one of them has to be consideration of whether or not the contract has been abandoned. We will provide the information to the Members on what we're going to do in terms of next steps, as soon as we decide what we are going to do. We have a number of options that we have to look at: the issues around it; whether or not it will put us in a liability situation; whether we are in a position to move forward on a lot of these issues. We have people who are investigating that now, and we will be getting together, as a Cabinet, to discuss this and decide on what option we want to move forward with. Once we do that, we'll provide that information to all the Members here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**Question 190-15(4): Addressing The High Cost Of Living**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during my statement today, I spoke of the working poor. My questions today are with regard to the working poor, a class of resident here in the Northwest Territories that is becoming more evident as time goes on. My questions today are for the Premier. Every time somebody turns around, the government is figuring out ways to tax them more, to take more money from them, and then you throw in the geopolitical events, the hurricanes and it costs more money to live here. I don't believe the government is doing enough to address the high cost of living in the Northwest Territories. In the two years I have been here, I have not seen one iota of proof that the government is interested in this issue. Believe me, the number one issue out there today is the cost of living. I would like to ask the Premier today what strategies or work his government is currently undertaking to try to identify ways to put more disposal income in people's pockets. There has been a steady erosion of that, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to know what the government plans to do about it. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 190-15(4): Addressing The High Cost Of Living**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are a number of initiatives that we have undertaken in order to get more money into the pockets of northerners. Mr. Speaker, earlier on I was talking about devolution and resource revenue sharing. That is number one. That is what is going to make us self-sufficient, is if we get to keep a fair share of resource revenues for our people. Then we can do the kinds of things that Alaska is doing

now in terms of dividends and rebates back to its people. That is number one in my mind.

Second is, we have been successful in negotiating some amounts of money. For example, in my sessional statement, I made reference to the \$35 million that we are turning over to local leaders in the communities, or proposing to turn over to them, to be used on things of highest priority for them. They are the ones who every day see the working poor and others who have needs. They will decide on the priorities.

Third, Mr. Speaker, another one we have spoken about and included in the sessional statement is the initiatives we have on energy conservation. We are strongly in favour of conservation as a way of cutting down costs. There are some immediate things that can be done in the short term to have people achieve savings this winter, even as we enter the winter.

We will follow very closely on what the federal government is doing on their heating rebate program. In the longer term, we are strongly supportive of hydro development as a way of fixing our costs at a more reasonable level than we can have on a heating rebate program. In the longer term, we are strongly supportive of hydro development as a way of fixing our costs at a more reasonable level than we could have on other fuel.

Mr. Speaker, I could go on and on with the number of initiatives we are undertaking in order to keep the costs down for our residents. I agree with the Member that it is the working poor, those who are right on the edge, who don't have a lot of spare money, who are hurt most by these bigger, global events that tend to make our costs to go up even in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 190-15(4): Addressing The High Cost Of Living**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I haven't seen -- and again, I have been here for two years now -- any evidence that we are any closer to a resource revenue agreement today than we were five years ago. It's the same thing with devolution. I think we are on the back burner in Ottawa. I think the \$500 million socioeconomic money is a smokescreen from Ottawa to cloud everybody's judgement and to put devolution and resource revenue on the back burner where they think it belongs. I don't think we have done enough on that, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier if he has had any discussion with the other two northern Premiers on the notion of scrapping the GST. That alone, Mr. Speaker, would put \$3,000 to \$4,000 back into the pockets of every northerner. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 190-15(4): Addressing The High Cost Of Living**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The \$35 million may be a smokescreen, but it's a pretty nice smokescreen for that value. The same with the \$500 million the federal government has committed for socioeconomic impact if the pipeline moves ahead.

With regard to the GST, there have been discussions around the table with the other two Premiers on that. I have to say that there isn't a lot of appetite for that one, either with the other Premiers or with the federal government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 190-15(4): Addressing The High Cost Of Living**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the obvious question is, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 190-15(4): Addressing The High Cost Of Living**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, this would mean some changes to federal legislation. At the rate federal legislation moves, it's going to be a long time before we would see it, even if the federal government did agree with it. It has implications for others who do business in the North. That has implications for others across the country. This one, although on the surface it sounds like a good idea, is a very complicated matter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 190-15(4): Addressing The High Cost Of Living**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, another question for the Premier, and I don't know if they have had this discussion or not, but we collect the GST here in the Northwest Territories and in the other two northern territories, and we don't have a sales tax, so could the discussion take place with Ottawa that would allow us to keep the seven percent here in the Northwest Territories instead of sending it down to Ottawa? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 190-15(4): Addressing The High Cost Of Living**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We could have that kind of discussion. We will certainly consider it. But, Mr. Speaker, my focus has been on resource revenue sharing. We are talking about a net fiscal benefit of plus 40 percent of our resource revenues. I would not want to make a deal on something that gave us seven percent and then we are told by the federal government to be happy with that. I hear what the Member is saying. I certainly will consider it, but we have to look at the big picture and not get bought off on little deals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**Question 191-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for the honourable Minister, Mr. Miltenberger, Minister of Health and Social Services, and it relates to the decision to move the Territorial Treatment Centre from Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, we now have before us a document. It, specifically, is an e-mail from the deputy minister in May of this year, and it plainly highlights, Mr. Speaker, the dilemma that the deputy minister had at the time, in that he could not explain the value of the move of the Territorial Treatment Centre because it was a political decision, not a bureaucratic one, that he, or obviously his people, were involved in. Mr. Speaker, why was the deputy minister so hard pressed five months ago to back up a program that the Minister said is such a good idea? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 191-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the deputy minister wasn't hard pressed. The deputy minister was clearly delineating his role, which is a bureaucratic one, and the fact that he could speak to the bureaucratic reasons and the planning that had gone in the department, but the reality was he was not at the table in Cabinet when the decision was made, when all the information was looked at. The deputy minister is a very seasoned, capable individual, and he knows, very clearly, where his role starts and where the politicians' role starts. That's what he was referring to, in my opinion. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 191-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre**

**MR. BRADEN:** Well here we are, Mr. Speaker, dealing with opinions. It's one of the things that we're told not to ask about, but our Minister is offering that it's his opinion that the deputy decided not to step into the political arena, and I think that's a pretty good call on the deputy's part. Mr. Speaker, let's read between the lines. In making these decisions, the Minister clearly ignored signals from his own department that this move was a shaky one. Since then, he has also rejected front line concerns from medical, social, very well-qualified organizations about this. Mr. Speaker, my question is, how is he now going to respond to the 707 people who signed the petition, tabled in this House yesterday, on the same concern that this service be continued in Yellowknife? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 191-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're going to proceed the way I articulated yesterday in this House, that we made a good decision, a reasoned and careful decision, based on information that we had, and we're going to proceed with

the relocation of the Territorial Treatment Centre that services the territory; one that would be available for all children in the Northwest Territories. We're going to, as well, continue to look at other options that are out there in terms of trying to improve services in the North versus those that are currently being accessed down South by the youth of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 191-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, yesterday, another document that was tabled and is now before the Assembly reviewed a list of children's care programs that have been initiated in the city of Yellowknife, serving this city since 1977. Six programs were identified as up and running, but, arguably, only two remain; two out of six in the last seven years or so, and the TTC is one of them. Of course, we now know that we're on the cusp of losing it. Mr. Speaker, almost all of them depended on social service and government programming to pay for them. That's dried up. Now how can the Minister continue to say that losing yet another children's care program in the community where at least half the population of the NWT lives, can continue to make good sense? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 191-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a territorial facility. I will restate, once again, that Yellowknife is not losing access to this program. They will still have the access, along with all the other children in every community in the Northwest Territories, to this program. It's just that it will now be located in Hay River. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 191-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, I still know there are parents and staff who plead that continuing this service in Yellowknife is essential to them. Locating it to Hay River and having access to it for all the people in the NWT, including Yellowknife, is fine. But they are here; the community that has invested in it is here. Will the Minister be able to say that something will be planned to help continue this service for these people? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 191-15(4): Relocation Of The Territorial Treatment Centre**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I've indicated that this program will be accessible to all the children in the North, including those in Yellowknife; that we're continuing to work on some repatriation options for programs that are currently accessed in the South that we think we are now in a position to offer in the North. We're

working on that particular component, but at this point, there's no loss of access to service for anybody in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Question 192-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policy**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to our Premier of this House. My question to the Premier is, do we have a territorial vehicle replacement policy used by all departments that takes into consideration the size of the vehicle purchased and the energy usage? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I'll refer that question to the Minister of Public Works, since it's within his mandate. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Roland.

