



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, February 16, 2006****Members Present**

Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul Delorey, Honourable Charles Dent, 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. Pokiak, Mr. Ramsay, Honourable Floyd Roland, Mr. Villeneuve, Mr. Yakeleya

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the House. Orders of the day. Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 70-15(4): Energy Conservation**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Energy Conservation Action Plan we adopted last October has been successful in raising the public's awareness about the importance of conserving energy and has helped individuals, businesses and GNWT departments and agencies put actual energy conservation measures into practice. The action plan enhanced existing conservation programs, introduced new conservation initiatives and identified new technologies to help reduce energy costs. Some of the highlights achieved by the action plan are:

1. Fourteen additional retrofit projects on public buildings were completed through the enhanced Energy Conservation Program offered by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. We anticipate annual operating savings of \$140,000 due to these retrofits. In total, 37 retrofit projects under the program will be completed this year, with expected annual operating savings of over \$300,000.
2. Infrared thermal scanning on 80 government buildings has been completed by the Department of Public Works and Services and we anticipate completing another 400 scans on both government and municipal buildings over the next two years.
3. New design standards have been developed and implemented by the Department of Public Works and Services to maximize energy efficiency for upcoming government construction projects. These design standards will be incorporated into the revised 2006 Good Building Practice for Northern Facilities publication and will be made available to municipal governments and businesses.
4. One hundred fifty residential energy efficiency assessments were completed in Fort Smith. The NWT Power Corporation conducts these assessments to inform residents about electricity and answer questions about how electricity is generated, how much electricity is required to run a household and how to use electricity more efficiently. The corporation will soon be starting assessments in Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e.

5. Funding was increased to the Arctic Energy Alliance to supplement existing incentive programs. For example, homeowners and small businesses may qualify for cash grants if maintenance is completed on their boilers and furnaces. Information as to how to apply for these grants was included with the January 2006 power bills.

At the public meeting held by AOC in November on the rising cost of energy in the NWT, I spoke about the need for NWT residents and businesses to take full advantage of the energy conservation initiatives made available through the action plan and also challenged government departments to step up our conservation efforts. As seen from the highlights identified, NWT residents, businesses and our departments have been successful in rising to this challenge. Mr. Speaker, later today I will be tabling the Energy Conservation Action Plan Update which provides additional information and guidance to help us all reduce our energy consumption.

Mr. Speaker, as we applaud the results achieved by the action plan, we must also recognize our longer-term goal of identifying more stable and reliable energy sources to mitigate rising energy costs and provide all northerners with affordable energy options.

The government will soon be releasing an energy plan discussion paper that will raise the critical policy issues that need to be addressed respecting the development of NWT energy resources and the long-term strategic direction and actions the NWT must take to ensure affordable and sustainable energy solutions for the benefit of all northerners.

Mr. Speaker, despite a drop in oil prices, energy prices remain high. In 2006, we must continue to support conservation and efficiency measures as the most effective means of coping with these high costs. This will require continued commitment by this Legislative Assembly and all northerners to ensure we build on the momentum achieved to date. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker.

Minister's Statement 71-15(4): Design And Energy-Efficient Buildings

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, recently high fuel costs and concerns about global warming have put extra emphasis on energy conservation. In response to these concerns, the government has adopted the Energy Conservation Action

Plan and, in support of the plan, the Department of Public Works and Services is designing buildings that are more energy efficient.

Two good examples are the designs of the new school in Tulita and the renovated school in Gameti. They follow standards from the federal Commercial Building Incentive Program, CBIP, to minimize fuel and power consumption over the life of the buildings. CBIP helps offset the extra cost of designing energy-efficient buildings. This Natural Resources Canada program provides design assistance and funding of up to \$60,000 for eligible organizations, based on building energy savings.

The application of CBIP criteria and the use of further resources available through Indian and Northern Affairs Canada programs, like the Aboriginal and Northern Community Action Program, increases the GNWT's efforts on energy efficiency and climate change management. Any additional project design or construction costs are more than offset by savings achieved through immediate reduction of fuel and power consumption and lower long-term operating costs for our facilities.

Mr. Speaker, it is now a requirement for all new or renovated GNWT buildings to be designed to obtain CBIP certification. This requirement has been included in the 2006 edition of Good Building Practice for Northern Facilities. At this time, CBIP projects being designed include:

- the new school in Ndilo;
- the Northwest Territories law courts facility in Yellowknife;
- the schools replacement project in Inuvik;
- the children's treatment centre in Hay River; and
- the new wildlife laboratory and forestry centre in Yellowknife.

Public Works and Services and the GNWT as a whole have a firm commitment to reducing energy costs in buildings for the benefit of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

Minister's Statement 72-15(4): 2006 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards Program

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today about the NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards Program. Nominations for this program are currently being accepted.

The NWT Outstanding Volunteer Awards Program was developed in 1991 as a way to celebrate outstanding volunteers in the Northwest Territories and to highlight the importance of volunteerism to residents of the Northwest Territories. This year, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is pleased to be working in partnership with Volunteer NWT on the delivery of the program.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has launched this year's nomination process through advertisements, the distribution of brochures and posters, and notices on the department's web site. Nomination materials can also be found in community government offices, recreation offices and all schools in the Northwest Territories.

There are four categories of Outstanding Volunteer Awards. The categories are: individual, elder, youth and group. As in prior years, we expect to receive nominations from all regions of the Northwest Territories.

Each year, the award winners and all nominees are recognized during an award ceremony that takes place during National Volunteer Week. This year, National Volunteer Week is April 23rd to April 29th. Planning details of the award ceremony are underway and I look forward to providing Members with additional information on the ceremony once all details are finalized.

Mr. Speaker, volunteers are an incredibly important part of our life in our communities. The Volunteer Award Program is one way that the Government of the Northwest Territories can recognize the contributions volunteers make everyday. It is important to bring recognition to the award winners, and all nominees, and to the thousands of residents in the Northwest Territories that give freely of their time and energy with no expectation of thanks.

I encourage all Members of the Legislative Assembly to recognize and thank the volunteers in their communities and to nominate an outstanding volunteer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ministers' statements. Before I go on to the next order on the Order Paper, I would like to draw your attention to a very distinguished looking group in the gallery today. They are a group of grads from the community wellness workers course. I would like to welcome Dowe Lafferty from Lutselk'e,

---Applause

Mary Rose Drybone from Colville Lake,

---Applause

Sarah Polquin from Aklavik,

---Applause

Teresa McDougall from Yellowknife,

---Applause

Rick Alexander from Yellowknife,

---Applause

Therese Simon from Fort Resolution,

---Applause

Bernice Hardisty from Fort Liard,

---Applause

Edna Alexie from Fort McPherson,

---Applause

Una Simon from Fort Smith.

---Applause

Donald Yukon from Deline,

---Applause

Rosemary Elemie from Deline.

---Applause

With them is Vicki Jacob from Keyano College. She's the instructor from Fort McMurray.

---Applause

Welcome all of you to the House. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Socio-Economic Funding From Resource Development

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am going to again address the fact that it is my belief that the Government of the Northwest Territories has let down the majority of its residents and settled on socio-economic impact funding that isn't flowing through the GNWT and won't even start to address our needs as we move forward. You know, \$500,000 sounds like a great sum of money, but when you spread the funding over 10 years and then split it amongst 22 communities, it doesn't add up to much, Mr. Speaker. It's anyone's best guess on what the administrative cost would be to administer this money; quite possibly as high as 20 percent. What money does get down to the communities will certainly be well used and much needed.

I want to state quite clearly today that I believe, as a government, we could have done, and should have done, much better for our residents. The 22 communities deserve the funding, every bit of it, the entire \$500 million, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River should get a cut from the \$500 million. What I do believe, and have evidence of, is that the Government of the Northwest Territories has failed 70 percent of our population: three out of four of the major population centres in this territory, by not standing up for them, or themselves, for that matter, and demanding more.

The major tax-based centres deserve and should receive funding from Ottawa, as well. This is on top of the \$500 million, Mr. Speaker. I speak from experience, Mr. Speaker. Yellowknife is a much different community today than it was 15 years ago. Resource development and the negative social impacts have hit Yellowknife hard. The saying "more money, more problems" is quite an accurate description. Drugs, crime, addiction and unhealthy lifestyles are very prominent in our communities.

As we embark on the exciting prospects of mega resource development here in the Northwest Territories, our government must be willing to fight for each and every one of its residents, whether they live in Tulita, Fort Simpson, Hay River or Yellowknife. We will all be hit by socio-economic impacts. How is the government going to protect us? What is the government going to do to pay the social costs in every one of our communities? They don't

have an answer for this, Mr. Speaker, and, for that reason, they have, thus far, failed us.

Remember, gentlemen, you are a public government. We are a public government and it's time to start acting like one, Mr. Speaker. At the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Premier. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Housing Opportunities Arising From The Mackenzie Gas Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I want to wade in on the Novel housing subject. I spoke just briefly during consideration of the NWT Housing Corporation budget deliberations. Mr. Speaker, this is what is my perspective, from what I have seen and heard.

As I see it, Imperial Oil and their partners want to build a pipeline. During the construction of that pipeline, they need temporary workforce housing. Traditional practices would see them bring that housing in and take that housing out. The Northwest Territories had the housing shortage. Maybe we could save the pipeline proponents from having to remove their housing.

ATCO Structures is an internationally recognized supplier of workforce housing. ATCO Structures has the capacity to produce all of the workforce housing required for the Mackenzie gas project. ATCO develops and designs a type of workforce housing that can be converted to a conventional home. ATCO presents their design and signs an MOU with NWT Housing Corporation. The Housing Corporation sees a potential use of 700 of the 1,400 housing units and looks for existing and potential housing programs for delivery. The Housing Corporation wants northern value added through training opportunities, participation of northern businesses involved in manufacturing, assembly, transportation and, ultimately, site development and conversion. ATCO is amenable to this approach and the negotiations continue.

Imperial Oil is looking for the best value for their needs and is willing to be convinced of the merits of using a convertible housing model versus conventional workforce housing. By participating, Imperial Oil could fulfil part of its commitment to socio-economic benefits for the North. The Housing Corporation could have access to much-needed housing for northerners. Considerable economy could be created by the conversion of these units to homes in various communities after the pipeline construction.

Fast forward to this week. ATCO Structures has taken a bit of a beating from some Members of this Legislature and ATCO is probably wondering why, since they are willing to recognize the need for significant northern participation. Imperial Oil is probably saying with our permits and agreements in hand, we don't need the permission of the territorial government to proceed with workforce housing in our best interest and in a way that we like.

If the Mackenzie gas project proceeds, there is going to be a demand for workforce housing for further exploration and construction for feeder projects for years to come. Do we have capacity for that in the North? Yes. Hay River already has worksite accommodation/office units being built as we speak. Mr. Speaker, I would like to 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, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. So Hay River already has manufacturing in place for workplace office and accommodation. Could they continue to meet the ongoing demand? Probably they could. Is there a northern company that has stand-alone capacity today to produce enough units to meet the needs of the construction of the pipeline? No. Would it make good business sense for someone to build that kind of capacity if this level of demand is not sustainable? Probably not.

Mr. Speaker, Imperial Oil needs workforce housing. The Northwest Territories needs housing. ATCO Structures has well over 50 years of experience in manufacturing and has invested in a concept to match these needs together. Am I a paid lobbyist for ATCO Structures? No. Do I see a potential and know a potentially good deal when I see one? Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Member's Statement On NWT Preparedness For Global Health Risks

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (English not provided)

Mr. Speaker, when I speak to the elders in my communities, they often talk about the sicknesses and epidemics of the past taking the lives of many loved ones. Fortunately, today our youth have never had to experience these types of losses and we, as a government, must do whatever we can to keep it that way. Avian influenza, or bird flu, is a virus primarily transferred by birds. There are many different types. Influenza H5N1 is a type of avian influenza that is of world-wide concern and is carefully monitored. Last fall in the Fraser Valley region of B.C. they experienced bird flu infections. This brought the once-distant flu pandemic concerns very close to home in Nahendeh.

Last session, the new chief of Jean Marie River asked me to request what the government will do in case of a severe outbreak. Does our government have an emergency response plan to a possible outbreak in the Northwest Territories? According to my research, it is transferable among wild birds, although most of the human infections were from domesticated birds. In the Nahendeh, many residents actively harvest traditionally and live off the land eating wild birds, like everybody else throughout the North. Many residents feel this infection may be transferable from wild birds.

The GNWT must inform the general public through a communication campaign on the avian flu virus. This government must be proactive in the intergovernmental approach involving the federal, territorial, local, and First Nation governments in an emergency response plan. Other jurisdictions in Canada have implemented a strategy and have started to store the necessary medication and vaccinations, and so should we. Furthermore, this virus is constantly changing and the response plans and vaccinations must also be evaluated periodically.

It seems like every day we hear on the evening news that there was another outbreak of this virus on humans. Some are close to home, some are quite far away, but with modern transportation and visitors from all over the world in the Northwest Territories, we are not isolated, we are not alone, and we must prepare. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement On Principles Of Consensus Government

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The government has taken some very, very bold and aggressive steps in the last few months at least, Mr. Speaker. Some of them, though, have not met with the expectations or the conventions or the rules that this Assembly is based on. The most significant one being consensus. The ones that come to mind, Mr. Speaker, would be the snap, sudden, secret decision to relocate the Territorial Treatment Centre to Hay River; the decision by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment to dispense with the NWT's participation in the National Diamond Strategy and disband the diamond unit. Mr. Speaker, the most significant one happened late last year with the so-called "letter of comfort" when our Minister of Finance and our Premier decided to, in effect, block the NWT out of a significant revenue stream based on the development of the gas reserves.

Mr. Speaker, in here, with the Novel housing program and the project with ATCO, we have yet another situation here where things are going on without the knowledge, consultation or, in fact, the consent of this side of the Assembly. Mr. Speaker, we found out that the government has signed a memorandum of agreement with ATCO regarding the use of the Novel manufactured homes. Now, Mr. Speaker, I, too, am an advocate of making the very best opportunity of this great project that lies ahead of us. The challenge that I have, Mr. Speaker, is for the way in which our government is going about this. When I read in a document that was tabled I believe earlier in this Assembly that we already signed a memorandum of agreement, what is it that we've agreed to? Where are the options? Where is the feasibility? Where is the confidence? Where is the transparency? Where is the trust? Where is the consensus, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Graduates From Community Wellness Program

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also wanted to congratulate all the community wellness workers that are in our gallery on their successful completion of the certification program that they have all undoubtedly worked diligently and passionately to acquire.

Mr. Speaker, some of the difficulties, both in the workplace and in the communities where they live and work, are not things that people are compelled to talk about, but I think are worthy of mention today. We all recognize the importance of these positions in our small communities, and I want to let it be known that these community wellness workers' positions are 24 hours, seven days a week, 52 weeks a year jobs, and the compensation for these positions is severely underrated and inadequately funded by this government.

Mr. Speaker, a community wellness worker cannot take a holiday in their respective communities because many people seeking assistance often require help or guidance before their issues transpire into something more tragic and the community wellness worker is often, it is often their obligation to take action before this happens.

Mr. Speaker, these are just a couple of reasons why I would like to see some serious reviews done on the compensation levels for these frontline workers; salary levels that are truly reflective of the broad spectrum of wellness issues that these people have to work against every day.

I could go on and on about many of those community wellness issues, but two minutes is surely not enough time. I do have time to say thank you from all the Members in this House and from the residents of the NWT in their job, and they all deserve a pat on the back every day. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavours. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement On MOU With ATCO For Novel Housing Initiative

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last night I had the chance to read yet one more propaganda put out by this government on Novel housing and, lo and behold, I learned something new that I was not aware of before, and that is that this government, in fact, does have a formal working relationship with ATCO by way of a memorandum of agreement regarding the use of Novel manufactured homes by the MGP. It's in the document that the Minister asked me to look at.

Mr. Speaker, in learning this, the light came on in my head as to why this so-called mere Novel concept, or novel concept, has made it into this year's budget. Now I know why this government talks and acts like the biggest lobbying agent for one company; because, in fact, it has become a life partner with this, through this MOA, Mr. Speaker.

What does this mean? This means that we'll never know if ATCO is in fact the most suitable marriage partner for us in this housing project. Any responsible parent will tell their children to look around, shop around, compare. If you have five hundred million to spend, what is the best deal we can get? Mr. Speaker, I have to tell you I don't think we'll ever know. This means no other companies need to apply since one company, without any apparent competitive process, has been given the leg up and stands to become the biggest beneficiary of this project that's now worth not \$297 million as I thought it was previously, but it is now worth about \$500 million. Two hundred and thirty-four million from the oil producers for the cost of workforce housing, forty million dollars plus for the premium for any extra cost of making them convertible, two hundred and forty million plus from the federal government, GNWT and private sector to build the lots and set up and buy the units.

The report also states, Mr. Speaker, that the government does not know if this is the only company that can do it, but the government's not going to do their due diligence to find out. We have no info here as to whether there is the buy-in from the people who would be asked to live in these used trailers. There is no information as to where regional and community governments have bought in. There is, in fact, no information as to whether Imperial Oil is interested in this marriage because they're too busy going through the regulatory process.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have to accept that there has been a marriage, but I need to still see that...

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

MS. LEE: Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Members' statements. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement On Seeking Access Alternatives For Tlicho Communities

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, today I'm going to speak about the highway that leads to our community. In the Northwest Territories, we have a big population and everyone has roads leading to them. There's few isolated communities that don't have highways to their community. Some of these isolated communities face difficulties such as high prices, high price of oil and everything, like from groceries and to family visiting each other. Mr. Speaker, we know we all go through difficulties sometimes. We know what's happening with the global warming that's happening in the Northwest Territories. When you compare it from years ago, the ice road used to be open for many months. But nowadays it's not like that.

Mr. Speaker, last year when they were hauling the oil to our community, that didn't happen because the ice road was not open because of the ice conditions. So the three communities suffered because of that. So we do have concerns regarding that.

The last 14th Assembly, the last MLA spoke on this issue. He stood here and he spoke to you about those concerns. He really tried to talk about this issue. So, Mr. Speaker,

when you look at this, this government, the 15th Assembly, they should revisit this issue again because of the global warming that's happening and we can't depend on the ice roads anymore. We have to seriously think about having highways to our communities. We can't do without these communities having roads. We should seriously take a look at this for the Tlicho region. This is one of the concerns that was addressed to me many times by my members in my communities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu. Mr. Yakeleya.

Member's Statement On Housing Opportunities Arising From The Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to start off with the saying, "and they lived happily ever after." I want to talk about the Novel manufactured homes here.

---Laughter

I want to emphasize the point to live, Mr. Speaker. Knowing that the high core needs in the communities, Fort McPherson has 33 percent, Paulatuk has 35 percent, Colville Lake has an astonishing number of 75 percent of core need of homes, Wrigley 50 percent, Ndilo 40 percent. Taking out the equation of the Yellowknife and Hay River market in homes, the extent of the problem in our communities, Mr. Speaker, is very, very clear. If anybody has a vision and has the commitment and dedication to put housing in, I think it's up to all the Members in the House here to put suitable and affordable homes in our communities.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, where will we find such an opportunity like this?

AN HON. MEMBER: Not used trailers.

MR. YAKELEYA: Where will we see them come into our communities as large-scale developments? Where will we see workplaces and workforces in our regions specifically dedicated to the housing sector? Where will we see where we can deal with the chronic situation of housing issues? Mr. Speaker, I understand in 2005-2014 that we're going to need new homes; 1,600 new homes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an innovative idea that's supported by my region. Used trailers, they call them. I call them affordable homes that we can build up with our own people. We have ingenuity that we can use in our region, that we could build this in our region. You know? We need these homes.

There's TB, there's sickness, overcrowding. You go into our communities and you'll see these. We have to figure out how we're going to do them. To stick build they say it's going to cost us more. There's opportunities like this, as businesspeople and communities, expect the deal when the iron's hot here.

The families need it, the communities need it. So we need it in our region and I'll be darned if we're pushing this through. I'm not a paid lobbyist, but I speak for my people and my people want these homes. They want the development, they want the training. You know, this is a once in a lifetime. So this is a good opportunity and I

applaud the government and I applaud the people who put the deal first. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Member's Statement On Need For RCMP In Sachs Harbour

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was advised yesterday about an incident in Sachs Harbour involving the dangerous use of a firearm. This incident was confirmed later by my constituent assistant. The RCMP in Inuvik was notified and immediately chartered an aircraft to Sachs Harbour that afternoon. Thank God the weather cooperated for the RCMP to charter to the community. They were able to apprehend the suspect and transport the suspect to Inuvik. I would like to report there was no immediate injury to the victim and the suspect involved. A couple of RCMP members have remained in Sachs Harbour to conduct an investigation.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure that it will come as no surprise to you again that the number one concern of the residents of Sachs Harbour has been the RCMP presence in the community. With this recent incident it is more evident that the RCMP should provide their presence to protect the people in Sachs Harbour.

In a previous Minister's statement, Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Justice advised this Assembly that he will address the concern. Mr. Speaker, the residents of Sachs Harbour are entitled to the same level of public protection as all the residents of Canada. When will the Department of Justice provide the necessary personnel in Sachs Harbour? When, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Member's Statement On Mackenzie Gas Project Fiscal Assurances

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to speak on the so-called "letter of comfort," or, as some people have referred to it as, the "letter of surrender." The only certainty I know, Mr. Speaker, is that Imperial Oil and the other gas producers are laughing all the way to the bank.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier has said time and time again this is just a letter and there's nothing to worry about. Well, the same thing was said about the gun registry, Mr. Speaker. It's just going to cost a couple million dollars; there's nothing to worry about. The same thing was said about the sponsorship scandal just a couple years ago with the Liberals; nothing to worry about, just a couple Liberals out of control. I think, Mr. Speaker, whenever a politician utters the words "nothing to worry about," Canadians start to get nervous.

One thing is safe to say, Mr. Speaker, is that the Premier and myself truly do disagree on the implications...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Handley, you're rising on a point of order. What is your point of order?

Point Of Order

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have a point of order. The Member is imputing false or hidden motives, talking about whenever a politician says something that you have to be careful how you interpret it. There are no false motives on my part, Mr. Speaker. So Mr. Speaker, under section 23(i), I believe, there is a point of order. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Mr. Handley has risen on a point of order. I'm going to allow some debate on this one, on the point of order. To the point of order. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't say that the Premier did something ill. I'm making a point of saying there's nothing to worry about. So I'm speaking about the letter and the implications that the letter will have over the long term. You never know what will happen over the long term and so nothing to worry about, and we have to worry about it. It is all in the context of who knows where we're going with this. Nothing was directly pointed to the Premier, so I personally believe the Premier misunderstood the point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the point of order. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take particular offence at this in the Member saying that whenever a Member, a politician, makes a statement, you have to wonder about it and then drawing an inference to the Gomery situation, which is criminal wrongdoing. Mr. Speaker, I want to say I highly resent that and that is very clearly an effort to impute some false or hidden motive on my part for something that's criminal, in fact. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. To the point of order. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Hawkins says that he doesn't impute any motive. Why is the Premier picking this up? Well, it's because he's talking about the letter of comfort. I believe that the Premier and the Finance Minister, one of them signed the letter of comfort and he has in the context, in setting up the context of this, he has made reference to politicians who say don't worry about it and he's put it in the context of the sponsorship scandal. Those were his words. He didn't say the Gomery inquiry. He said the sponsorship scandal, which to me says that when someone is defending something they've done by saying, you know, it's good or don't worry about it, that inherently there must be some scandal attached to it. In a broader context, that's how I would perceive that he's putting this on the same footing. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the point of order. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to say something about this and just state my observation in this regard. I don't really have a position on either side and I

await to hear your decision regarding this debate, but I really think how we conduct ourselves and the decisions in this regard should reflect the balance between the right of Members to speak and how much room you have to speak. We may not like what we hear necessarily and I don't know exactly what was said, so I can't really comment on that, but I would ask you to look at the overall role. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the point of order. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the point of order, we, in this Assembly, have a certain amount of latitude, for sure, in how we represent our constituents in the case or the issues we raise in this House. But, Mr. Speaker, when the reference is drawn in such a clear line and the people of the Territories or those listening get to see just a piece of what we do here in this House and all they'll hear is the fact the Premier and myself, the Finance Minister, signed a letter of comfort, and then drawing a direct relationship with the sponsorship scandal is not truly representative of what the situation is there.

So, Mr. Speaker, though we may have latitude in how we reference the issues to the people of the Territories, we also have a responsibility not to be setting and saying things that would have people out there believing that we've broken some rule or broken the law in how we carry on our business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the point of order. Members, I am going to take this matter under advisement and return with my ruling on the point of order at a later date. Mr. Hawkins, you may continue with your statement, but I will caution you to steer clear of any controversial issues. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I respectfully thank you and the Members for their input on that matter.

Mr. Speaker, the final thing that I want to say on this matter is the implications of this letter and what it will have down the road. The fact is that we don't know what's happening, and the only time we're going to truly understand the implications of this letter is when someone such as a high-priced lawyer, maybe from Calgary, shows up with this letter of comfort and only then will we truly understand the consequences of what we sign. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Members' statements. Reports of standing and special committees. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

ITEM 6: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to rise two days in a row to introduce a constituent and my niece Ms. Marina Menicoche, up there in the gallery.

---Applause

As well, there are two Pages from Fort Simpson that gave us some really good work this week. I'd like to recognize them. Mr. Teyan Menicoche, who is Marina's son, and Alex Elleze. Mahsi cho.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would also like to recognize and thank the Pages from Hay River South that helped us in the Chamber this week. They are Tanya Maher and Brienne Glaicar and they both did a great job and it was a pleasure to have them here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 7: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 412-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I thought I would rest this topic of the novel idea of the Novel housing, but I just need to get this chance to explain for those who didn't have the benefit of my reply to the budget address that my questions about Novel housing are never about providing social housing for the people. This is about are we doing the right thing in the way we spend our public money, and are we doing the best deal we can get for the people to make sure that the home they get are the ones that they can live in and that it's going to last and that we can deliver.