**Return To Question 192-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policy**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when the government purchases vehicles, we work with the departments that are requiring certain type of vehicle. If their facilities require a large van, because they are continually hauling 12 to 15 people around, that has to be taken into consideration. One of the other things, again, is if vehicles are to be used in the smaller, more remote communities where there are not as many services as we find here in the larger centres, that has to be taken into consideration; for example, if it's a four-wheel drive vehicle, or a two-wheel drive vehicle, and what type of work it would be required to do. So those things are taken into consideration.

As we enter this phase that we are into now around the energy issues, we have to re-look at that to see if, in fact, we change our stance, and maybe pick up a couple of these other vehicles to see if they are, in fact, a savings to us over the long run. As we know, the initial costs can be much higher than your traditional vehicles, the ones that we find on the lots today. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 192-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policy**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, as I said earlier today in my Member's statement, I'm not suggesting that we get our highways or ENR folks out on the highway in Smart Cars, but it's about smart purchases. I'd like to know more about what the Minister is suggesting about what they may look at, and, as well, are they looking at a format to implement smart energy usage as part of the reasons why they qualify, or disqualify, a particular purchase on a vehicle? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 192-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policy**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would have to get a copy of the criteria to see if, in fact, we do include the size of engine. For example, when we talk about engine, if we request six cylinder engines or V8s, and things of that nature, but what we do look at is the type of work that it's going to be required to do, and the community that it will be working in. Those are some of the considerations. Where we can get away with a minivan, we have done so, and we have vehicles within the city that you can see that are of the smaller size because of their efficiency. So it's something we do take into consideration, but I will have to look at that when we do go out for some of the RFPs, to see what type of information is included in that. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 192-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policy**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I would say it would be very foolish of me to challenge the fine Minister on vehicles, because, of course, his former life is a mechanic. He probably knows a lot more about them than I do, but he could probably speak passionately about V6s running better than V8s, as opposed to specific usage, but I liked what he said about using minivans. What I'm suggesting is we start using mid-sized trucks on our highways, because they are a lot smarter when you only have one person driving down our highway in them back and forth. So a mid-sized truck, or maybe a larger car, on those highways are smarter. Would the Minister look at issuing a directive that takes this into account? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 192-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policy**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for recognizing my past profession; I'm very proud of it, in the trades area. That does give me some, I guess, perspective on vehicles and their usage. A lot of the savings we can have are: the size of vehicle, the weight of the vehicle, the size of the engine, and how we use them can even play a bigger factor. So as we have in the past on the type of usage of vehicles, we will be dusting some of that off and sending it back out to departments and the people who use our vehicles, for example, idling and the driving methods they do use. But we will look at the type of use, the size of vehicle, what's most appropriate. Today there are a lot of vehicles out there that have, for example, all-wheel drive instead of four wheel drive, and they are more efficient than the bigger trucks. So we will take that into consideration. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 192-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policy**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First I will state that I know there's an exception to every rule, but I'd say let's not get caught up in the exceptions, Mr. Speaker. So I'd like to hear the details as in what the Minister means we'll take this into consideration, because instead of buying full size four-by-four trucks, again I suggest that we could buy smaller vehicles to do the same job. So, again, I ask the Minister, can I hear some details as to what "consideration" means, and how can we truly show action? I appreciate he's mentioning that they're going to look at idling. So how can we see action on this much needed policy? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 192-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policy**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I guess I'm not a very positive example about economies and size. When you look at my personal vehicle, I drive a suburban, and that's because I have a large family.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Whoa.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** In fact, trying to squeeze myself and my children into a minivan would be a hazard on its own. So as a government, overall, we do need to look at the types of equipment we use, and how we use them. As I have informed this House on a number of occasions around the energy issue, we will be looking at all of our facilities, equipment we use, and look at it in the new light of being more efficient in how we do that. That work is ongoing, as we speak. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 193-15(4): Harvester Assistance Programs**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you heard before, my colleague and I were speaking on the high cost of harvesting for trappers around the NWT. I'd like to ask the Minister of ITI, what's the government doing to assist harvesters with the increased cost of working, and trying to earn a living off the land? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

**Return To Question 193-15(4): Harvester Assistance Programs**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think, as Members know, we have something called the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program, and, with that program, we help trappers get their furs to market in a number of ways. We provide them with upfront money -- we call it the Grub Stake Program -- to get them started, and get their equipment refurbished at the beginning of the year. We provide advances, as well, to trappers looking to get their furs to market, but not able to wait for the sales to come in. We also provide something called the Prime Fur Bonus Program, Mr. Speaker, in that if we assess the fur as being in good condition, we're willing to

pay more than it will fetch at market. All of this costs us about \$450,000 a year, I believe, and that's 2004-2005 numbers. But I think it's a valuable program, I think it's a good program. I know it's certainly the envy of all of the jurisdictions when we talk about this at the provincial/federal/territorial Ministers' meetings. Having said that, I think we need to recognize that we need to continually re-evaluate the program and ensure that it is meeting the needs of our trappers, especially given the cost of energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 193-15(4): Harvester Assistance Programs**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Minister that this is a good program, and I know a few people that access it. My second question is, with the split of RWED and the programs that are offered now, who would make the decisions, and who would administer all the programs? Thanks a lot, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Bell.

**Further Return To Question 193-15(4): Harvester Assistance Programs**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the things that we were very cognizant of, during the split, was to ensure that there was as little program disruption as possible on the ground in communities. For that reason, it's always been renewable resource officers administering the programs on the ground. We wanted to make sure that that point of contact remained, and that there was consistency there. So that's, in fact, what people on the ground in communities will see. The program will still be administered that way. The money is in my department, so accountability for that spending rests here. But we have an arrangement and a protocol set up with ENR, whereby we cooperate to jointly deliver these programs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Before we go on, I would like to draw the Members' attention to the gallery, and the presence of Dr. Sterling Clarren and his wife, Sandra. Dr. Clarren is the CEO and scientific director for Canada/Northwest Territories Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder research, and clinical professor of paediatrics, UBC Faculty of Medicine. Welcome to the Assembly. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 194-15(4): Control Of Energy Resources**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Premier. I want to ask the Premier why there isn't any type of legislation in the Northwest Territories to control energy usage. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 194-15(4): Control Of Energy Resources**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we have no legislation on energy use, if I understood the question correctly, in the broad application of licensing, permitting it and so on, because it is federal jurisdiction. It's not our

jurisdiction. As we negotiate devolution, then part of that is to take over jurisdiction for land and water included in the resources. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 194-15(4): Control Of Energy Resources**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand the Premier is saying that it will take some time to devolve this type of legislation. The reason I ask, Mr. Speaker, about energy use, is because the Premier has made a statement about having some money go into the communities through public education, in terms of designing campaigns around the uses of energy in the community. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Premier what type of involvement he would have from this side of the room to provide that type of campaign in our communities. I'm not too sure how effective it will be. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 194-15(4): Control Of Energy Resources**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, just a follow-up to my first answer, I want to clarify, though, that on some energy we do have authority, and that is, for example, with our electrical energy, and we do have a Public Utilities Board that helps to set rates, and so on, in that. So where we do have authority, we do have legislation.

With regard to some of the initiatives we are proposing on conservation and use of energy and so on, Mr. Speaker, those are included in our supplementary appropriations, and when we get to that, then I'll be free to discuss more detail with the Member. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 194-15(4): Control Of Energy Resources**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize to the Premier for putting him in a position like that. Mr. Speaker, the heating fuel in Colville Lake is \$1.23, and the heating fuel in Deline is \$1.07. Colville gasoline is \$1.50, and in Deline its \$1.29. So people have to think twice about even going out for a caribou hunt in the wintertime, and that's a real crying shame. I wanted to ask the Premier about this public awareness. I not sure how much effect that will have on these people that already know the prices; they already know the price it's going to cost them to live here. I wanted to ask the Premier if maybe we should look at territorial legislation, rather than wait for legislation regarding the use of energy in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 194-15(4): Control Of Energy Resources**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we're always hoping to look at possible legislation that may be of benefit to our residents. We do have some guidelines and some

regulations dealing with the fuel costs, and so on, that are handled through our petroleum products division, but if there are ways of improving on those, certainly, that's a discussion we should have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Premier. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 194-15(4): Control Of Energy Resources**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In keeping with the energy issue, the power rates are very high, also. It costs 80 cents a kilowatt in Tulita, and a whopping \$2.60 a kilowatt in Colville Lake in the power subsidy. I want to ask this government about helping out the communities for power energy. What type of a campaign would help our communities deal with the high cost of power?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 194-15(4): Control Of Energy Resources**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, first of all, the power, or electrical energy rate structure, is one that is decided by the Public Utilities Board. We are currently on a community-based rate structure. So those kinds of decisions would be made by the Public Utilities Board. Mr. Speaker, while electrical power does cost 85 cents, 89 cents, up to almost \$3.00 in Colville Lake, that is the cost of producing it in that community. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to clarify, and make very clear, to the Members that we, as a government, subsidize the production of power through the Territorial Power Subsidy Program back to the Yellowknife rate in residential uses for the first 700 kilowatts. So we, as a government, are paying that. It's probably going to cost us in the neighbourhood of up to \$10 million to subsidize everyone's power. Mr. Speaker, the kind of thing I'd like to see us do is, everybody can run their house on 700 kilowatts if they watch how they're using it. If you use fluorescent light bulbs instead of incandescent bulbs, a 15 watt bulb will have the same light as a 60 watt bulb. So there are ways that we think we can work with people to help them save costs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