So I'd like to ask the Minister of Finance, Mr. Speaker, Minister of Finance Floyd Roland...The report states, Mr. Speaker, that -- I can't remember exactly what page -- but the government is aware that ATCO company is not the only one who could provide this housing. I believe in a good deal. I want to make sure that this government got the best deal in doing this. So I want to know what due diligence they did before he decided to marry the ATCO Novel idea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 412-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of the relationship with ATCO Structures and ourselves, as laid out by Mrs. Groenewegen -- she's laid it out fairly close to how things have unfolded -- the issue, Mr. Speaker, I think more reflects around is it wise for the Government of the Northwest Territories to try and seize an opportunity where we can get houses for a value that is something that can be afforded in our smaller communities. Is the issue of our relationship with ATCO a concern when they've approached us with the concept was did they have a patent on that? Could they see the issue of the convertible workforce housing into homes at an affordable price? It would be wise of us to continue to look at that

avenue and try to ensure that maybe we can take advantage of this mega project that's going to happen in our backyards.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think on the part of our government working with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, working with the past federal Minister of Housing, and ATCO, as well as our own shops, try to take advantage of this in the best way possible. What's wrong with trying to put more houses in communities that need homes? Thank you.

---Applause

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

Supplementary To Question 412-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister once again avoided the essential question. The issue here is not whether or not we want 1,400 homes. That is not the issue. The issue is whether or not we are being seduced by the idea and being blinded and not doing our due diligence that we need to do with public money. We're talking about spending \$500 million. The Minister states in the report that they know that ATCO is not the only one. So I want to know when or did he ever, did this government ever look at any companies? Was there any competitive process? Did they ever ask the top three companies of the world could they ever come up with an idea of converting workforce housing? It's a pretty simple and reasonable question, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 412-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, let's get the numbers right here. Ms. Lee is once again coming up with her efforts in mathematics and coming up with now a \$500 million project. Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories, in the budget that's before the House, has not identified any money for the Novel housing concept. We are working on it. We have brought it to the attention of the Members to try to do this. What we're looking for is an opportunity to put housing in the Northwest Territories at an affordable price for the people of the Northwest Territories. So, Mr. Speaker, when it comes to our dealings with the company and did we go out with an RFP or a tender to say all companies of the world, please provide a concept that can take workforce housing and put it into homes here in the Northwest Territories, no, we didn't. We were looking at the opportunity. We were approached by a company that has a patent or has applied for a patent on this type of convertible workforce housing. Based on that information and the opportunity before us, why wouldn't we sit down and talk to them and say let's look at what we can do together to ensure there's housing for people in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Supplementary To Question 412-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, ATCO knows how to market and do their work and I wish ATCO would do our job here, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am using my math. By looking at page 23 of the document the Minister asked me to read, which I read last night, it says \$90 million from Canada CMHC, \$116 to \$120 million...\$9 million from the GNWT, \$10 million from ATCO, \$235 million from MGP, \$60 to \$70 million private. So that works out to 445 plus 60 and, in my simple math, that's over \$500 million and for that this government needs to do due diligence, which I have not seen at all. So I want to ask, who do you call? Make a phone call. Make three phone calls. For \$500 million, who could give the best deal? People of the North deserve that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 412-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't go to any company and say provide housing and we'll have the Mackenzie gas project paid \$235 million for us. Ultimately, Mr. Speaker, what we're hoping to do is take advantage. Just to make it clear for the Member and her simple math, what we're hoping to do is have the Mackenzie gas project purchase a different type of workforce housing. Typically, they would spend \$235 million -- that's our estimates -- on what it would cost for typical workforce housing. What we want to do is have them convertible at the front end so that we can, at a minimum cost, change them over, put them in communities, have them up for sale for citizens in the Northwest Territories, as well as replace some of our aging social housing. So the GNWT's portion at the tail end of this will be in the \$116 million to \$129 million bracket, and that's not just for homes, that's for lots, and lot development, and conversion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 412-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister owes an answer to the people of the North, and the people who are going to live in these trailers, and the taxpayers who are going to put in hundreds of millions of dollars, and that's a simple question and he's avoiding the question. Before he signed a memorandum of agreement with one company, I want to know who has he called. What did he do to look to see who is going to give us the best deal before he goes and tells Imperial this is what we want, which the government said that he did, in his response to my questions. So, Minister, it's a simple question. Has he called, or would he call, and why not if he doesn't want to call? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 412-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Number one, I did not sign the MOU. It is a document that we're honouring. A decision was brought forward, we accepted that. But, Mr. Speaker, when we want to talk about the best value, did we go out there and see if somebody could provide affordable housing in the Northwest Territories, will we go out and do it now? No, we will not go out and do it now. We're into a situation that timelines don't provide for that. But ultimately, Mr. Speaker, let's do the quick math on this. Fourteen hundred units that could potentially be used in the Northwest Territories and you take the math that she's going to, potentially we're trying to get houses in the Northwest Territories for under \$120,000 apiece.

AN HON. MEMBER: That's a good deal.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: So, Mr. Speaker, our math shows that the typical housing that we build in the Northwest Territories right now, goes up to \$160,000 plus. If we can put homes in the Northwest Territories for less than \$120,000, what is wrong with that concept? Thank you.

AN HON. MEMBER: Excellent.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Oral questions, the honourable Member from Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 413-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I am quite proud to admit this afternoon that I am a paid lobbyist. I'm paid by the taxpayers of the Northwest Territories...

AN HON. MEMBER: Yeah.

---Applause

MR. BRADEN: ...in my riding to hold this government to account and I'm going to continue to do that.

AN HON. MEMBER: We work for the taxpayers.

MR. BRADEN: My colleagues from the smaller communities affected by housing crisis are absolutely right that these are desperately needed units, and I am going to do whatever I can to make sure that affordable, decent, sustainable housing is made available to everybody in the NWT.

---Applause

But I am not going to accept, Mr. Speaker, that the first deal that comes along is going to be the right one, and that is the accountability that I want to ask the Minister of Finance about this afternoon. Mr. Speaker, the document here, the government's response to the pre-budget consultations, has a considerable chapter in here on the Novel deal as we know it. It has talked about the memorandum of agreement that we have signed now with ATCO and the MGP on this. Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to find out, what does this agreement commit the Government of the Northwest Territories to? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Roland.

Return To Question 413-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the memorandum of understanding, let's be clear, and it's written down there, the memorandum of understanding is between ourselves and ATCO. Mackenzie gas project hasn't signed this agreement. We're in a situation where they've approached us, they have a patent pending on this and if we're going to take that and work with them through the Housing Corporation and say yes it sounds like a good idea, and then take that and shop it around to three other international companies, wouldn't it be their right to ask if we're going to share this information? We want to keep it confidential because we think we have a potential market. Doesn't that make sense? It's the thing to do, Mr. Speaker, to try and ensure that we meet what's expected of us: accountability and providing services to the people of the Northwest Territories. So, no, Mr. Speaker, there is no dollar attachment; there is no commitment to buy units. Our commitment through this agreement is to work on a concept that maybe can be put forward and if it's accepted by the Mackenzie gas project, we then can have a deal. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 413-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, the note in the information also suggests...it doesn't suggest, it states that there is urgency attached to this. You know, I'd rather put in front of me a plan that talks about sound business practice and good stewardship on behalf of this Assembly and the taxpayers' dollars that we're talking about putting into place here. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister tell me what is the urgency about, and what should we be anticipating with this memorandum of agreement, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 413-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the memorandum of understanding is one where we commit to work with ATCO Structures and the Housing Corporation in sharing ideas and information to see if this concept will work, and is workable, and meets the requirements for affordable, suitable, energy-efficient housing in the Northwest Territories. The urgency around this, Mr. Speaker, is when you look at the Mackenzie gas project, and they're going through the hearing stage, the urgency is the fact that as the Mackenzie gas project prepares to ramp up, or offering out contracts to prepare for this, they're starting to make some of their calls. They've got a window. When the decision is finally made, the window for actual bids and so on to be entered into is very short. We've got to work from that date backwards. The ability for a company to put this many units out to the satisfaction we would have, the work has to be done up front and that's why we've come to this House before any deal has been signed, besides that of basically a confidentiality agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 413-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Okay, we have a confidentiality agreement. Now we've really boxed ourselves in, Mr. Speaker. Can we not go out and seek other ideas and other options for the \$220 million that's on the table here between this government and Canada, and the \$70 million that we're speculating private homeowners are going to be putting out there? That's 300 million bucks. Are we not going to be able now to go out and explore other options? This is it? This is the only deal we have, Mr. Speaker, on \$300 million?

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

Further Return To Question 413-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member talked about accountability himself, being elected as a lobbyist for the people of the Northwest Territories. I, as well, was elected by my constituents and then elected by the Members of this House to lobby on their behalf, as well, and I see an opportunity, Mr. Speaker. I see an opportunity where we can take a product and make some changes and put homes in the hands of residents of the Northwest Territories for substantially cheaper than we can do it in our traditional manner. The timelines that we have to work with, the concept that we've worked with, along with ATCO Structures, is one that is visionary, let me put it that way. The opportunity is there to put homes in the Northwest Territories in the smaller communities at an affordable price. Mr. Speaker, not everybody in the Northwest Territories can afford \$360,000 for a home that's been trucked up the highway and been put on stilts here in Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 413-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, will the Minister make public, will he table the memorandum of agreement that somebody signed with ATCO some time ago? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 413-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, seeing that this is a confidential agreement with ourselves and ATCO, we will have our discussions and look at if that is a possibility. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Question 414-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Fiscal Assurances

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to continue where my Member's statement sort of left off with

some questions to the Premier of this House. Mr. Speaker, every time this letter of comfort is raised on this side of the House it seems that the response we receive back is like we've hit a nerve and this government can't wait to get back and to speak to us harshly and make fools of us as a response. So, Mr. Speaker, I can only imagine at why does it cause such a sensitive issue with this government that they have to strike back by saying that Members are too slow to keep up or whatnot. So my question to the Premier is, what did the citizens of the NWT get as a trade-off for directly signing this letter with Imperial Oil? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 414-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Fiscal Assurances

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the answer is very simple: the more likelihood that the pipeline will be built. This letter was one last piece that was needed in order for the pipeline to move along to the next step in public hearings. Mr. Speaker, if that pipeline goes ahead, we get a lot; and I've mentioned before a list of things that we get, starting with the jobs, and the contracts, and the supply and material, the housing, the \$500 million, which is, in some cases, bigger than what the land claim groups got. We get a lot from this project and I'm proud that we were able to provide a bit of certainty for those who want to invest over \$7.5 billion in our territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 414-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Fiscal Assurances

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that from the Premier, but there seems to be that there's serious defence of this letter. Last week the Premier had said it's unfair to take one little letter...Well, it's not a little letter, Mr. Speaker, it's a big letter; it's a big statement signed by our Premier. So will the Premier admit to me today, and to this House, that a letter written and signed by this Premier is something to be treated seriously as a bold policy statement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 414-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Fiscal Assurances

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, this is a letter of comfort. It's not a policy statement, it's not a contract, it's a letter of comfort saying that we are reasonable people to do business with, and our territory is a place where we're open to do business on a good business basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 414-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Fiscal Assurances

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally I have to admit that the Premier and I are starting to agree. We are reasonable people.

---Laughter

Then, Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is, why did we need to send a three-page letter to say that we will treat these people reasonably? It didn't need to say that we will not necessarily raise taxes. All it had to say was we will treat them fairly and not unlike any other district in Canada. We didn't have to give everything away. So why did that letter just simply not say that we will deal with you fairly and simply? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 414-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Fiscal Assurances

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if the Member doesn't read the letter or doesn't read very well or what, but it doesn't say that we're not going to raise taxes. Mr. Speaker, what it says is that we will maintain a post-devolution royalty regime that will not exceed the royalty burden in the Canadian Petroleum Resources Act. It says we will not increase property taxes disproportionately.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Hawkins, rising on a point of order, what is your point of order, Mr. Hawkins?

Point Of Order

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on a point of order, 23(h) which makes allegations against another MLA alleging I didn't read this letter and don't know what I'm talking about. I think that was wrong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I'm going to allow a little bit of clarification, some debate on this point of order. To the point of order, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I said I don't know if the Member has read it or if he really understood what was in the letter, because he said that this letter says that we're not going to raise taxes and I'm just showing him that this letter doesn't say that. This letter says we're going to be fair. Mr. Speaker, I never said that he didn't read the letter. I don't know if he did, but I questioned whether he really understood it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. To the point of order. The honourable Member from Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Yet again, the Premier says the same thing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Chair did not hear anything that would, in my mind, constitute a point of order. So I'm going to rule that the Member does not have a point of order. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I assume I can finish answering the question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just pointing out to the Member that this letter says we're not going to have a royalty regime that is inconsistent with the Canadian Petroleum Resources Act, that we will not increase property taxes disproportionately. It says that we will not target the Mackenzie gas project

operators. Mr. Speaker, it says that we will work toward a corporate tax agreement by the end of June.