**ITEM 8: WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Written Question 16-15(4): Assistance To Hunters And Trappers**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

- 1) Can the department of ITI provide detailed information on programs and funding available to traditional hunters and trappers?
- 2) Can the department also provide additional information on registered hunters and trappers?
- 3) Can the department provide a breakdown of funding availability to, specifically, the Monfwi region?

Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions, on the agenda.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mr. Menicoche, the Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We shall return to item 7, oral questions; however, before we go there, the Chair is going to call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**REVERT TO ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Orders of the day. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 195-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions, again, are for the Minister of Transportation, with regard to the ferry workers on strike. As I was saying earlier, I think there is a question about when governments intervene. I understand the federal government has jurisdiction over labour here, and the GNWT does not have direct power to do that. I believe it's very important that the government does more to bring these parties back to the table. I would like to know what the Minister's understanding is of what has to happen to convince this government that there is the need to intervene in a direct way. What is the test for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 195-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, that question is more for the Minister of Labour. I will take it. Mr. Speaker, our government feels that this has reached the point where there has to be a resolution. As I said earlier, I am sending a letter to the federal Minister of Labour. It is covered through the federal Labour Code. It is the federal Minister of Labour who has to take action on this one. I will be sending a letter, urging him to do what he has to do in order to get the parties together in order to get negotiations moving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 195-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that that is the least this government can do. I understand that the federal Minister can do this, but I want to know from the Premier, or Minister of Transportation, as to whether or not they have talked to their legal advisors, or looked into the contract. The Minister indicated earlier where there could be situations where the government could step in under the contract for something essential like the ferry service. It's not like there are a whole bunch of ferries to choose from. That is the only road access in the entire Nahendeh region. Surely, there has to be something

under the government's contract with the employer that could allow the Minister to intervene. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 195-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, as we speak here today, our officials, including our Department of Justice, are meeting to look at those very kinds of questions. Mr. Speaker, without the benefit of the advice on that yet, I would have to say that our understanding is that there is very little that we can do, unless the contractor were to abandon his contract, or cease delivering what is required through that contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 195-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would hope that the contract has more than the government's ability to intervene where the contractor abandons that service. What about a situation where the contractor pulls the ferry, and there is no access for the people to cross? Does that give the government any power to intervene? Does the Minister know why they are pulling the ferry?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 195-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, if the contractor ceases to perform in accordance with the contract, then he has violated the terms of the contract, and that would give us reason to intervene. Certainly, if he were to stop operating the ferry, any of our contractors were to stop operating the ferry before the end of the season, then they will have violated their contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 195-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the Minister of Transportation has indicated that he's been notified that the ferry could be pulled by midnight tonight, or tonight sometime, and given that there are some serious allegations about safety issues, could the Premier commit to this House that he would let us know, by question period tomorrow, that he has some precise action as to how to resolve this situation, other than writing a letter to the Minister of Labour? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 195-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the people of the Territories that we are monitoring this on an hourly basis. If there appears to be a course of action that is workable, we will certainly inform the Members immediately. If, for some reason, there are other

complications, we would, likewise, inform the Members at least by tomorrow at question period, if not earlier. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 196-15(4): Fuel Tax Relief For Registered Hunters And Trappers**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I would like to reflect back on questions to the FMBS. Can the Minister commit to working with the communities on identifying registered hunters and trappers that he has highlighted earlier that are registered, but, at the same time, there are other people that are not registered? Can he work with the community to find registered hunters and trappers? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 196-15(4): Fuel Tax Relief For Registered Hunters And Trappers**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on that particular request the Member has made, I have to work with my colleagues, either through ENR or through ITI, to see what could be done. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 196-15(4): Fuel Tax Relief For Registered Hunters And Trappers**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi for the answer, Mr. Minister. With that in mind, highlighting the fuel tax relief, I guess, speaking to the isolated northern communities, there is a high cost of fuel in the communities. Can this Minister tell the Assembly if his department is willing, or open to ideas of, tackling fuel tax relief for traditional hunters and trappers, once they get the confirmation on the registered members? Mahsi.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 196-15(4): Fuel Tax Relief For Registered Hunters And Trappers**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the area of tax relief would be difficult to administer by individual as, right now, the tax situation we have, we are working with the Canada Revenue Agency. The federal government collects the tax on our behalf, and then pays our portion back here for the Northwest Territories. It would be more difficult to try to come up with some other program that we would have to set up, and run our own tax rebate program, or something of that nature. I think an avenue we could work on would be more through the programs that are set up, to see if those programs could be possibly enhanced or something of that nature. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 197-15(4): Regional Superintendents For The Sahtu Region**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was a quote that once said, "Let's tell young people that the best books are yet to be written." The best government and the best of everything is yet to be done by the chairman of the Sahtu, and we can look forward to a different kind of government in the Northwest Territories. The Sahtu region can be a stand-alone region. Since the beginning of my term as the MLA, I have been pushing the government to speed up the process for the Sahtu to become a stand-alone, not stand-alone by itself, but stand-alone within this government. We are getting on towards halfway through this term, Mr. Speaker. It is time to do a check-up status report on this progress. My question is to the Premier of the Northwest Territories. It is in regard to this stand-alone region. There are senior staff in each department that report directly to headquarters and not another region like Inuvik. Can the Premier please tell me if the Sahtu has a regional superintendent or district manager that reports directly to headquarters for each department? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 197-15(4): Regional Superintendents For The Sahtu Region**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we have quietly and gradually been making a lot of progress on this. Most departments now have superintendents that do report to headquarters. In very few cases, they are still with the Inuvik region, where most were, but Education, Health, Housing, ENR, ITI, MACA all have superintendents. FMBS has a staff person there who reports to headquarters. Other departments, for example, in Transportation, where there isn't a lot of activity in the Sahtu because we don't have the highway through there yet, it still is part of the Inuvik region, but we are making a lot of progress in establishing the Sahtu as a stand-alone, independent region. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 197-15(4): Regional Superintendents For The Sahtu Region**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Premier. I am a little bit curious in terms of the FMBS person in the Sahtu. Will the Premier maybe clarify? Is there a senior person in the Sahtu that has the ability and the authority to make decisions on FMB's positions that will affect the Sahtu? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 197-15(4): Regional Superintendents For The Sahtu Region**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we do have an administrative person there right now, but with the amalgamation of human resources, the Financial Management Board Secretariat is looking at setting up a superintendent level position in the Sahtu. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 197-15(4): Regional Superintendents For The Sahtu Region**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier, in terms of the FMBS position, I know it is an administrative position and it is a lower level of the department. We would like to see a senior management position placed in the Sahtu. Could the Premier also provide some details as to the time frame when we could welcome them with open arms in the Sahtu? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Premier.

**Further Return To Question 197-15(4): Regional Superintendents For The Sahtu Region**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we are finding that there are more and more activities and decision-making going on in the regions. I mentioned the human resources amalgamation as one. We have also been discussing, with Members, the possibilities for better coordinating our corporate services. There is the \$500 million that is available too, by region, if the pipeline goes ahead, so there is a lot of activity and a lot of decision-making to be done.

Mr. Speaker, I can't give a specific time right now, but we are working on a schedule. We would like to share that with Members soon, within the week, and, at that time, propose when we could have senior level people for the Executive or for the Financial Management Board in the Sahtu, as well as other regions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 197-15(4): Regional Superintendents For The Sahtu Region**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to let the Premier know that people in the Sahtu appreciate the move to become a stand-alone region within the Government of the Northwest Territories. I know it is comprised, in terms of the criteria, because we don't have an all-season road, that we are unable to have this type of a priority given to a stand-alone region. By having an all-season road, is that a criterion to be a stand-alone region? If that is the case, then we are going to have to wait a long time here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 197-15(4): Regional Superintendents For The Sahtu Region**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, no, that is not a criterion, but the amount of work that would be there for a superintendent and staff would be the criteria. Certainly, I hope we don't have to wait a long time for that road. I am going to continue, as is Mr. McLeod, to do everything we can to get that road there sooner. It is more based on workload. In the case of FMBS, just to correct any misconception, I said an administrative position. We actually have five positions through FMBS in the Sahtu region, including pay and benefit clerks, and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Question 198-15(4): Responsibility For Labour Legislation**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the honourable Premier, with respect to labour legislation and the lack thereof within our government. I understand that labour jurisdiction still rests with the federal government. We talk about self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and devolution. I believe this is one of the areas of devolution. Can I ask the Premier, what is the next stage in getting the labour jurisdiction moved over to our jurisdiction? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 198-15(4): Responsibility For Labour Legislation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we have not yet taken on labour legislation in the Northwest Territories for a couple of reasons. First, it would be the responsibility that comes with that type of legislation. It is time-consuming and expensive. We would have to be managing relations far beyond what we do now. We manage collective agreements and relationships between the private sector. So this is something that has not been our highest priority. We have chosen, instead, to spend our few resources and time on other programs of a more urgent nature.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that as we achieve devolution, that we would then move forward with our own labour code at that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 198-15(4): Responsibility For Labour Legislation**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Given that we do have a labour dispute that is occurring with the Liard River ferry contract and its workers, as well as for potential other disputes, because I note that there is certification being done now on the Mackenzie River ferry at the Mackenzie River, that may lead to a dispute there, as well, Mr. Speaker. Will the government look at some type of legislation, or look at moving, or even beginning discussions with the federal government, about our getting some control over our labour laws and labour disputes? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 198-15(4): Responsibility For Labour Legislation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, certainly, this is something that we can discuss with the federal government. It will become even more of an issue as we become more active in areas like mining, oil and gas. It is an issue that we have to look at, at some point. At this time, we have chosen not to take on this fairly onerous responsibility with our own labour code. But I could

assure the Members that we will be talking about this with the federal government. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 198-15(4): Responsibility For Labour Legislation**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe our residents and constituents really understand how we are taking an arm's length approach to the current dispute that is happening at the Liard River and in Fort Simpson. Can our government look at any kind of guidelines for labour legislation, or even to help out disputes such as this? Maybe we can offer mediation and arbitration services. Can we do anything in that area, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 198-15(4): Responsibility For Labour Legislation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we have checked into the issue of arbitration. We have been told that that is impossible, under current legislation. So that is not even something that we can entertain with the federal government. There has been a mediator already appointed. It is a matter of getting the people to the table. The only individual who can do that right now is the Minister of Labour. I am sending a letter to him, urging him to get the parties together. Mr. Speaker, I just want to emphasize that we are, to some extent, hands off, but it is only because we don't have the legal jurisdiction for it. This is a federal issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 198-15(4): Responsibility For Labour Legislation**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that the Premier may have an opportunity to even bump shoulders, perhaps, with the Minister of Industry and Trade in Ottawa. Can he take an opportunity as soon as he can, Mr. Speaker, to mention the plight of the people of Fort Simpson and Wrigley? It is the only road, Mr. Speaker, and people have no way out or in, especially at this time of year. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 198-15(4): Responsibility For Labour Legislation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I will assure the Member that, if I have an opportunity to meet with the Minister of Labour, I will raise this issue with him. I will raise it with our MP, and certainly raise it with the Minister of DIAND, should I have the chance to meet him, as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**Question 199-15(4): Financial Administration Manual Directive 302**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions, this afternoon, are for Mr. Roland, Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, and it concerns some of the procedure which, arguably, was or was not followed in the handling of the decision to relocate the Territorial Treatment Centre.

Mr. Speaker, there is a FAM directive, number 302, regarding budget adjustments and transfers. It addresses how a Minister is to advise the appropriate MLA and standing committee of when a capital project is significantly changed, either 20 percent of the project budget or the timing. Mr. Speaker, this was not done in the case of the transfer of the Territorial Treatment Centre until after Cabinet had made its decision. Does the Minister acknowledge that the FMBS neglected to make sure the Minister had followed this directive in the handling of this decision? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Roland.

**Return To Question 199-15(4): Financial Administration Manual Directive 302**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** No.

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

**Supplementary To Question 199-15(4): Financial Administration Manual Directive 302**

**MR. BRADEN:** Then I think the onus is on the Minister to prove that the FMBS and/or the department did follow the directive number 302. Show me the proof, as the effected MLA. Show the Standing Committee on Social Programs, as the effected committee, that the advice was given.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 199-15(4): Financial Administration Manual Directive 302**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this issue was raised during the supplementary appropriation during the previous session we had. This issue was raised by a number of Members, about the process that was used, FAM directive 302; and, as I had stated our position then, where we were with it and followed up with Members to show them that, in fact, to even bring more clarity to the situation so we wouldn't get into this type of situation again. We have done our thing. I can, once again, probably dust off the information that we provided as to the process that will be used and the process, in this situation, that was used, and provide that for the Member. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 199-15(4): Financial Administration Manual Directive 302**

**MR. BRADEN:** Well, it is a bit late, isn't it, Mr. Speaker? If the Minister is going to make a commitment to attempt to show me that the directive was followed, then I guess I

have no choice right now but to wait to see what proof he is going to offer. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, the Minister said that he wanted to take some steps to avoid this happening again. What step is the Minister preparing to engage in and, perhaps, at least consult with committees on that step? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 199-15(4): Financial Administration Manual Directive 302**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe I have, through correspondence, informed committee members of what we intend to do to try and clarify the language in the FAM directive that the Member has been speaking of. I will have to get that confirmation. I believe that, if we haven't done so, we are preparing to provide that correspondence to Members about how we can clarify some of the language around there. Again, Mr. Speaker, I can provide, as I did during the supplementary process a number of times, the process that was used and how people were informed. That is the best I can do. Obviously, I won't convince the Member. He feels he has his point. We will just have to agree to disagree. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Braden.

**Supplementary To Question 199-15(4): Financial Administration Manual Directive 302**

**MR. BRADEN:** It is the position that is easy for Cabinet to take. They have a lot more swing and a lot more clout than I do. I am not going to be prepared simply to agree to disagree until I see some evidence of what is coming along, Mr. Speaker. One critical question, if we are going to pursue improving this guideline, as it is not mentioned in the current one, is the Minister going to allow that Members and committees will be advised of these kinds of changes before Cabinet makes up its mind? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 199-15(4): Financial Administration Manual Directive 302**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the process that we use, and will continue to use, is, if a Minister is coming forward with a substantive change, or a change that requires the agreement of Cabinet or FMB, they would first have to come, in my situation, to FMB, to request that this is an avenue that they can go down, and then we would inform that particular Minister that before there is an agreement for a change, we need to be informed. If we feel that they are on the right track, we will then send them to the right committee and have that discussion to see if, in fact, they are in agreement with what is being proposed. At that point, the Minister would come back and say yes or no to it. We would have further impact, and then we would implement that decision. That is the process that we use and will continue to use. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsey.

**Question 200-15(4): Federal Socioeconomic Impact Funding**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions, again, are for the honourable Premier. I would like to pick up with the questions that I left off with. I know the Premier had mentioned the fact that we don't want to be bought off on side deals, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Premier; if we are not to be bought off on side deals, what am I to make of the \$40 million in the Northern Strategy money? What am I to make of the \$500 million socioeconomic agreement? Are these not side deals that cloud the devolution and resource revenue negotiations currently at play? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 200-15(4): Federal Socioeconomic Impact Funding**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, let me deal with each of those. Mr. Speaker, the \$40 million was an amount that was given to each of the territories to enable them to deal with emergency, high-priority issues facing their territories. It had nothing to do with devolution. It was money that was given to each of us as good will on the signing of the framework agreement on the Northern Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, on the \$500 million, we have been very clear that that money does not come to the Government of the Northwest Territories. That is money for the communities that are impacted by the pipeline, and only those communities. Again, it has nothing to do with resource revenue sharing or our devolution talks. That is money meant to help alleviate the impact of the pipeline and related development. Those are not monies to buy us off or keep us quiet or whatever it may be, or any kind of smokescreen. Those are legitimate funds in their own sense. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 200-15(4): Federal Socioeconomic Impact Funding**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I have a different opinion on the \$500 million than the Premier does. I would like to know who is going to look after the 11 other communities that aren't part of this \$500 million socioeconomic agreement. Does this government represent those other communities and have an obligation to those other communities outside of the Mackenzie Valley that are going to be impacted by this development, to do something? To do something means to get us a deal on resource revenue sharing and devolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 200-15(4): Federal Socioeconomic Impact Funding**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to everybody in the Territories. We are the public government for the Territories. Mr. Speaker, the \$500 million, no matter how we might want to characterize

it, is money meant for those communities along the Mackenzie Valley pipeline route. It is there specifically for socioeconomic mitigation.