Mr. Speaker, in answer to the Member's allegation that we've somehow committed to not raising property tax, that's completely untrue when I read the letter. It's very clear we're just saying we're not going to be unfair to the Mackenzie gas project. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 414-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Fiscal Assurances

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we want to put a pipeline tax, this says now we're targeting them. So they're going to show up at our door knocking on it with a framed letter of comfort and say, but you said you weren't going to have something to target them. Mr. Speaker, they had nowhere else to go. We're the only pipeline in North America of this size. I mean, we're the only one. So by writing a letter to say that we're not going to unfairly target them, well, geez, if we put a pipeline tax or something similar to that nature, Mr. Speaker, then we're going to be seen as targeting them. They're going to come back. So how does the Minister defend that, or how does the Premier defend that position? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 414-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Fiscal Assurances

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, for the Member's information, there are lots of other pipelines in North America. There are other potential pipelines in Alaska. We're not the only pipeline possible in North America. Mr. Speaker, our government doesn't target anybody. We don't target a pipeline; we don't target a mine; we don't target anything but our taxes, our general application, and we're saying to the company we're going to continue that. Now, Mr. Speaker, this letter is also very clear in saying that this letter does not in some way compromise the rights of future legislative assemblies, future governments to change that. Nothing in this letter constitutes legally binding commitment or obligation of the GNWT or any future governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. The Chair feels compelled to remind Members of your rules around oral questions. We have used up 25 minutes and only gone through three questions so far. So I would like to caution Members to remember the rules around oral questions. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 415-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in follow-up to my Member's statement today, I am also following with great interest the subject of the Novel housing initiative and this project. I am pleased to hear that the government would understand the interests of a company that has taken it upon themselves to go out and spend a fair amount of money investing in the design and the creation of something such as these conversion

units that we've seen and wouldn't then turn around and take all the information that this company generated through their own efforts and then try to shop it around to other companies. Something would seem rather unethical about that approach to doing this. I do think that ATCO is a very reputable company. I think they started off in 1947 with the construction of one trailer. They're recognized internationally as being good at this, and they want to do business with northern participation. Mr. Speaker, I want to see the Novel thing succeed; I want to see the houses make it to the communities. In that regard, I would like to ask whichever Minister wants to answer this, I guess. First of all, there's 1,400 units. How many of those units does the Government of the Northwest Territories, through the Housing Corporation and their programs, think that they can absorb of the 1,400? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. You need to direct your question to somebody; either the Premier or...

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's on the Novel, so Mr. Krutko or...Mr. Krutko. Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

Return To Question 415-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are earmarking half of them to be used to replace our public housing stock, and the other half we're hoping to put out to the private sector so we can accommodate housing for people who want to purchase these units out there.

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

Supplementary To Question 415-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Okay, then I would like to say that although I do applaud the government's initiative in this area, I am questioning and wondering whether the Government of the Northwest Territories is the best vehicle by which to deal with the 700 that might be absorbed by the private sector. It is, potentially, a business opportunity, and I have received calls from some leaders of some aboriginal community corporations who are saying that they would like an opportunity to potentially take up those 700 units, or a portion of them. Has the Minister given any consideration to inviting private companies to participate in the setting up, the distribution, the sale of those other 700 units? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 415-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're hoping that once we proceed forward with this idea and once we know it's basically been endorsed as the concept by Mackenzie pipeline group, at that

process then we will do consultations in communities, identify where the needs are, sit down with the private sector in regards to dealing with the logistic transportation costs, the land development idea that we have. There's a major development scenario around this. We know we can't do it by ourselves and we will have to consult with the private sector, the aboriginal community and people in communities. We are looking at a consultation process that will move forward once we get approval on this idea. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 415-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In moving forward, I would think it would be better to survey the potential interest out there sooner than later. I would like to see some form of communication go out as early on as now, sort of explaining the concept to some of the community corporations and saying that the government is intending to take these units and do this with them, and there may be the potential for some economic activity with the others if somebody would like to take it up. I'd like to see that discussion take place sooner than later. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 415-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are looking at a communication plan which we are hoping to get as many people from the aboriginal leaders, community leaders, the business community and get them on board on exactly how we can deliver this. It is a major capital undertaking. We realize we can't do it by ourselves, so we are open to dialogue with people in the private sector and the community leaders. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final, short supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 415-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that we should share some of the benefits and share some of the risk, as well. I think the sooner you can get commitments from corporations, community corporations, small communities, because I am still concerned about what the impact could be in some of the market communities if there was an influx of a lot of housing. But in the smaller communities, I think we need to offer that opportunity; like I said, share the benefits and share the risk. Would the Minister be prepared to put out something, communications-wise, to the small communities at this time? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 415-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, once we get endorsement for

this idea, once we know it's going to proceed, we are developing a communications plan to get to communities, get the people out in the public, making them aware what it's going to take to deliver this program. More important, work with the private sector, the communities, and identify those people that we're going to be putting into these 1,400 units. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

Question 416-15(4): Need For RCMP In Sachs Harbour

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated on numerous occasions, the concern raised by the Sachs Harbour residents regarding RCMP presence. I'll try to be very brief and to the point. With the recent incident involving a dangerous use of a firearm in Sachs Harbour, my question is for the Minister, Honourable Brendan Bell, Minister of Justice. When will the Department of Justice address the concern raised by the residents of Sachs Harbour by providing the necessary RCMP personnel? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

Return To Question 416-15(4): Need For RCMP In Sachs Harbour

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've made the commitment to the Member in this House that I will meet at my earliest opportunity with the new Minister for Public Safety and raise this issue. I have, last week, taken the opportunity to meet with the chief superintendent of the RCMP; expressed my concerns around the ability of our current policing arrangement to adequately provide services in Sachs Harbour because of the remote nature of this community. The incident the Member has highlighted here I think was one in which we responded very, very well. The RCMP were very quick on the ground as in the follow-up, as the Member mentioned, but I have concerns, should bad weather have arisen or some other thing, that we do need a presence there. So I'll raise it at my earliest opportunity with the new Minister. I do have the support of the chief superintendent who is having his staff conduct an inventory on the ground to assess, in fact, how our assets look and what we would need in terms of refurbishment. Because, as I've mentioned, it's the federal government that has to pay the bill for this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 416-15(4): Need For RCMP In Sachs Harbour

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand...(inaudible)...We're just happy the weather cooperated when the incident happened. I understand that there's two RCMP members presently investigating the incident. I'm just wondering if the Minister can ask the RCMP headquarters here if they can remain there for a month. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 416-15(4): Need For RCMP In Sachs Harbour

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course we need adequate facilities in the community in order to provide a detachment; we need a residence. I'm not sure of the condition of those facilities now, and that is what the RCMP have undertaken to do, assess those assets. I think what we need to do is come up with a comprehensive plan, not just sort of arbitrarily decide that they will remain there for a month. As the Member knows, the RCMP makes its own operational decisions. We provide funding and strategic guidance. So what I would like to do is conduct that assessment and come back to the federal Minister and to the chief superintendent with a game plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 416-15(4): Need For RCMP In Sachs Harbour

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now, I know that the RCMP residence in Sachs Harbour is operable because I was there just earlier in January. I understand that it's being used by one of the local teachers there at no cost, so I'm just wondering, with the residence available, can the Minister at least try to have somebody remain there. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 416-15(4): Need For RCMP In Sachs Harbour

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The arrangement that we have for police coverage in our smallest communities, the 13 without detachments, is that in the case of emergencies, they'll be serviced out of one of the largest centres. Mr. Speaker, if we're going to have a permanent presence in Sachs, which is my goal and my aim here, we have to make sure that the facilities are adequate on the ground.

One of the other things that we're looking at is if we can't afford to have two full-time police personnel at all times on the ground in the community, could we potentially have some other type of peace officer, or a wildlife officer, be in the community in addition to one full-time officer. So there are a number of different options that we're looking at. We think this can be a template for other smaller communities, so we want to make sure we've got this right and have a comprehensive plan, and I'll commit to coming up with that comprehensive plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Question 417-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask a question to the Minister of Housing in terms of the Novel manufactured homes. Mr. Speaker, I've seen those homes and people have lived in these homes, similar types, in the North and they're good homes. So the units needs to be upgraded; however, I believe that will be done in time. I want to ask the Minister in terms of these manufactured homes, specifically for our region. What is

the Minister doing, or planning to do, to get information, to get the people in our region talking about all the different opportunities that will be involved in this type of initiative in terms of meetings in our regions and other regions? What is the Minister doing and when can we expect something like that to happen? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for Housing, Mr. Krutko.

Return To Question 417-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I stated in this House earlier, we are proceeding, as was laid out by Cabinet to myself, on negotiating the Novel arrangement along with my federal counterpart, Mr. Fontana, in which we submitted a proposal to the federal government. Once we receive approval of those dollars to proceed, then we will be taking the next step of consulting communities by way of meeting directly with each community and also hosting community workshops so that we can inform the regions, communities, and people up and down the Mackenzie Valley on exactly how we're going to proceed and how we will have to move on identifying lots to be developed and also how we're going to move these into communities and identify the human resource that we're going to need to do the conversions in those communities, working with the local communities and the business community to be able to move forward on this proposal. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 417-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the conclusion of these negotiations the Minister's going to have with the federal government Minister and looking at ATCO. In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister here in terms of there's a high core need of housing in the Sahtu, specifically Colville Lake has 75 percent of core needs. What is the Minister doing between now and the time the deal is completed, and done, and wrapped up, in terms of this Novel manufactured homes? What is the Minister planning to do now in between? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 417-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I noted in the report to Committee of the Whole, we are proceeding with a proposal that we put forward to the federal government to build 500 houses in the next three years, which we are moving forward on the first part of that initiative where we're hoping to build 118 houses this year. A lot of those houses have been identified for the high core need communities. So that's the first step, is to get the 500 houses on the ground, and then the second phase is to move forward with the Novel concept at the end of the construction of the pipeline. So that is our plan moving forward: 500 houses over the next three years, and, after that, 1,400 houses of the Novel.

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

Supplementary To Question 417-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister's indicated to the House here in terms of negotiations with the federal Minister on the ATCO concept. I want to ask the Minister in terms of what is his department doing in terms of preparing local employment of people who are ready to take the training, people who are ready to get on board with the ATCO, should it go through with the successful negotiation in terms of preparing our people to start developing these skills at certain locations in the North, also in Calgary. When can we see a blitz on deployment of these homes? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 417-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to the affordable housing funding that was earmarked by the federal government, the 1.6 billion; in that, there was a major component which included resources dollars to train people, especially in aboriginal communities, to take advantage of the different trades, the building trades that we're going to need these people in. So, Mr. Speaker, we are working, along with our federal counterpart -- CMHC -- to develop a human resource plan to go along with the introduction to federal dollars that will be expended. So we will be able to train people on the worksites with the first 500 houses we get on the ground, and have those people ready and trained so when Novel comes around, we have already identified the human resources to do it. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

Supplementary To Question 417-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister provide to me in terms of the type of dollars that will stay in the Northwest Territories as a result of this type of a deal that we're talking about in terms of Novel, in terms of material, employment, supplying, in terms of what type of dollars will stay in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 417-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a large component of the \$200 million that has been identified will be spent in the Northwest Territories. A major component of that, we're looking at almost \$860 million which will be spent on the human resource labour force that we're going to need, which encompasses some 1.2 million person hours of employment. Also in regards to the logistics, we're looking at spending almost \$200 million to get these units into communities, site development work that's going to be needed. So a major portion of these dollars we're expending as a government

will be expended in the Northwest Territories and also create employment after the pipeline project goes, somewhere in the range of three or four years of employment. So that will stimulate our Northwest Territories economy. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Question 418-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My question today is also for the Minister of Housing just with respect to some of the initiatives that they have, and Novel is one of the big ones that is making lots of media attention in Yellowknife and throughout the North. I just want to say that as a representative from a riding that desperately needs housing, that the Novel housing makes sense to my people. They're saying if you're going to bring up these units for construction and convert them to homes, that's a good idea. So I'm here to say that there's good quality homes out there and some innovative solutions converting these workplace trailers into homes. That makes sense to me and it makes sense to my people, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am concerned about accountability, Mr. Speaker. So one of the questions I would ask the Minister is tell us, is the Minister and is this government actively lobbying Imperial to buy this product? Is there some secret backroom deal that this side of the House doesn't know about? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 418-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are ongoing discussions with the Mackenzie pipeline group in regards to how we can obtain these units after the project is over. Our opening suggestions go in and we tried to get it at zero and we take it over on site, but that's part of the negotiations. There is ongoing negotiations that are taking place. But again, the federal government, who plays a very important role on this, is also involved through CMHC. CMHC is the group that we're hoping to be able to finance the front end, and the dollars we invest will be used to basically get these units into communities, get the land developed, and do the conversions in communities. So we're looking at doing most of the site development work using our money and also generate the employment for people to do the conversions. So right now there is no price set on exactly what the purchase cost of these are.