Mr. Speaker, we always take into consideration the needs of the other communities. We will, and have been, looking after the needs of all communities to the best of our ability, given our resources. We have, where there is major development, entered into socioeconomic agreements. We have them with the mines, and we will have one with the pipeline, as well. That socioeconomic agreement is there to protect the rights of all people in the Territories. It is not limited just to the communities impacted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 200-15(4): Federal Socioeconomic Impact Funding**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Getting back to potential side deals, Mr. Speaker, I wanted to again ask the Premier if, indeed, he is aware of the private Member's bill in the Yukon, which is going to ask the federal government to exempt the GST being paid on energy costs and fuel bills, Mr. Speaker. It looks good on the Yukon, and I would like to see our Premier follow up with that private Member's bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 200-15(4): Federal Socioeconomic Impact Funding**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I am only very generally aware of it. I don't believe it is a private Member's bill. It is a private Member's motion, at this point. But, Mr. Speaker, yes, I am generally aware of it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

**Supplementary To Question 200-15(4): Federal Socioeconomic Impact Funding**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier; what faith can the communities that are not part of this \$500 million socioeconomic money, what have they got to look forward to? I have been here for two years and we haven't seen any movement on the resource revenue front, we haven't seen any movement on devolution, and, in my mind, we are going backwards. This \$500 million, Mr. Speaker, in my mind, is an absolute smokescreen from Ottawa to take the light off of the real issue. The real issue is getting us resource revenue sharing, Mr. Speaker. I would like to know, and to ask the Premier when that will happen. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 200-15(4): Federal Socioeconomic Impact Funding**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we are making progress on devolution and resource revenue sharing. I just gave Members an update in my Minister's statement today, outlining that there are only six outstanding issues, and that I have given a proposal to the federal government on how we can resolve these to get onto an

AIP. We have our eyes on the resource revenue sharing; we are not going to allow a lot of resource revenues slip out of this territory, if we can help it. We are bargaining hard on it, and will continue to bargain hard. But there is progress being made. We are moving along, but it is a major initiative that is one that we entered into without expecting that the federal government was just going to roll over and give us something that we were asking for right away.

Mr. Speaker, we have that kind of progress that is being made. At the same time, we have made good progress on the Northern Strategy. We have got the \$35 million that has gone out to the communities, plus another \$4 million going into housing, and another \$1 million going to youth and recreational programs. There is money going out there.

In addition, we have, through the Minister of Finance's efforts, also managed to improve our fiscal situation considerably, and are able to deliver a higher level of programs than has ever been achieved in the past. There is a lot going on. I could go on with the arrangements that we have with the mining communities as well, but we will do that another time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 201-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have asked questions on this issue before, but I want to address questions about the ferry strike again with the Premier, and I really would like to get more commitment from the Premier. Mr. Speaker, I am of the view that we cannot wait for the federal government to intervene. During the Giant Mine strike, we waited for them. There were hundreds of people on strike; there were replacement workers; it took weeks. We cannot wait for that. I believe this government has to find a way to bring the parties together and intervene where necessary. I wasn't clear about what commitment the Premier was making. I would like to ask the Premier if there was any evidence of safety infractions, and if they pull the ferry, and it is found to be unjustified, would the Premier consider taking over the ferry service and running the service, so that people can have access to the only road, and force the two parties to talk? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 201-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Yes, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Supplementary, Ms. Lee. Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Question 202-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have made no secret that I grew up in Fort Simpson, and what a pleasure it was having that experience, and I wish more Members could have experienced what it was like to grow up in that community. I can tell you, from my personal experience, how important that ferry is to that community. We could speak at length, but we don't have the time today.

My question would be for the Premier, after I make this point. We don't have a technical reason to step in at this time, but, in my mind, we have a moral reason and moral obligation to ensure safety is upheld. If the ferry doesn't run as is prescribed in the contract, either tomorrow or in the days to come, what is this government going to do? Thank you.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, that is related to the operation of the ferry itself, so I will refer it to the Minister of Transportation. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 202-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, we are reviewing our options. The contractor has given notice that they will be ceasing operations as of tonight, once they have dealt with the traffic volumes that are traveling that road system.

We are currently reviewing what we can do as a government. We have not decided, at this point, that we will be pulling the ferry or parking the boat for the winter. We are looking at a number of options. Of course, there are always the options of the government taking over with our own forces. There is the option of hiring another vessel to come into the area and provide that service. So there are a number of things that we can do.

We have our legal people that are reviewing the situation, and we will be deciding tonight what our next step will be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 202-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hope that the Minister of Transportation isn't hoping for a quick freeze-up so we can solve this solution in the short term, because it is not going to come soon. This ferry is a needed asset in this community, so, again, on the moral obligation: The community of Fort Simpson is supposedly running out of propane; Wrigley's ferry, as I understand it, doesn't have diesel or it's running out of diesel, so we have a moral responsibility to make sure that our peoples' homes are warm and we have reasonable transportation. What are we going to do about food shortages that these companies didn't have notice of, to make sure that they could get food in?

Who is going to be responsible for those additional costs that will be incurred because of the situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 202-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We indicated earlier on that we are doing an evaluation of what is required in the community. There are things that are critical in nature: fuel, food, or both in Fort Simpson and Wrigley, and we are doing an analysis of how serious things are. We are also looking at what our options are to provide transportation across the river. We are looking at the different options that I mentioned earlier.

Those things are all being done as we speak. We will be making that decision at the rise of this House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 202-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answer from the good Transportation Minister. Mr. Speaker, all those answers are well and good, but I am still looking for clear-cut leadership on this situation. Has the Premier taken a moment to go to Fort Simpson to help calm and ease the nerves of those families that are put into this position? Does the Minister have an answer as to whether we have the right to seize the ferry tomorrow morning at 6:00 a.m. if it does not start up? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Two questions there; the Minister can answer one or both. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 202-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have to remind the Member that the ferry does belong to the government; we have that right. We have a contract with the contractor, and we are looking to see if that contract was breached. We want to be able to reassure the communities of Wrigley and Fort Simpson that we are not going to leave them in a bind, and we are looking at a number of options and looking at our legal position, and we will decide that today sometime. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 202-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly would like to hear further on these numbers of options. I can tell you that the people in Fort Simpson are probably sitting there asking, "What are the number of options?" If the Minister, today, could tell people those, so that they don't have to worry, that would be appreciated. People are sending us faxes, citing the horrible things that could happen. I don't even want to think about what could happen. Could the Minister clearly say today what the

options are? Are we going to run that ferry tomorrow morning at 6:00 a.m. if the contractor does not run it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 202-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we will provide that information to the Member, and all the Members of this House, once we have decided on what steps we will take, and that information will be provided by tomorrow sometime. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**Supplementary To Question 202-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my last question would be, has the Minister had the chance to go to Fort Simpson to speak to the people and the ferry operators to ensure that we can come to a happy ending? Has the Premier considered that option to help satisfy everyone, so we can work toward some type of reasonable settlement to move forward in a safe way? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 202-15(4): Liard River Ferry Crossing Labour Dispute**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we have discussed this issue with all the community leaders of Fort Simpson. We have talked to a lot of the community leaders from Wrigley; we have talked to many, many residents of Fort Simpson and the traveling public that have been inconvenienced, and public that are concerned. We have talked to the suppliers; we have talked to the stores, so we have a lot of information. We have had a lot of discussion, so we have a real good handle on the concerns of Fort Simpson, and we will take those all into consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 203-15(4): Food Mail Program Pilot Project**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On numerous times, I have talked about the high cost of food in our small communities. Here is what I am talking about, Mr. Speaker. Two oranges at the Northern Store in Tulita cost \$3.60; if you want to buy a good can of blueberry or strawberry fruit, that costs close to \$8.00. That is about \$12.00, including GST, to the consumer, Mr. Speaker.

That is only the tip of the iceberg in terms of what we pay for food in the region of Sahtu. I am afraid of what other regions have to pay. Mr. Speaker, the federal government has a food and mail program that pays part of the cost for shipping good, healthy food by air to isolated northern communities not accessible by year-round roads.