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

Supplementary To Question 418-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. All these millions that we're throwing out there, like 160, 190, 250, 500 million, is that actual expenditures today, Mr. Speaker? Where's all this money coming from? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 418-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, zero dollars have been exchanged to this date. No money has switched hands. It's simply developing a business case to buy a product down the road. We have not exchanged any dollars. We have not made any financial commitments at this time. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 418-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Does part of the vision of housing our north, does that include having northern opportunities, training a northern sustainable workforce to create these houses and many other houses that are to come, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 418-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising From Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like I stated to Mr. Yakeleya, we are working with CMHC to access the 500 units we want to put on the ground in the next three years. As part of delivering those 500 units, we want to develop also a human resource component and ensure that the monies stay in the aboriginal communities. So that is the very important component for the next three years for the 500 units. But as part of doing that, we also are developing a human resource plan for the Novel housing on exactly what logistical costs are going to be associated and what training's going to be needed to do the conversation. So we're trying to put these two projects together. First three years, get the people trained on the 500 houses we're going to be putting in communities, identify those people at the front end and use the same people to do the conversion with Novel once we take them into communities. So we will identify the human resources with the 500 units over the next three years.

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

Supplementary To Question 418-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising from Mackenzie Gas Project

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. By my best estimate, I think that construction of the pipeline will probably take place in 2009, around that area. That is still a little ways down the road. Is the corporation looking at any pilot programs for this type of program? I know that each and every one of the communities in my riding could use a pilot project.

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

Further Return To Question 418-15(4): Housing Opportunities Arising from Mackenzie Gas Project

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we were looking at a pilot project by way of the Deh Cho Bridge, looking at these as workforce camps and then converting them into Fort Providence. That proposal is out there, but we are open to other potential

opportunities that may come our way. We are talking about the expansion on the Taltson hydro system. Maybe we could use this sort of concept there in that context. Again, if there are any other opportunities out there, we should seriously consider them and work with communities, especially if these opportunities come away. We are open to other potential opportunities that are out there.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Oral questions. The honourable Member from Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Question 419-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Funding

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Premier and I go back again to the statement I had earlier today about the socio-economic impact on our communities and how, in my belief, the Government of the Northwest Territories hasn't addressed the impacts that are going to be felt in all of our communities, only the 22 along the pipeline route.

On Monday, the Premier did mention that negotiations were held with the communities who would potentially be impacted by the pipeline development. I am interested to find out how the determination was made on who would be potentially impacted by this development. That is my first question. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 419-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, there were several parties to the discussion. Of course, the major partner in this negotiation was the federal government. The federal government indicated that they would only speak with those groups who either had a settled claim or a right to a claim along the pipeline route. They determined that that is the group that would be directly impacted and that is who the \$500 million negotiations were to be directed toward and resulted in an agreement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 419-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Funding

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for that. If the Government of the Northwest Territories isn't going to stand up and defend municipalities that, by all assumptions, you don't have to look too far...I know the Premier is from Yellowknife and he's lived here for a number of years. There has been an impact here because of resource development. You can't say there isn't going to be. I would like to ask the Premier if the Government of the Northwest Territories isn't going to stand up for municipalities and demand socio-economic impact funding for them, who will?

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

Further Return To Question 419-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, we are the public government in the Northwest Territories. We have a responsibility to all citizens in this territory. Mr. Speaker, we have worked with the Mackenzie Valley claimant organizations and communities along the valley to ensure that there was a process in place to make sure their socio-economic impact was dealt with. We also worked with the regions and the communities that were impacted by the mines and supported them in their right to have a benefit agreement. We were not party to those agreements, but we did make sure we did have that.

Mr. Speaker, the main way that we are going to be able to deal with the impact of development in the Northwest Territories for all people regardless of which community they live in is going to be through resource revenue sharing. We have to have the federal government agree with us that a fair share of those resources come here, and our position is that we have to be the primary beneficiaries. That's the money we are going to use to deal with socio-economic impacts and to deal with future economic opportunities and so on. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 419-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Funding

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I do agree with the Premier. I think resource revenue sharing and having our own say in how we develop sources in the Northwest Territories will get us to where we need to go. In the meantime, until such an agreement is in place, I wonder if the Premier and his government can go back to Ottawa on behalf of communities like Yellowknife, like Hay River, like Fort Smith, and get some socio-economic funding for them. I am not talking about the \$500 million. I have said it before and I will say it again, that money should go to the communities. I agree with that. What we need is a different pot of money, Mr. Speaker, that is going to give communities, like Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith, an opportunity to have some assurance the impacts they are going to face are going to be dealt with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 419-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We certainly will, when we talk with the Prime Minister and Ministers in Ottawa, make the case that all of the North is feeling the impact of our very strong, vibrant economy. We are all feeling it, whether it's Yellowknife or Behchoko, Colville Lake or wherever. We are all feeling that. Mr. Speaker, my preference is not so much to go to Ottawa to ask for some money for socio-economic needs and a little bit of money for transportation and a little bit for the water system. Rather, I would say to the federal government those are all good reasons why we need a share of the resource revenues to stay right here and then we will make our own choices. I think that's a better approach. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 419-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Funding

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess, Mr. Speaker, what we can agree on is we do need some say in our own affairs and we need to get these agreements signed with Ottawa, and the sooner, the better. The one thing I wanted to ask the Premier, the last supplementary is, it seems to me that we settled on something. We settled on \$500 million and I just get the feeling that that was the number that was presented to us. We took it. It didn't help everybody, but I just wonder why did we settle on \$500 million?

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

Further Return To Question 419-15(4): Mackenzie Gas Project Socio-Economic Funding

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The first number that was offered to us as a serious offer that the federal government thought we would jump at was \$60 million total. Mr. Speaker, that was absolutely inadequate. That made no sense from our view or from the aboriginal leaders' view. So we rejected that \$60 million. It went up to \$90 million and then it continued up. Eventually, Mr. Speaker, as with all things, you have to make a deal at some point. Rather than have everybody walk away, there was a feeling, a consensus among the aboriginal leaders and ourselves, after a lot of discussions back and forth, that the \$500 million was adequate. That \$500 million, Mr. Speaker, as I recall correctly, was a number that we put on the table. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 420-15(4): Tlicho Winter Road

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) I want to talk about the ice roads. (Translation ends)

...high fuel costs and concerns about global warming, which has a significant impact in isolated communities. Last week, Mr. Speaker, during my visit to the Tlicho riding, the key concern was raised on the winter road to the communities. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to ask the Minister, in the Corridors for Canada II proposal, there is \$12.2 million identified to align the Tlicho winter road. Where is the winter road being aligned and will this help extend the life of the winter road? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. McLeod.

Return To Question 420-15(4): Tlicho Winter Road

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the number in the Corridors for Canada II is an estimate on some of the technical information that we have gathered over the last while. We have, over the last couple of years, met on a number of occasions with the leadership of the people of Whati and Wekweeti and talked about various issues around transportation, including the realignment of the winter road to take advantage of the road being on land versus being on the lakes. This has been a concern for some time. The

warmer weather has been causing problems and it's causing significant problems this year, as most people know.

We've taken a snapshot of where the road was going to go -- and a lot of the maps that we've been using are maps that were supplied by the Tlicho leadership -- and we had to come up with an estimate and these are the calculations that we've come forward with based on some of the information that was provided to us. We did want to have further discussions with the Tlicho leadership over the next while and we have done significant research that we'd like to share, and they've also committed to providing more information in terms of other areas that we should look at realigning. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 420-15(4): Tlicho Winter Road

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm glad to hear the realignment is more focused on the land versus the lake or the ice because that's becoming a huge issue in the communities.

Mr. Speaker, the next question I would like to ask is, why is the only work being done for the Slave Geological Province all-weather road being done on the Ingraham Trail when there's a huge demand for all-weather roads to the Tlicho communities now? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 420-15(4): Tlicho Winter Road

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, there has been work done on the Tlicho winter road. We've done some work in terms of looking at realignment. We've done some minor improvements such as widening the road and things of that nature. In terms of building, I'm assuming the Member is requesting why we haven't invested in an all-weather road. Up to now, there has been no coordinated support from the communities to come forward and approve that. The Treaty 11 Tribal Council had indicated some time ago that there was no desire to see an all-weather road and we have requested to the communities that have come forward to talk about a new route or all-weather road that would be part of this whole idea to provide us with a letter of comfort and we have not seen that to date. We haven't seen any BCR...

---Interjection

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I've not seen a BCR or any letters from the community governments, to date, indicating that they're interested in an all-weather road. They have indicated to us verbally that they are wanting to talk about that. We have committed that we will start working towards putting a proposal together for the Tlicho communities and we have already started on that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 420-15(4): Tlicho Winter Road

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd just like to focus on the previous Assembly where the Minister of Transportation at that time made a commitment to the North Slave MLA at that time to pursue with DIAND an all-weather road for the Tlicho region. I would like to ask the current Minister of Transportation what the status is on these commitments that were made in the previous government? Mahsi.

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

Further Return To Question 420-15(4): Tlicho Winter Road

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have had several discussions with the Department of Indian Affairs. They've invested in this road. They've, this year, allocated additional dollars for this road. We've also managed to set up a partnership arrangement for the road that was leading into Colomac and also into Wekweeti. We are now, as a department, the oversight agency that looks after all the winter roads. This was in response to the chief of Wekweeti wanting us to arrange so that the season could be open longer. Over the history of this road there is only, I think, a one-month window that the community is able to get in and out. So we have taken over the responsibility of managing that project and we're hoping that we will be able to open the road earlier and extend the season.

The indication, as the Member has referenced as to money being earmarked as part of the budget for Corridors for Canada II is, I think would be very obvious that we are very interested in developing this road. As resource development continues to put pressures on our winter road systems, we are really being pressured by the communities to do so. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for oral questions has expired. I will allow the Member a final supplementary. Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 420-15(4): Tlicho Winter Road

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister indicated, Treaty 11 didn't have the desire to proceed with the all-weather road at that time. But with the global warming, the thinking has changed where there's a new desire now from the communities that we visited last week, the three communities that have the winter road access, Mr. Speaker. New government, new initiative, new resolution will be forthcoming. That's been that message the day that I met with the chiefs.

Anyways, Mr. Speaker, my final question is, it's hard to say there will be a winter road this year to the two outlying communities with the weather changes, which those two communities fully utilize the winter road, which has a huge impact on the communities and also GNWT as a whole. I'd like to ask the Minister if he would commit to developing an action plan to pursue all-weather road initiative in the Tlicho region and also meet with the Tlicho representative as soon as possible, particularly dealing with the corridors for Highway No. 2? Maybe part of that plan can be an all-weather road. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 420-15(4): Tlicho Winter Road

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have no problem making that commitment. Up to now we've been getting some mixed messages from the Tlicho leadership in terms of community leaders versus the regional leaders. We are looking forward to more work in this area. We hope that we'll be able to get a good understanding of what the communities want. We have committed and are planning a trip through the Member's riding this spring and we'll have the opportunity to have some good open discussion about where we want to go with this. We have already embarked on doing some of the technical research. We are looking at the economic business case of roads in the Tlicho region. So we have come part way on it. We have a lot of work to do. We need the communities to be there to support it and work with us on it. So I certainly will commit to working with the communities, working with the Member and the leadership of the Tlicho. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for oral questions has expired. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Point Of Order

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My apologies, but just on reflection a few minutes ago I realized in thinking about the responses from the Premier, I had only thought of it a moment ago that he'd just said I could not read. So I'd like to call the Premier on a point of order under 23(k) and (l). This is the earliest moment I had thought about this and reading Beauchesne's book, under 319 a Member is entitled, even bound, to bring this to the Speaker's attention immediately that they've noticed that. Like I say, it just occurred to me as I was thinking about this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker's Ruling

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Member has risen on a point of order. Mr. Hawkins, the point of order that you're referring to was referring to comments made by the Premier in response to a question earlier today. I'm going to rule that point of order should have been brought up at the time. We're going from memory now from previous comments that were made in the House. So I'm going to rule that you do not have a point of order based on it should have been brought up at the time the comments were made.

Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to the opening address. . Petitions. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. The honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 87-15(4): Energy Conservation Action Plan Update, February 8, 2006

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled, Energy Conservation Action Plan Update, February 8, 2006. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Tabled Document 88-15(4): NGOs Getting Short End Of Stick

Tabled Document 89-15(4): Request For Short And Long-Term Funding Assistance

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table two documents. Both of them are from the YWCA of Yellowknife. One is a press release dated February 10th entitled NGOs Getting Short End of the Stick, and another one a letter from the president of the board of the YWCA of Yellowknife to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding long-term multi-year funding agreements with non-government organizations, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Tabling of documents. Notices of motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 14-15(4): Recognition Of Deline As The Birthplace Of Hockey

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, February 23rd, 2006, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that this Legislative Assembly recognizes Deline, Northwest Territories, as the birthplace of ice hockey.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Notices of motion. Notices of motion for the first reading of bills. Motions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion he gave notice of earlier today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. The motion is being circulated to Members now. Mr. Yakeleya, you can proceed with your motion.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 14-15(4): Recognition Of Deline As The Birthplace Of Hockey, Carried

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, honourable colleagues.

WHEREAS ice hockey is Canada's number one sport;

AND WHEREAS Sir John Franklin's writings refer to hockey being played on the ice of Grey Goose Lake near the present-day community of Deline, formerly Fort Franklin, by the shores of Great Bear Lake, in October 1825;

AND WHEREAS Sir John Franklin's writings of 1825 predate other documents referring to hockey being played on ice in Windsor, Nova Scotia; Dartmouth, Nova Scotia; and Kingston, Ontario; all of which have claimed to be the birthplace of hockey;

AND WHEREAS ice hockey continues to be a favourite pastime, and a fundamental part of the social and recreational fabric of Deline and communities across the Northwest Territories and Canada;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that this Legislative Assembly recognizes Deline, Northwest Territories, as the birthplace of ice hockey.

---Applause

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I brought this up some time ago. I was quite surprised, Mr. Speaker, when I was in Deline and they were talking about Sir John Franklin's diary or some reference to his writing in terms of having Deline as the birthplace of ice hockey in Canada. I noticed over the last couple of years, there was some controversy in terms of the birth of ice hockey in Canada. It's good to know that there was some reference in Sir John Franklin's writing in terms of stating that they had some indication of ice hockey being played in 1825. That's a long time ago. That was way up in the stars yet, Mr. Speaker, in terms of those dates here.

But, Mr. Speaker, the North is also known as or referred to as the last frontier. However, Mr. Speaker, being the last frontier in Canada sometimes means being first by digging up old history records. Mr. Speaker, our great game of hockey is given credit by being the first place in Canada made reference to ice hockey in the Northwest Territories, especially in Deline.

Mr. Speaker, Sir John Franklin quoted in his diary in regards to ice hockey. He wrote, till the snow fell, the game of hockey, played on the ice, was the morning sport. Mr. Speaker, that's ever so true in today's history of Canada's great game that a lot of children, a lot of people, including some Members who are here in the Legislative Assembly, play hockey early in the morning. Mr. Speaker, I won't name names right now, but we have a great time.

Mr. Speaker, only 20 years later we also made reference to a document referring to ice hockey or hockey and that was in Windsor, Ontario.

AN HON. MEMBER: Twenty years behind.

MR. YAKELEYA: Twenty years behind. Canada, you know, the Northwest Territories, we're light years ahead of Canada in terms of our favourite national sport here. It's been supported and recognized by a lot of hockey moms, a lot of hockey parents here, and we choose and aspire all our children to be number one in the NHL and Canada and looking at the world now. We got our Canadian women hockey team that's outscoring our opponents in the Olympics here, you know. We've come a long way, you know, and it all began in the small little last frontier in Canada: the cold lake of Great Bear Lake, on the ponds of Grey Goose. This is where it started. So Canada should

be really appreciative, you know, not only of the resources that we have, but also of our favourite pastime such as ice hockey.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that the puck stops here in the Northwest Territories and it stops in Deline. You know? We have to recognize this legislation to give its rightful birthplace and recognize and support the community of Deline, support these types of sacrifices made by all parents in the Northwest Territories to see that hockey was born in the North here by northerners and that's our contribution to Canada in terms of what we have to give. It goes back a long, long time, so I want to say that we should now consider having Hockey Night in Deline instead of Hockey Night in Canada.

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to say that this is a golden opportunity for tourism, promoting Deline, promoting Great Bear Lake. You can catch a big fish and you can play a nice game of hockey. As a matter of fact, when I was playing hockey there a couple years ago I won; no, we lost, our team lost, but I was chosen as the most valuable player. They usually give us trophies, but the people, they must be very kind and generous because, Mr. Speaker, when we were given our most valuable prizes, they gave a big trout for a prize in Deline. I thought it was wonderful.

So the uniqueness of hockey in Canada starts in the North. So I want to say that in terms helping out the North and helping out Canada, that we can support hockey in Deline by promoting it as a tourism opportunity in our brochures or other avenues if we support this and look at how we can do that, and also letting Canada know that the Northwest Territories, especially the people in the North here, are true hockey players up here. Thank you very much.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy today to support the Member for the Sahtu in recognizing the community of Deline and the Northwest Territories as being the true birthplace of hockey in Canada, and I think it's a tremendous opportunity that the Northwest Territories has, and the community of Deline, to market and promote ourselves and actually fight for the opportunity or the recognition of being the birthplace of hockey. I know other communities in Canada do try to take the distinction of being the birthplace of hockey, but Mr. Speaker, I think we should meet them in the corner and fight them for that distinction.

Also, I wanted to also mention the fact that the new Prime Minister, Mr. Stephen Harper, is a noted hockey historian and some people might not know that, but he's currently writing a book on the history of hockey in Canada and it may be a perfect opportunity to get Mr. Harper to come to the Northwest Territories and come to Deline and see the real birthplace of hockey.

---Interjection

MR. RAMSAY: Again, Mr. Speaker, I'm very happy to be seconding the motion that's before us today. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. To the motion. The honourable Member for Weledeh, the honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had always hoped to find evidence that Meadow Lake was the home of hockey. But given the evidence that the Member has presented today, then I concede that most likely it looks like it was Deline and I certainly vote in support of this.

Mr. Speaker, knowing that the Prime Minister is a hockey historian, I will also commit to bringing this motion to his attention when I meet with him next week.

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, I want to just advise Members that Cabinet will be exercising a free vote on this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. To the motion. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya, did you have any closing comments for the motion?

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the support from the Members. Like they say in hockey, may the best team come out winning.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Motions. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 18, Committee Reports 5, 6, and 7, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I call Committee of the Whole to order. When we left yesterday, we had the Minister of Transportation before us and we were considering the general comments on Transportation. What is the wish of committee today? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: To continue with Transportation.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Very good. We will do that after a brief break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I call Committee of the whole back to order. I would like to ask Minister McLeod, responsible for Transportation, if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Yes, I would, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Is the committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Then we will ask Mr. Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses

to the witness table and then we will resume with general comments on the Department of Transportation.

I would like to welcome Mr. Auger and Mr. Neudorf back into the Chamber today. We are on page 10-10, department summary, information item...To the detail of the Department of Transportation, department summary, information item, revenue summary, I have Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: With respect to revenue summary on 10-10, Madam Chair, on a recent trip over to Fort Liard with regard to raising revenue from registrations there, there are a couple of...There is some oil activity out there and some leases out there. Lots of vehicles coming in and out of the territory. Their vehicles are being parked. Actually, they come into the park and they are going out to the leases just out of Fort Liard. They are parking their trucks there for almost a year. Constituents were saying trucks are there for over six months. In terms of road licensing and safety, I think there's a requirement that if you are going to be having an extended stay in our territory, that there is a requirement in order to register your automobile and your vehicle in our great Northwest Territories. So they are saying, geez, Kevin, there are lots of trucks out there. I don't know if we have enforcement officers with road licensing that goes out to leases to see how long those vehicles have been there, but they are saying it's a possible source of lost revenue if we aren't there checking these vehicles. In fact, they are in our territory for free. They are sitting there for about a year and they aren't transferring their registrations over. I would just like to ask the ministry how road licensing and safety is collected in our communities and regions, particularly off highway on the leases, the kind of situation I brought up, Madam Chair. With that, Madam Chair.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we require all vehicles, whether it's large transport trucks or heavy equipment or passenger vehicles, to be registered if they are going to be on our highway system. That also includes our winter road systems, the ones that we maintain, and also our ice roads. Any projects that are off our highway system, such as mine sites, are not obligated to fall under the same regulations. So they would not be required to be registered if they were on an oil lease or a mine site; private property, Madam Chair.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. So even though they're spending extended time at the mines, as well, I would imagine, what is the requirement, then, to convert their licensing in the North? What are the rules or guidelines that govern this?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. There is a three-month grace period, I guess it would be referenced as, that a company or individual can operate their vehicle. There is a requirement to then transfer their registration and get the proper licensing to operate on the highway system. However, again, that doesn't apply on

private property such as mine sites and oil exploration sites.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think the issue was brought up, particularly for Fort Liard, because as soon as we operate in a jurisdiction like B.C., they are forcing our operators to convert their plates and buy into their registration system right away. So they are saying if they are doing that to us, why aren't we doing that to them? I don't know if it's tit for tat. I don't know if it's intended to be a tit-for-tat rule, but it's only right, as well. If they are going to be operating in our North for extended periods, they have to convert and buy and be registered in our northern territory. On a private lease, I can see that they don't have to register in the North if they are going to keep that equipment on a private lease. But when they are driving out nine months later, or a year later, I don't know if they are getting out free, but they had been in the North. I wonder if the Minister would care to comment on his view on any regulation that would require extended stays to convert their licensing over to the GNWT. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Our legislation is pretty well parallel to what other jurisdictions have. There is a requirement for any operators that go into B.C. and work there for a period longer than a set time frame of three months, and we have the same requirements. If we can prove that an operator has been in the Territories, whether it's a commercial company or a private individual, we will have charges laid. It's fairly difficult, of course, to prove in the case of a private individual unless there is some type of paper trail where we could follow-up in terms of rents. I don't know what the case may be, but in terms of the trucking industry, there are log books that our people are allowed to inspect on a routine basis, so we can prove that fairly easily.

Those rules are there. We have them in place. Our highway patrol officers inspect them. The RCMP inspect them and they are pretty well the same as other jurisdictions use such as Yukon and B.C.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Something interesting that happens to our businesses and equipment that operate in B.C., Madam Chair, I don't know if it's applicable under Transportation or not, but it's something similar. If we do work in B.C., our equipment and our businesses are taxed right away. Even though we have our own form of protection, they do that in B.C., as well. I think they charge the company the sales tax on equipment that runs in B.C. So a piece of equipment like a water truck that goes from Fort Liard to B.C., not only are they trying to gain revenue from work over there, but on top of that, the B.C. government sends that company a bill for eight or 10 percent for that piece of equipment's value. So they are taxing our equipment to work in B.C. Is that something we should be doing as well, Madam Chair, for increased revenues? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am not sure if I am the right person to answer that. We do have certain charges in terms of taxes that we apply. We require that the companies pay a fuel tax for fuel consumed in the Northwest Territories. We also charge fees for permits for wide loads, long loads, other things of that nature. If the Member is asking for anything more than that, we would have to reference that to the Finance Minister because I am not aware of the specifics on the taxes that he's inquiring about as to working in another jurisdiction.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't want to get into too many specifics with that. Also, I see on that particular line item for registrations alone, there is an increase of \$120,000. Perhaps the Minister can explain that, as well.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, can we ask the Member to be a little more specific as to which line item he's referring to?

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, I believe we are on page 10-10. It's the line item road licensing and registrations. There is an increase of \$120,000 over last year. Does that mean more trucks running in the North? Just with that, Madam Chair.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, the answer is yes. In part, that's what that means. It's also based on an adjustment from 2004 and an actual revenue increase projection.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Next on the list I have Mr. Braden and then Mr. Lee. Before I do that, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize in the visitor's gallery a constituent of mine and, of course, the brother of our Minister of Health and Social Services, Jean Marc Miltenberger. He's a businessman in Hay River.

---Applause

Welcome. Next I have Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. On a similar area to what Mr. Menicoche was asking about in terms of fees and revenues, I wanted to ask specifically about airports and some information on this page, Madam Chair, that indicates we are going from an anticipated \$1.8 million in airport landing and other fees this current year, to a forecast \$2.4 million; about a 30 percent hike. I am wondering if the Minister could provide some explanation of where that increase is coming from. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is part of the airport expansion project. To provide for the cost recovery, what we are doing is increasing the landing fee and the general terminal fee starting this year to recover the \$6.6 million investment in the Yellowknife Airport.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. This was not unanticipated. It was something that I was disappointed in when this first came up. I was compelled to make some investments to meet standards that the Canadian Air Transport Safety Association was imposing, but I guess where my disappointment was where we decided to collect 100 percent of these additional fees, and that's a \$6.6 million investment entirely from increased fees at the airport.