My question to the Minister of Transportation is, can he tell me what he knows about this food and mail pilot project by the INAC department that was completed in

three northern communities, that further decreases the freight rate from 80 cents to 30 cents a kilogram? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 203-15(4): Food Mail Program Pilot Project**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the food and mail program, or the Northern Air Stage Program, as it is known, is an agreement between Canada Post and INAC. It provides subsidized air freight to these communities for perishable goods. There are 17 communities that are serviced by this program. We have recently raised the issue of looking at different options on how we can maybe improve the program by applying these same subsidies to air carriers, rather than just Canada Post. We have contacted the federal Minister, Andy Scott, and we have also contacted Ethel Blondin-Andrew on this issue. She has responded by saying that this is something that they are considering and would be getting back to us by this fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 203-15(4): Food Mail Program Pilot Project**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am talking about the pilot project that the federal government implemented in three northern communities. It is called the Food Mail Program D. It has been completed over the three northern communities. I would like to ask the Minister, would he give his commitment to lobby the federal Minister to have this program be delivered in the Northwest Territories within the 2007 federal budget? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 203-15(4): Food Mail Program Pilot Project**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have to apologize; I am not familiar with the pilot project that the Member is referring to. I would have to get more information. I will have to take that question as notice.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**Question 204-15(4): Fort Liard Community Housing Project**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. With respect to the program that is happening in the Nahendeh riding, I know that, particularly in Fort Liard, is where we had the greatest need and came up with an action plan. I would like to ask the Minister, at what stage is this action plan, and when will it be implemented? We have lost the summer now. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

**Return To Question 204-15(4): Fort Liard Community Housing Project**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are working with the community of Fort Liard, especially on a housing project where we've designated \$1 million to build, with the mould problem there, but we have had some problems with regard to contracts and the change of leadership. I believe we are back on track with the community to proceed immediately with Dragon Construction. I believe the contracts are being implemented, and we are hoping to move forward on the four units this winter and continue the rest of them next spring. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 204-15(4): Fort Liard Community Housing Project**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The importance, and the priority, is let's get these units repaired so we can get our constituents and clients back in these units and alleviate the housing conditions. I just want to ensure that when we are building and renovating these units, that we do have adequate inspection services. The criticism of the past has always been that there haven't been adequate inspections along each stage of the way. Does the Minister have a plan in place to ensure there are adequate inspections at every stage of construction?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 204-15(4): Fort Liard Community Housing Project**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we do inspections of all the projects at every stage, from the site development, putting the piles in, to stepping up the foundation. We ensure that before any electrical work is done, there is an inspection done, and also after the work, we do inspections. There are inspections at every stage of the construction. That is the policy of the government. We make sure every one of them are checked off before they move on to the next stage. We make sure we implement that so we don't have these issues coming back to haunt us in the future. Thank you.

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 204-15(4): Fort Liard Community Housing Project**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With respect to the Kotaneelee Housing, some of them are in really poor condition, Mr. Speaker. At what stage would the Housing Corporation determine that the unit requires replacing, rather than retrofitting? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 204-15(4): Fort Liard Community Housing Project**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, we are looking at four of those units and getting going on those this year and proceeding to the other units later on. There are some other units that have been condemned or shut down. We will not deal with those units at this time. Those tenants have been moved to other locations. So if anything, we probably will have to replace those units. At the present time, I don't believe we are going to be doing any renovations on those units, but get down to the ones who have people in them, accommodate them and get them back into their homes as soon as we can. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

**Supplementary To Question 204-15(4): Fort Liard Community Housing Project**

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just with respect to the 20 Kotanelee, out of the 20, how many were scheduled for renovation or retrofit this year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Mr. Krutko.

**Further Return To Question 204-15(4): Fort Liard Community Housing Project**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe we were looking at 10 of those units to have construction done this year. Because of delays, we are going to proceed with four now and the others next spring.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Question 205-15(4): Beverage Container Recovery Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just want to ask the Minister of ITI, the Honourable Brendan Bell, a question on the Beverage Container Recovery Program. For example, a community like Lutselk'e where the food cost index is 75 percent higher than it is in Yellowknife, which is the base index of 100 percent, how will the Beverage Container Recovery Program be able to curb these extra expenses that the Co-op is going to have to hand down to the residents of the community who are not going to be able to stockpile all these extra containers and ship them by barge, winter road or skidoo, to a depot to get their money back? If they decide to put it on a plane, the freight charges alone for these empty beverage containers would surely outweigh the amount of the recovery. I am just wondering if this government considered any options for these smaller, remote communities without the depots replaced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, that question is within the mandate for the Minister of ENR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Return To Question 205-15(4): Beverage Container Recovery Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are working against the clock here with all the communities, trying to arrange suitable facilities and processes, so that when November 1<sup>st</sup> comes around, people in all the communities can have access to a way to have their beverage containers returned. If the Member has specific suggestions, I would be very happy, as they pertain to his communities and the community of Lutselk'e specifically. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Supplementary To Question 205-15(4): Beverage Container Recovery Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the race against the clock, we are looking at another 10 days before this Beverage Container Recovery Program is going to roll out. What does the department right now have on the table as far as ensuring that these remote communities, like Colville, Fort Good Hope, Lutselk'e, all these communities without road access, Nahanni Butte, Trout Lake and all these other NWT communities that use just as many beverage containers on a daily basis as everyone else but pay more at the store in the community? What does the government have to offer these communities right now as far as subsidies for their beverage containers? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 205-15(4): Beverage Container Recovery Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, we have, we believe, about 80 percent of the Northwest Territories are covered in the smaller communities. We have arrangements with some communities, which I listed in this House last week. We are going to continue to work with those communities that don't have arrangements right now. As I have indicated, we intend to roll this program out, and we will work with each community to work on a suitable process, so that nobody is disadvantaged after November 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Supplementary To Question 205-15(4): Beverage Container Recovery Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's good to hear that nobody will be disadvantaged, hopefully. I just don't have any confidence that the smaller communities aren't going to be subsidized or be hit the hardest by this recovery program. What does ENR have right now to offer these small communities or the vendors in the small communities or the local grocery stores in the small communities, as far as making sure that their customers don't have to pay this extra cost that NWT residents in

Yellowknife and the six other centres are going to be taking advantage of? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 205-15(4): Beverage Container Recovery Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we intend to make arrangements, even on an interim basis, by whatever method we have, to try to ensure that people can return the beverage containers, they can be processed, and people can get the refunds they are entitled to in every community in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final supplementary, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Supplementary To Question 205-15(4): Beverage Container Recovery Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wonder if the option that these beverage containers can be returned to the vendor has been considered by ENR on an interim basis, so there is a balance of expenditures and recoveries in the smaller centres. Is that an option? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Further Return To Question 205-15(4): Beverage Container Recovery Program**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been trying to put this opportunity out as an economic opportunity of sorts. If it is attached to another business, we are happy to discuss and negotiate arrangements with any interested party in the community, be it an individual, a non-government organization, or a business. Yes, we are prepared to entertain all and any requests to be a depot. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Question 206-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policies**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement and my first set of questions were focused around vehicle purchases and our policy. I have concerns still on how we purchase vehicles. It relates directly to the tangible capital asset policy where, if you purchase a vehicle under \$50,000, you don't have to report it, and that money comes out of O and M. But if the vehicle costs more than \$50,000, you have to report it, and it comes out of the capital budget. My concern, specifically, is that this policy needs to be updated, because people are encouraged to buy more expensive vehicles because they can put it under the capital budget and not the regular O and M budget. Would the Minister look at updating this policy, so we can encourage smaller, reasonable vehicles for the appropriate use they are purchased for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board Secretariat, Mr. Roland.

**Return To Question 206-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policies**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the policy the Member is referring to helps us to do the business we need to in developing the main estimates and keep track of how things are accounted for. The money is ultimately accounted for, but it's what category it falls into. Vehicle purchase, as we spoke about earlier today, is something we will follow up on, and how we do that, what type of vehicles we purchase, and the use they are required for. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 206-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policies**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answer from the Minister, but my concern is, people will want to raise the purchase price of their vehicle, so it falls on the capital side. I think it is the number that we address. If it needs to be \$30,000 or \$40,000, I am not sure what the appropriate number is, but it falls under the capital budget, and that's the problem. I can understand the planning side. Would the Minister look at updating this, so we can reflect the needs of the Minister but we don't motivate people to buy more expensive vehicles? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 206-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policies**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Mr. Speaker, I believe the policy in place isn't a tool that departments or those interested in purchasing vehicles use to try and get a product over \$50,000. Ultimately, the budget for the department doesn't grow because they've added to it. In fact, if it gets added onto the capital plan requirements, vehicles fall very low in the order of importance when it comes to the capital plan. So if they go into that category, more than likely they are not going to get a vehicle unless it's an absolute emergency. So we come up with that number and that policy for reasons of being able to account for things in this forum. Again, with the concerns around energy and how we purchase vehicles, that will be taken into consideration. We will start looking to see how we can implement some of these changes. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 206-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policies**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would the Minister agree to meet me outside of this House and we can talk about the details of the areas of my concern, so we can specifically deal with this problem and maybe understand it better? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. Roland.