So I wanted to ask, has the department looked at all other ways and means of absorbing some of this cost, Madam Chair, so that it is not entirely borne by the travelling public? Of course, it is the public, the people who fly and the people who use the airport for freight and other services that will have to pay for this. Is there no other avenue that we could use to absorb some of this cost, Madam Chair?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, the total project was \$11.2 million. That included all the baggage screening mechanisms, and conveyor belts, and all that's required for the security portion that CATSA's required us to put in the airport. There was also, as part of this project, an expansion of the actual airport and parking lot on the other side, and we put an annex on the airport and we've also increased, generally, the space at the airport. Of that cost, it totalled up to \$6.6 million. FMB had directed us to do it on a cost recovery basis. This is the only portion that we are targeting to recover. The rest is being covered off by CATSA. So \$6.6 million is the portion that we are in the process of recovering. We're planning to do it over a 10-year period and, yes, we have looked at every avenue we could think of to try to get other ways to finance it. It doesn't qualify on a number of programs that we tried to target it at, and this was, we felt, one of the better options and, more than likely, the only option of recovering this money.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Does the Minister have any indication of how this is going to affect the cost of flying in and out of Yellowknife? What is the impact of this on that expense? We all know that that is frequently the number one issue that's raised when it comes to the expense of living in the North, is the cost of transport, the cost of flying. Here we are imposing yet more cost on it and just what is the impact on us and, in fact, on government itself? The GNWT is a pretty big air traveller and this is going to come back and bite us in our own pocketbook. Thanks, Madam Chair.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, yes, we did take a look at how it would impact that travellers that are using our airports and we did cost it out. We are estimating it will cost them an average of \$3 per ticket. It would add \$3 per ticket and, no, we didn't break out the costing for what the government employees travelling on the airlines, we didn't break that number out to see what that would come out to.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Also on the same page is a line regarding lease and rental revenue also under airports, but there's a decline shown there; my number is about 10 percent or so. If we're increasing fees in other areas, how is it that we're anticipating a decrease in lease and rental revenues, Madam Chair?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, the number of 2005-06 were estimations. We have adjusted our numbers for 2006-07 on actuals and so we feel this number is closer to the actual revenue in that budget line.

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

MR. BRADEN: Well, okay. I'm looking at a revised target for 2005-06 at about \$2.2 million. The estimate for the coming year is about 1.9. Well, okay, if we're still comparing targets and forecasts here, then I don't know if my question really stands, Madam Chair. I guess I can only say that looking at the information here it is on revised estimates, but it still shows a drop of 10 percent in revenue.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the 2005-06 revised estimates of \$2.2 million is still a target. We've adjusted, it based on actuals, and we're using the new number of \$1.978 million.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Next I have Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. My questions are in the same area or the same topic and I think Mr. Braden covered most of them. I just have one question about what the time span is in which the government is supposed to recover the cost of renovating airports that are being recovered through landing and other fees. Is there a set period, or are we going to keep collecting until we pay whatever amount down? Could I just get that information? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, the plan to recover the \$6.6 million is over a 10-year period.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Did that 10-year period start in the year 2004-05, or it is starting now? I guess I notice also that the increase between 2005-06 and 2004-05 is about \$200,000, but this year we are seeing about \$600,000. So is that the level of the increase that we should be expecting to see over the next 10 years, or is that a little bit of an anomaly? What is the formula for recovering that? I'm sure the calculations have gone on to spread the cost recovery a bit. So could I just get more information on the formula?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, this is the first year that the fees will be incorporated. The project is coming to a conclusion; the equipment is in place; the renovations are done; and the fee collection will start in the new fiscal year and we're planning to recover at the rate of \$660,000 a year.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, over 10 years. Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Wow! One of the big complaints I get in my job is people complaining about the fact that it costs too much to fly to Edmonton and it will be pretty hard to tell them that their price is going to go up and up for the next 10 years. I know that the Minister indicated that it's about \$3 per ticket, but was there any possibility to spread it out even further? But I guess then you would have had to pay interest on that. What other options were there to see how best we recover this? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, there's no intent to raise this fee up and up. It's a one-time fee that will be incorporated into the recovery of this cost. We tried to keep it as simple as possible. Ten years seemed like a good number and it was not going to require us to put undue burden onto the travelling public and would allow us to incorporate a small fee that would amount to roughly \$3 per ticket. So that was something we felt that the public could live with.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. So that amount will stay the same over 10 years, 600 and something thousand. I guess it's the other cost that goes with the increasing costs. So that's fine. I got clarification on that one. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Department summary, information item, revenue summary. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 10-13, activity summary, corporate services, operations expenditure summary, \$7.864 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 10-14 and 15, activity summary, information item, corporate services, active positions. Any questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. 10-17, activity summary, airports, operations expenditure summary, \$23.468 million. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. May I get some detail on the contract services for \$5.1 million? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, the 5.199 dollar figure for contract services involves security, janitorial, maintenance, airport operations and professional services.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: I assume that's for all airports that the GNWT manages.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, yes, that involves both the A and the B airports

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Activity summary, airports, operations expenditure summary, \$23.468 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Page 10-19, activity summary, airports, grants and contributions, contributions, \$20,000. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I wonder if I could ask a question of Yellowknife technical staff. I don't know if this topic has been covered. We are in possession of a copy of a letter that the Minister sent to the president and CEO of NAV Canada regarding the transfer of a couple of positions from Yellowknife to Edmonton, and it's dated January 24th of this year. I'm wondering if the Minister could give us an update as to whether he's heard anything about that communication. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm not sure what budget line we're referring to, but I think the letter that Ms. Lee's referring to is the letter we wrote to NAV Canada expressing concern over the relocation of some of their employees to Edmonton. We have not heard back from them and we are awaiting some response.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you. Well, you know, airports, staff about airports, so sorry if I was asking it in not exactly the right line. I just want to tell the Minister that I read this information with a great deal of interest. I think Yellowknife could measure up with Edmonton on any scale in terms of skilled labour, or standard of living, or any other stuff we could offer to the employees. So we're not very happy hearing that, for any reason, that NAV Canada had to move these positions. I would encourage the Minister to keep this file on his front burner and to go to bat for us with NAV Canada. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. I'll take that as a comment and not a question. Activity summary, airports, grants and contributions, contributions, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Page 10-20 and 21, activity summary, information item, airports, active positions. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Chair. I'm just curious to know the airport operations are all under GNWT. I'm just wondering about the Behchoko; or not just Behchoko, but the four outlying Tlicho communities when it comes to operators. Where do they fall under? Are those positions transferred to the Tlicho community government? I don't see any staffing in the Tlicho section, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, the airport at Behchoko is a private airport. We don't have any employees that are involved with that airport. However, on the other three airports -- Gameti, Wekweeti and Whati -- we have contract employees on those airports and they work for us on a contract basis.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. It's good to know that there's a contract out with airport services, I guess operators in the communities. So there is one in Wekweeti, because I'm just getting calls from Wekweeti saying there's no operator in the community when it comes to the airport services. So if I hear you correctly, there is one on a contract basis with Wekweeti to provide the services at the airport. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I'm just trying to get clarification who we have the contract with. We have a contract with the community government in all three communities for maintenance. We don't have a contract with any specific individual.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Next I have Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just following in line in regard to the Beaufort-Delta, I'm going to ask the Minister, I understand that the contract for the airport runway in Tuk has been issued out to a local person. Is that correct, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. Yes, we did contract the services for that airport out. It went through a public tender and a local company was... We signed the contract with a local company to do the maintenance.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Madam Chair. In regard to personnel working on the airstrip in Tuk, is that taken care of by the contract or by government? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I didn't quite catch the question. Could I ask the Member to repeat that?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Mr. Pokiak, could you please repeat the question?

MR. POKIAK: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair. My question is, since it's been contracted out by a local contractor, I'm just wondering is the contractor paying the individual, or is the government paying? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam, as in any contract, we pay the contractor and the contractor then hires and pays their own employees.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Pokiak.

MR. POKIAK: Thank you. Last question, Madam Chair. Is government saving any money in contracting out the services? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, in this situation, we are not expected to save any significant amount of money; however, the cost savings may be in the area of putting the responsibility over of the facilities and equipment, so there may be some cost savings in that area. But overall, we're not expecting anything significant.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Activity summary, information item, airports, active positions. Any further questions? Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 10-23, activity summary, highways, operations expenditure summary, \$42,001. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. On the highways, I'd like to ask the Minister when we expect to see Highway No. 3 finished, and also where we are with the Corridors for Canada. We need to anxiously work on lots of other

highways in the country and we have had a change of government, change of Minister. How far did we get into for the Corridors for Canada in terms of making it work for us concretely? I guess I'm just looking for an update as a member who is not a member of the GED committee. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. That question technically comes up under capital infrastructure later on and not on this page, however, I'll ask Mr. McLeod if he would provide that update. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we are expecting to do the chipseal of the final 12 kilometres this summer. The reconstruction is complete. There are some areas that we have some concern that we may have to go look and see what is causing some problems in areas where we're experiencing some frost heaving.

As for the Corridors for Canada II, we had just enough time to submit a document to the previous government before an election was called. We are now in a process of making contact with the new federal Minister, and we will take the first opportunity we can to sit down and discuss some of the programs that we had targeted to fund this initiative through. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: So I guess we're at a very, very, very preliminary stage of this proposal, or was the Minister able to get much in-road into that project idea with the previous Minister?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, the intent of Corridors for Canada II was to carry on with a number of the initiatives that we had started off with with the funding from Corridors for Canada, the first document that we submitted and received money for. We wanted to continue. We wanted to make sure there was a smooth transition for when the dollars were all spent. Those projects are supposed to be coming to an end; 2008-2009 are the final projects. We were hoping to have new dollars to commit to the ongoing work that's required in the Mackenzie Valley, and the Highway No. 5, 6 and 7, and all the different highways where we need to invest new dollars. So we have had opportunity to talk to the previous infrastructure Minister and there was really some good indicators that there was going to be another infrastructure program rolling out very soon. We still take comfort in the fact that the new government, the Conservative government has indicated that there will be some investment in infrastructure, and that gives us a level of comfort. We haven't heard anything in the area of actual investment in roads or road systems, so we will be making contact and having that discussion as soon as we can.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I realize that I'm sort of discussing this sort of in a general way, so I'll just leave this as my last question. If the Minister could tell me

if there are any concrete meetings that he knows of that he will have with his federal counterpart or any other provincial Ministers that he could share with us. Also, I'm wondering if we should give thought to passing a motion, or debating in this House, about the importance of the Mackenzie Valley highway all the way to Tuk. Sometimes a resolution in the House helps to...I don't know. I'm assuming that northern residents, reduction of that or increasing the deduction, that resolution I'm hoping would help this government and the new MP push that idea. There has certainly been discussions about housing possibilities coming out of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline, so why not about the road? I mean, it's pretty right up there. Maybe Minister McLeod is working privately and working with his counterpart, but maybe it would be a good thing to say that we support this project. I can't remember if we did that already previously, but, you know, we should try to talk about what our territorial vision is about the highway, that we need to have a highway within the Territories and it should go all the way to Tuk. It is a good idea, now that the pipeline thing is...You know, I think it is time for us to make a statement on that. Sorry; I guess I can bring that up in AOC. I'll talk to my colleague there, but I think maybe we can work on that. I don't know if the Minister wants to comment on that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, we will have opportunity to discuss these new initiatives, these proposals, with our federal counterpart, Mr. Lawrence Cannon. We do have the opportunity to meet on several occasions a year. Usually it's twice a year we get together with our federal/provincial counterparts and talk about areas that require investment. Our Corridors for Canada II and the Connecting Canada documents are something that we have always had included in our long-term vision. We have a document that was tabled in this House some time ago, I think in the 13th Assembly, that we use as our guiding document. It references the need for a Mackenzie Valley road; it also talks about the different areas that we've included in the Corridors for Canada II. We can and, I guess, we will, table the Connecting Canada and Corridors for Canada II document in the House, and I certainly will give the Members opportunity to move it into Committee of the Whole or whatever this House desires to do with it.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Ms. Lee. Activity...Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I think under this topic, or this page here, I wanted to see if the Minister could give us any further indication on the timing, or expected timing, of the further information and a decision on the Deh Cho Bridge, Madam Chair. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, the proponents of the Deh Cho Bridge had gone out for...had been negotiating with a company on acquiring a price for that facility. My understanding is that they've moved away from that and are looking at options of coming forward with a different approach. They have indicated to us that they will have something for us to review by the end of March.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. This government has extended considerable support to the proponents, and that has been done, I think, willingly and optimistically. This process has been underway for three or four years now, and I'm wondering if the Minister could give us some sense, are we going to be nearing a point where we will actually be able to come to committee, say, in the coming fiscal year. Is that a reasonable expectation, Madam Chair?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. There has been a lot of discussion and it's taken a long time. I think it's been at least four years since the idea came forward and the government's been involved with it for at least three years. We've started to hit the final stages of this project. We've been given assurance that the March deadline will be the final one. It will be, yes, we're going to go ahead, or, no, it's not going to go ahead. So we are waiting for the proponent to come back with a proposal for us to consider, and it will be, more than likely, the final option that we will be deciding on. The loan guarantee runs out at the end of March, and we will decide at that time where we're going to go with this.

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

MR. BRADEN: That's fine. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Activity summary, highways, operations expenditure summary, \$42.001 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Page 10-26, 27, activity summary, information item, highways, active positions. Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to ask the Minister about I notice in all the other regions there, there's a high number of positions and Beaufort-Delta it's only four, so I'm assuming that means all the other regions government is looking after maintenance, and maybe in the Beaufort-Delta all the maintenance is being contracted out. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. That's correct, Madam Chair. In Fort Smith, Deh Cho and the other regions where there's higher numbers, those are our own forces. In the Beaufort-Delta, the bulk of the work is done through contracts.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Activity summary, information item, highways, active positions. Any further questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Page 10-29, activity summary, ferries, operations expenditure summary, \$5.603 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I know the Liard ferry and recently the Fort Providence ferry have come back under government control. How is that spelled out in here number-wise? Obviously there is going to be a shift in contracted services and the numbers don't seem to portray that, and I am just wondering when that might happen. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Member is correct; there have been some changes. The ferry at Liard crossing and Fort Providence both came back under government control. We have reflected the new positions in our budget; however, the costs haven't been reflected. We expect that our budget line for contract services, which includes the ferry operations, will be able to cover that. There may be other costs. Once we have a full estimate, if there are other costs, we will come back through a supp or something of that nature.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's probably more like when. When there are some additional costs, what does the Minister think those will be and will those come forward in a supp sometime in the near future? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, I can't say with any certainty what those numbers will be. We recognize there is a need to hire an additional crew at the Liard crossing. So that's going to be an additional cost. We know that there will be some other things that we have to consider. We haven't been able to summarize that yet and that will come forward when we have our estimates all completed through a supp.

I should also point out that we are doing a review of our maintenance operations. We are going out for an RFP to have a consultant review our system that is in place and see if we can make any recommendations and also look at our ferry services at the same time.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Next on the list is Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am just seeking further clarity on this item. The line item for contract services, \$3.07 million. Is that the whole dollar figure that represents the ferry contracts? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Yes, Madam Chair. That's the figure that covers the operation of all five of our ferries.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am just wondering why. I think I understood this correctly from Mr. Ramsay's earlier questions, but is it assumed that all the ferry services will now be considered territorial employees and it is assumed that all of the costs associated with hiring them as full-time employees will be covered by this \$3.07 million? I just want to be ultimately clear on that. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, we only have two ferries under our operations, operated by our own forces. The other ferries are still operated through a contract. Right now, we don't have anything to indicate that we will go over this amount. However, that is being reviewed and that's why this dollar amount has remained consistent.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Could the Minister give us some type of time frame when we can expect the true costs of what these services will now represent? Are they in negotiations with the other services, noting that I believe you said there were five ferry services covered under contract services? That should, if I understand, leave only three. If he said two were under our employee workforce, are they going to bring them back into the public service fold? Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, right now we have only two ferry services operating through our own forces. We don't plan to have any of the other ferries come under our own forces in the next while. There has been some discussion with the community of Tsiigehtchic where they indicated that they wanted to turn back the services. They have a partner, the Inuvik Dene. There is some discussion going on between the union and the employees and I think the Inuvik band. However, we haven't looked at taking over that service. We are still hoping that they will be able to work it out. Our cost analysis is based on the ferries we are currently operating. We have an RFP, as indicated, to do an assessment. The tender for that is closed tomorrow. We expect to have a report in April of the assessment, including management of our marine services. That's where we are at with this, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Madam Chair, just one last question and I will put it in this light. Recognizing that we don't have the company that is required to make a profit -- I am speaking obviously about the two ferry services that were turned back -- is it intended that, at the end of the day, this will be cost neutral?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, there is no indication that it is going to be cost neutral. In some

cases, we have a policy that requires us to have a certain number of employees on staff. We have a policy that requires us to enhance certification. So that changes our requirements compared to a private contractor. So I would expect that it would cost more for us to operate it.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. Ferries are a passionate subject of mine.

---Laughter

I just wanted to make a quick comment on the operation of the ferries and transportation, in general. I wanted to ask a question on transportation and our alcohol and drug policy with regard to workers, Madam Chair. I would like to get a quick comment from the Minister on that.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, I don't know if we have a specific policy for our ferry operations. We have a Government of the Northwest Territories policy. I will refer the question to the deputy minister, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Neudorf.

MR. NEUDORF: Thank you, Madam Chair. All GNWT employees follow the code of conduct and our employees are no different.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Neudorf. Activity summary, ferries, operations expenditure summary, \$5.603 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. Moving right along, 10-33, activity summary, information item, ferries, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 10-35, activity summary, community marine infrastructure, operations expenditure summary, \$129,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Page 10-37, activity summary, community marine infrastructure, grants and contributions, contributions, \$50,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 10-39, activity summary, community local access roads, operations expenditure summary, \$323,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Madam Chair, you kind of went a little bit too fast for me. I just have a quick question about the community marine infrastructure about the contract

services. In 2004-05, it went from 2000 to 48,000 in the main estimates up to 2005-06. I just want to ask the Minister some details on that.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Does committee agree to go back to page 10-35?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. I'm sorry. I didn't get the actual line item the Member is referring to.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. For clarity, Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: The details of other expenses on contract services for the community marine infrastructure, operations expenditure summary, from \$48,000 for 2006-07.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I am not sure again the budget line he is referring to. There is no change. There is \$48,000 allocated for contract services for 2006-07 and for 2005-06 is also 48.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Are you on the same page with us, 10-35? I'm sorry. I will turn it over to you, Mr. McLeod, and can you proceed with your question, please.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: My question? Madam Chair, if the Member is referring to 2004-05, that's the actuals that we spent that year. Our budget for this year is \$48,000.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to know why the big change in the contract services budget.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, that number reflects the actual amount that was spent that year. There was not a lot of uptake on that program and there were some projects that had been cancelled.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question for the 2004-05 number to last year's \$48,000, what are we contracting out that we needed an extra \$46,000 last year and this year?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, what would be involved in the contracting out on this budget line would

be site supervision, equipment rental and other services; for example, welding. I should point out that this is community marine infrastructure that is funded by this government. We have other programs that are funded by the federal government. So we usually try to direct the applications to those programs first. The Coast Guard program has \$450,000 in their program.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Villeneuve.

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just with regard to the equipment rental, what equipment are we referring to? Boats, I hope.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, that would involve any equipment that would be used to build a marine facility, more than likely construction equipment.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Activity summary, community marine infrastructure, operations expenditure summary, \$129,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Back to 10-39, activity summary, community local access roads, operations expenditure summary, \$323,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Page 10-41, activity summary, community local access roads, grants and contributions. \$273,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just quickly, there seems to be significant drops between the actuals and the estimates in this regard, that's 2004. Could the Minister let us know what is actually happening with these improvements? Are we just not doing them, not able to expend the money through contract and giving up? Has something changed in our maintenance programs for the community access roads? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Madam Chair, through the community local access roads, you will see a reduction. That's due to our requirements to reduce the one percent. Over the last while, we've seen a number of requirements to reduce our budget, so this program has been reduced as a result of that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I guess, at the end of the day, if we can do the job just as efficiently as we can with more money and we can do it with less money now, our services are still being maintained at a reasonable rate. I suspect he'll say yes. If I ask if services are being maintained at a safe level, I certainly hope and

suspect he'll say yes. What are we doing to manage this to make sure we are ensuring, at the very least, that safe services are continuing to be offered and to make sure we are offering safe access at all times of the year, even though we see a significant drop in the budget? If I may say, it looks like a quarter of the budget. It looks like it would have an impact. I just can't imagine how it wouldn't have an impact on safety and typical maintenance. Can the Minister assure me and explain how we are making sure that these roads are safe?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, this program is called the Community Local Access Road Program. It is designed as an application-based program for communities to access funds, to build locally owned trails or access roads to areas of interest. It's not designed to build any highway systems and it's not the Community Public Access Road Program. When we have to reduce this program, it means there will be less opportunities for communities, or we can only fund a limited fund. We just continue to reduce the number of applications that we fund every year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Minister McLeod. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. Then I will just provide a comment, which is that I am glad to hear that it's not our public access system. I will leave it at that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Committee, we are on page 10-43, road licensing and safety, operations expenditure summary, \$3.585 million. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Chair. I had a question on page 10-41. Can we go back to that, please?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. My apologies. I was just jumping into the chair. We are on page 10-41, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Chair. Just to further elaborate on what Mr. Hawkins highlighted, the 273 as opposed to 337 last year in cutbacks. We understand that the department had to cut in some areas, but, at the same time, I think we really need to highlight the success of this program. Whati and Wekweeti specifically have truly benefited from this program, where Wekweeti is building a road to a graveyard and Whati has built a road and is still maintaining a road to the falls. So they are expecting this year to apply for \$50,000 again. As I stated, there are going to be cutbacks, so it's back to \$40,000. I think this is going to create some challenges in the communities to say there are cutbacks in funding. At the same time, I think we need to consider the importance of having this program in the communities, especially in the isolated communities that don't have access roads, Mr. Chair. I would just like to highlight that to Committee of the Whole here, that this is a concern to us, especially in the outlying communities. I am wondering if the department would consider...I am not sure what the answer would be, but \$50,000 was there and the community is looking forward to that again this year. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mahsi, Mr. Lafferty. Mr. McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, yes, we had to, as part of our budget reduction exercise this year, cut \$64,000 out of this program. I certainly agree with the Member that it is a popular program. What we've done to try to accommodate the number of applications that have come forward is we have capped the applications to \$40,000 and we have quite a few applications in place, and that includes the Wekweeti and Whati applications. It's a requirement and it's something we had to do and we are still able to provide some money over the long term.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mahsi, Minister McLeod. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Chair. I would just like to make a note. We will be going through cost-cutting factors down the road, we know for a fact, but I think we need to highlight and take into consideration that if there is going to be a cut in funding, we have to take into consideration that this type of funding was \$337,000 originally, which was good pocket change for the communities to fully utilize the funding. If it needs to be cut, then I think we need to look at the whole situation where we shouldn't be touching these areas where communities are really benefiting from this funding. I would just like to highlight that for the department down the road. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mahsi, Mr. Lafferty. We are on page 10-41, community local access roads, grants and contributions, contributions, \$273,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Page 10-43, activity summary, road licensing and safety, operations expenditure summary, \$3.585 million. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If the Minister could elaborate on what other expenses are in this particular case. I seem to recall from last year's budget under the 2005-06, we have \$.1079 million. A lot of that is associated with the new equipment, if I have that correct; the new equipment they anticipated to buy for the driver's licence. Can I find out if that was actually purchased at the end of the day? I think three-quarters of a million dollars was being provided for equipment; \$250,000 or a quarter of the million dollars in general was being provided to come up with the new design, the new type of licence and the fees associated with that. Was the equipment actually purchased in last year's budget, and if you could elaborate on what the \$982,000 is. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Chairman, the details are broken out under other expenses for travel, material and supplies, purchased services, utilities, contract services, fees and payments. I am quite aware of what the Member is requesting in terms of equipment and that would be under capital. Yes, we are planning to purchase that equipment fairly quickly, this year.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Mahsi, Mr. Minister. Thank you, committee. We are on page 10-43, road licensing and safety, operations expenditure summary, \$3.585 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Page 10-46 and 10-47, activity summary, road licensing and safety, active positions. Any questions?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 10-48 and 10-49, information item, work performed on behalf of others, \$743,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Questions? Thank you, committee. Sorry, back to page 10-7, committee, please. Department summary, Transportation, operations expenditure summary, \$82.973 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Now we are on page 8-5 of capital, in infrastructure acquisition plan, airports, tangible capital assets. It's continued on 8-6, total capital assets, \$9.845 million and a total activity of \$9.845 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 8-8, infrastructure acquisition plan, highways, tangible capital assets, total tangible capital assets, \$35.595 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): For a total activity of \$35.595 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Page 8-9, infrastructure acquisition plan, highways, Mr. Villeneuve.

Committee Motion 22-15(4): Recommendation For The Provision Of Additional Information On The Deh Cho Bridge Proposal, Carried

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Transportation provide Regular Members with the current costing of this project including, but not limited to: the cost for construction of the bridge, an accounting of expenditures under the \$3.5 million loan guarantee, the cost of discontinuing ferry operations and, finally, the cost of returns to the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation on the \$5 million equity they have invested in this project. The committee also recommends the department provide Members with a status report on the project. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The motion is on the floor. It's not debatable. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Page 8-9, infrastructure acquisition plan, highways.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 8-11, infrastructure acquisition plan, ferries, tangible capital assets, total tangible capital assets, \$385,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total activity, \$385,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Page 8-14, infrastructure acquisition plan, road licensing and safety, tangible capital assets, total tangible capital assets, \$500,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total activity, \$500,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Total department, \$46.325 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. Does committee agree that consideration of the Department of Transportation's main estimates is concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you, committee. Mr. Minister, I would like to thank you and Mr. Neudorf and Mr. Auger, for joining us again this afternoon and thank you.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay): Thank you. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress. Thank you, committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the 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 Bill 18, Appropriation Act, 2006-2007, and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Is there a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

---ADJOURNMENT

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Monday, February 20, 2006, at 11:00 a.m.:

The House adjourned at 17:22 p.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. Petitions
10. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
11. Tabling of Documents
12. Notices of Motion
13. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
14. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 19, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2005-2006
15. Second Reading of Bills
16. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act
 - Bill 15, Court Security Act
 - Bill 16, Tobacco Control Act
 - Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Public Colleges Act
 - Bill 18, Appropriation Act, 2006-2007
 - Committee Report 5-15(4), Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on the 2006-2007 Pre-Budget Review Process
 - Committee Report 6-15(4), Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development Report on the 2006-2007 Pre-Budget Review Process
 - Committee Report 7-15(4), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the 2006-2007 Pre-Budget Review Process
17. Report of Committee of the Whole
18. Third Reading of Bills
19. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, February 20, 2006, at 11:00 a.m.