**Further Return To Question 206-15(4): GNWT Vehicle Replacement Policies**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will take the Member's calling me out as one that we will work together and have a dialogue on some of the concerns that he's raising. I am happy to meet with Members of this House. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 207-15(4): Fort Good Hope Water Quality**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a short question to the Minister of MACA. In my visits to Fort Good Hope, some of the elders talked about their reservoir being dead water. I know they want to ask the Minister to see if that water could be looked at. It's just sitting there. So could the Minister of MACA inform me in terms of this water situation? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 207-15(4): Fort Good Hope Water Quality**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we had our officials look at the water reservoir and did the appropriate tests. All the tests have come back and indicated that the water is safe, and we don't have any further plans for that reservoir, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Supplementary To Question 207-15(4): Fort Good Hope Water Quality**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the people of Fort Good Hope will appreciate the Minister's comments that the water is safe. The water is sitting like in a sink. That's what the elders talk about when they say dead water. It's not moving anywhere. I don't know if it can be flushed out and have new water come in there. Would the Minister inform me if this water is ever going to be flushed out or recycled and have new water come into that reservoir? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. McLeod.

**Further Return To Question 207-15(4): Fort Good Hope Water Quality**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our guidelines require us to clean the reservoir on an annual basis and refill it as required. In some communities it's once a year. In others, depending on the consumption rate, it's twice a year. So there are guidelines that these reservoirs fall under and are applicable to the community. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for oral questions has expired. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable

Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**Tabled Document 45-15(4): From The Ground Up: NWT Housing Corporation 2004-2005 Annual Report**

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled From The Ground Up: The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation 2004-2005 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 12, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Tabled Document 46-15(4): Status Of Women Council Press Release Regarding The Fort Smith Childcare Facility**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the press release from the Status of Women Council of the NWT, which states that the Status of Women Council of the NWT supports efforts to keep the childcare facility in Fort Smith open.

**Tabled Document 47-15(4): Status Of Women Council History Of Issues Related To Childcare**

I would also like to table a document on Council History on Working on Issues Related to Childcare Recommendations and Comments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Tabled Document 48-15(4): Sahtu Divisional Education Council Letter Regarding The Colville Lake School**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a tabled document from the chairperson from the Sahtu Divisional Education Council on the issue of the Colville Lake School.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Tabled Document 49-15(4): Arctic Co-operatives Ltd. Letter Regarding The Beverage Container Recycling Program**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a document from the letter from the Arctic Co-operatives Limited with respect to the Beverage Container Recovery Program which takes effect November 1, 2005. Thank you.

**Tabled Document 50-15(4): Report Of The Chief Electoral Officer On The North Slave By-Election**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Item 13, tabling of documents. I am pleased to table the report of the chief electoral officer on the 2005 North Slave by-election provided to my office pursuant to subject 162(b) of the Elections Act.

Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

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

##### Bill 13: An Act To Amend The Financial Administration Act

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2005, I will move that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

##### Bill 14: Public Airports Act

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2005, I will move that Bill 14, Public Airports Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 14, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

##### Bill 16: Tobacco Control Act

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2005, I will move that Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 14, notices of motion for first reading of bills. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

##### Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Public Colleges Act

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2005, I will move that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

##### Bill 12: An Act To Amend The Territorial Court Act

Mr. Speaker, I also give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2005, I will move that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act, be read for the first time.

##### Bill 15: Court Security Act

Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, October 24, 2005, I will move that Bill 15, Court Security Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ITEM 16: MOTIONS

##### Motion 5-15(4): National Day Of Healing And Reconciliation, Carried

**MR. YAKELEYA:** WHEREAS the residential school system has had devastating impacts on individuals, families, communities, languages, cultures and heritage in the NWT;

AND WHEREAS survivors of the residential school system, their families and their communities continue to live with these impacts today;

AND WHEREAS the Nechi Institute, Aboriginal Healing Foundation, and Presbyterian churches in Canada have sponsored May 26<sup>th</sup> as a National Day of Healing and Reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation is a movement of people committed to moving forward collectively within our families, communities and across Canada for the purposes of healing and reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS the objectives of the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation are to:

- celebrate a positive, collective healing and reconciliation movement within our families, communities, churches and government on May 26<sup>th</sup> of each year;
- educate ourselves and other Canadians about our collective history of government policies which impacted aboriginal communities and other ethnic groups; and
- develop commemoration sites and encourage communities to join in the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the Legislative Assembly resolves to formally observe May 26<sup>th</sup> as the National Day of Healing and Reconciliation in support of our communities, families and individuals who endure the impacts of a residential school system.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to speak to the motion very briefly, Mr. Speaker, in my research, there were 23 various residential schools and institutions in the Northwest Territories. According to the research I have done, there were over 131 years of the residential school history in the Northwest Territories. According to the Roman Catholic records, there were over 10,000 students in the Northwest Territories that attended these residential school systems, the most being in Inuvik where 2,500 students attended the Grollier school system.

Mr. Speaker, families are now being affected by it, and families are taking initiative, and communities are taking initiative, to start a healing process. Community workshops are slowly springing up in the communities in terms of dealing with the impacts the residential schools

have had on our people. Ministers and MLAs and leaders are taking note of the impacts, and are dealing with them in their own ways through their own departments.

Mr. Speaker, children now are starting to really understand the impacts of residential schools, and sometimes they're asking questions that sometimes as adults we have a hard time explaining to them.

I would like to thank the Members for allowing me to speak on this sensitive and delicate issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise to speak on the motion. I, too, am a survivor of the residential school system, and it's something like this that will bring recognition in our North to this very, very sensitive issue that still hasn't been resolved. I just might add that, Mr. Speaker, it still hasn't been resolved, and there are still lots of issues to be uncovered here, and dealt with throughout the North. I believe that a day of recognition, on an annual basis, will be something that, throughout the North, we can look to this day.

What I've been finding, Mr. Speaker, is that in our communities we have children who are behaving as if they actually went to residential school, when, in fact, they didn't. So it's a systemic thing. A lot of behaviour is because the parents went to residential school, and it's a huge thing, and we're still dealing with it. We're still learning how to combat it, and, indeed, how to restore a lot of the values that were taken from aboriginal people who did go to residential schools. I believe that this recognition of May 26<sup>th</sup> is a good thing for all of us, as northerners, to recognize that, indeed, it is part of our history and it is not to be forgotten. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to speak in support of this initiative, to dedicate a day that we recognize and honour the people who went through the residential school system.

Mr. Speaker, I am from the community of Fort Providence, that had a mission from the late 1800s to, I think, into the 1970s. The Sacred Heart Mission was located in Fort Providence. Many, many students from across the NWT, across the Mackenzie Valley, attended this school. Many, many students came as orphans; some came at a very young age. Recently, I was quite pleased to see the hamlet of Fort Providence erect some headstones, or a dedication to the number of children who passed away while they were in the residential school.

I've grown up in the community, where I've heard, practically on a daily basis, the stories and discussion about the mission experience. As Mr. Menicoche has indicated, there was a lot of anger. A lot of these youth, now that the facility has been torn down, have not seen this building. It was demolished before they were born, yet there are lingering effects.

I was quite happy to see, and quite proud, that the Fort Providence people who went to the residential school in

the community from across the region, from Fort Simpson, from Liard and other places, even including the South, have come together. They've formed the Fort Providence Residential School Society, and they're taking the approach where they're not looking to be compensated, they're not looking to be pointing fingers or blame, but they're looking at ways that they can heal themselves so that they can become part of society. They hold workshops; they hold on-the-land gatherings; they hold dances; they do a lot of things to try to deal with the many, many issues that involve the residential school.

Other people are quite happy with the experience that they had at residential schools. But for the most part, Mr. Speaker, I want to support this motion because it recognizes that there was an experience, good or bad, that happened in our history, and it also gives a chance to recognize that there was this that was in our history, and to take part in the discussions and reflect and acknowledge that it happened. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion. The Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to put on record my support for this motion. I support the motion that we have a national day of recognition. Especially in the North, we have been in the forefront on many issues regarding aboriginal rights and aboriginal days in the North, and I think we could set an example in this area again. I think it's important in declaring this day, and observing this, that this Legislature and government make an effort to put some money behind it, so that there can be a day to think about this issue. There are duties and responsibilities laid out here, and I hope that this will be done across the North, especially in the community of Yellowknife, so that we get a day to think about what this means for those who were in the residential school system and what we have to learn from it, so that we just get a better understanding of what the issues are.

I know that my fellow Member from Sahtu has been a one-man machine here, trying to get his colleagues in the Legislature to do more work in this area, and to bring some of the resources that are available at the federal level up here, so that more help can be had for those in the North. I think there is more need up here to address the issues and concerns of those who suffered from the residential schools. I also know there are people who had a positive experience, but for those who suffered and those who need to work through it and heal and recover from it, I think this will be an important day, and I am happy to see that this Legislature will be at the forefront and take the leadership role in taking note of it nationally. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. DAVID KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, will be supporting the motion. I am glad that we are addressing this issue. I have gone to residential school, but, more importantly, I think that the history of residential schools in the Northwest Territories goes back to the late 1800s. I was surprised to find that in Fort McPherson in 1898 there was a residential school. The only way I came across this information, I just happened to be in Ottawa, and I went to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to meet a few people there to talk about the Tl'oondih healing centre. They had a map on

the wall that showed all the residential schools and the history of residential schools in the North. From then to where we are today, I think we have learned a lot, but we have devolved a lot to where we are today with program and service delivery.

If you talk to a lot of the elders in our communities, these people were taken away when they were five years old and they never came home until they were 10 or 12 years old, and they lost the connection to their own parents, and to their grandparents. They lost their language. They basically did not fit in. I think a lot of the emotional scars that we deal with today, with alcoholism and drug abuse and whatnot, you could trace it all the way back to the change in how we disrupted the family cycle and the family unit as aboriginal people, who have always depended on their grandparents and their parents; and they were closely connected to their relatives. I think from this experience, we have learned, through this process, to release a lot of these emotions that came with it, but, more importantly, to learn from what has happened. I think, as governments and as aboriginal people, we have to not reinvent the cycle of being taken away again. I hate to say this, but we're doing that today in regard to how people are being apprehended, how people are being institutionalized, and I think we have to get away from it.

I think, also, realizing that a lot of these people ended up in places such as Hay River, Fort Providence, Akaitcho Hall, Stringer Hall, Grollier Hall, Breynat Hall, Grandin College, and I think I was in almost all of those places, except Hay River and Breynat Hall and Stringer Hall and Akaitcho Hall. A lot of those were good times, but I think a lot of things have happened in those facilities that have given it a black eye. But I think for most people who went through it, it was a good learning experience.

Again, the thing that really gets to me, is having to grow up in a home where there were eight of us, and every year there were one or two people who kept going away, and the family kept getting smaller. At one point, there were only two of us left in the household, just me and my younger brother. I think that's something that always stands out in mind, to realize that we, as a family, were basically going through the same situation people went through back in the 1800s. I think we have to change that, and I'm glad Mr. Yakeleya brought this motion forward, but, more importantly, recognizing that we do have to deal with this issue and move on. With that, I would like to thank the Member for his motion, which I will be supporting.

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

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise, too, to just briefly express my support for this motion. I thank the Member for bringing the motion forward in the House, not because of the fact that my parents also went through the residential school system, and myself, and all my brothers and sisters also, but because of the fact that I would like to see this as a first step toward the establishment of a national day of residential school healing and reconciliation that, hopefully, the federal government will initiate through this motion as being a start.

I'm not going to talk too much about what the other Members were saying about the residential school experiences, but I have to point out the fact that all those

experiences were not all bad. Some of them, especially a lot of my experiences in the residential school, were quite good. I have to, on one hand, commend the residential school system on sort of giving me some insight into the western way of living, and how the only way to succeed, in this day and age, is through education. I thank them for that. But the loss of languages, and traditions, and cultures, also definitely outweigh education in many instances. But, again, I support this motion, just for the very fact that I hope it leads to something bigger and better for aboriginal people across Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. To the motion. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of the residential school experience often tends to be a very versatile one, and I contemplated whether I would make any comment on this motion, or just quietly vote. But I want to recognize, as well, in the community of Fort Smith, Breynat Hall and Grandin College have been there for a long time. They have a history that is related to many, many people in the Northwest Territories. As my colleague, Mr. McLeod, indicated, there were good experiences and bad, probably for all of us who went through those systems.

As Mr. Villeneuve indicated, his parents went to residential school. My mother, who will turn 81 this coming spring, went to a residential school in Lac La Biche. The one thing I noticed from a very young age -- if you'll excuse me for making this personal observation -- she still won't eat porridge today because of what happened. I know what happened; but just one, small example.

So this is a very delicate issue. While I will acknowledge that it exists, there were many good things that happened there, and there were many bad things. Many of our colleagues here went, and I have many lifelong friends from my experiences in Grandin College and Breynat Hall, friends that I still have today from all over the North, and I will support this motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be in support of this motion. This is something that I think is long overdue, and I commend the Member for Sahtu for bringing it up.

Residential schools are something that have been going on for years. My mother attended residential school in Aklavik, where they weren't allowed to speak their language. As a result, a lot of us have lost our language. My wife's grandfather went to residential school at age six and didn't return to his community until he was 15.

Some of the Members have said that there have been some good things come out of the residential school. I can't think of too many. I was there at nine years old, but one of the good things that came out of the one in Inuvik is we made friends, as Mr. Miltenberger said, that lasted us a lifetime. Mr. Sahtu...

---Laughter

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Captain Sahtu sounds good.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Captain Sahtu.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Okay, Mr. Sahtu and I. I got to know Norman when we were in Grollier Hall. We played hockey together, so that's about the only positive thing I see that came out of this whole residential school thing.

---Laughter

Other than that, I mean, there's a dark side that not too many people want to talk about, but I do commend Mr. Yakeleya for bringing this motion forward, and I'm proud to support it. Thanks a lot.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion. I will allow Mr. Yakeleya to give closing remarks.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Mr. Sahtu.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly. I have been debating this motion for some time. I'm not too sure how it will be taken, or how you will react to the motion. I thought many things in terms of how I was going to proceed with this motion. I want to thank the people who helped me draft this and put this into a manner that is honourable and respectful to the House.

I do this on behalf of my mother and some older people who had to deal with being taken away for months and months.

I didn't expect this to happen, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to say that when hurt, as survivors, it really hurts. But we are fighters, we are survivors. We take on the bumps and grinds of life and we get back up and go at it again. We've met some good people, as Mr. Miltenberger and Mr. McLeod have mentioned. We have also developed some leadership skills. Sometimes we question ourselves in society, and this is where we want to take the spirit and give it. Thank you.

I encourage leaders across here to not give up. Keep going. That's what we did as survivors. We were not allowed to go home for a long time. We just had to take whatever they had to give us from residential school, but we have come out okay. We want to go forward in the Northwest Territories. I think this government is making strides in terms of doing something. We do this for the old people who don't have a voice right now. In this type of situation, they are hurting worse than us. We honour them just to say we recognize this day. Springtime is a new life, it's a new beginning. Ducks are coming and people are happy. That is how life is for us.

Good, bad, right or wrong, residential school is in our blood and we are not going to change that, but we can make something of it and do something for our kids. That's all I ask for. Whatever comes out of it, it's a gift for us. Right now, I want to thank Members for allowing me to speak. I apologize for getting emotional. I didn't think I would. I think of my Granny and my Mom and some of the old people you have back home. We know what it's like to be away from our families. Believe me, we know what it's like. We don't give up and we keep on going.

I want to thank Members for allowing this motion to be read in the House, debated, and have the chance to be voted on. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement; and Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act, with Mr. Ramsay in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** I call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Chairman. The committee wishes to review Minister's Statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, committee. I guess we will open it up to general comments. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The motion is in order; it's not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 20, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Ramsay.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Minister's Statement 24-15(4) and wishes to report progress and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Is there a seconder for the motion? The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The motion is in order. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

#### ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 5: An Act To Amend The Judicature Act

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Bill 5 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

##### Bill 7: Personal Directives Act

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Boot Lake, that Bill 7, Personal Directives Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is 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

Bill 7 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

#### ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Friday, October 21, 2005, 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 of the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2, 2005-2006
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Minister's Statement 24-15(4), Sessional Statement
  - Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Education Act
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Friday, October 21, 2005, at 10:00 a.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:18 p.m.

