



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**15<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2006**

Pages 451 - 492

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Wednesday, October 25, 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, Mr. 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 Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 39-15(5): Alberta Centennial Scholarship**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, in 2005, Alberta announced the creation of the Alberta Centennial Scholarship Program, which created 325 annual scholarships across Canada, valued at \$2,005 each starting in the 2006-07 school year.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that 25 scholarships have been made available for distribution in the Northwest Territories for individuals pursuing post-secondary education. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment will award these scholarships to students pursuing training in the area of skilled trades and occupations. We will announce the first round of award winners in February 2007.

Scholarships will be awarded to candidates who:

- are NWT residents;
- have recently completed an educational program, for example, high school or pre-employment program;
- demonstrate that they are continuing their formal education by pursuing or attending training in a trade or occupation; and,
- priority will be given to women in trades.

Applications for these scholarships will be available through the student financial assistance section of Education, Culture and Employment.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Alberta government has included the Northwest Territories in the Centennial Scholarship Program and I have thanked the Alberta Minister of Education for making these awards available to our students. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment has had many years of partnership with Alberta Education and these scholarships are a further testament to that close relationship. Mr. Speaker, through this statement today, I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in thanking Alberta for their support that will be used to help our students pursue studies in the high needs area of trades and occupations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

**Minister's Statement 40-15(5): Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership Ministers' Meeting**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, FASD, is a lifelong disability. Effective prevention efforts, early diagnosis, supportive environments and a range of special supports and services are necessary to assist individuals and their families in their journey toward self-reliance and well-being.

The Government of the Northwest Territories, GNWT, is committed to addressing the issue of FASD. As you may be aware, the GNWT has been a member of the Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership since 2000. The NWT is now the lead jurisdiction for the group. The alliance is made up of seven jurisdictions that work towards the development and promotion of an inter-provincial/territorial approach to prevention, intervention, care and support of individuals affected with FASD.

On September 25<sup>th</sup>, as lead Minister of the partnership, Minister Miltenberger hosted a meeting in Yellowknife with Ministers from Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Yukon, Nunavut and Saskatchewan participating. We would like to commend Mr. Miltenberger for his commitment and dedication to this important issue.

At the meeting, the annual report from the research network was reviewed and future research opportunities were discussed. The report on the most recent conference and the steering committee's annual activities report and work plan was discussed, as was the *Even One is Too Many: A Call for a Comprehensive Action Plan for FASD*, recently tabled by the federal Standing Committee on Health. Ministerial colleagues and the NWT will call on Health Canada and the standing committee to recognize the work of the partnership and ensure that meaningful consultation with our group occurs in the development of any national comprehensive plan for FASD.

This is the first time the NWT has hosted a Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership Ministers' meeting. There is great value in this work. All the participating territories and provinces share similar challenges and it makes sense that we work together to strengthen our efforts. Everyone will benefit from sharing experiences and resources and the NWT is bringing some exciting work forward.

The GNWT is committed to preventing FASD in our territory. It is an important task and with alliances such as this, we are working together to achieve this goal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### **Member's Statement On Challenge To Northern Leadership To Work Together On Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have heard a lot of talk lately and since I have been here about the resource revenues and the devolution talks and it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, like we go in circles. I would like to stand today and issue a challenge. I would like to challenge the leadership of the major regions across the Northwest Territories to come together in one room as leaders, no bureaucrats, no negotiators, no consultants, just the leaders, because they are elected to represent the best interests of the people. I think if we can get our leaders into one room and come up with some kind of an agreement, then maybe we can be armed to go to Ottawa and come up with some numbers as far as a deal goes.

I respect the fact that the leaders want to represent their people and get the best deal for their people and well they should, but sometimes you have to look at the overall picture and right now it seems like we are spinning our wheels. Everyone has a different agenda and I think the agenda for the leadership across the NWT should be the same. It should be getting the best deal possible for the Northwest Territories. If it has to go into a trust fund, let's put it into a trust fund. If they come up with self-government agreements, then they can divide it according to some criteria that they come up with.

Mr. Speaker, pride is a terrible thing sometimes if used the wrong way. Leaders have to be leaders, put their pride aside and come to some kind of an agreement. Mr. Speaker, I am starting to be very concerned about the amount of money that is leaving the Northwest Territories. We are not coming up with an agreement. We have to get on the same page. I have to challenge the leadership of the major regional groups in the Northwest Territories to come up with a wise decision and give direction to the people who work with them to work out the details. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Coordinated And Proactive Dialogue With The Federal Government On Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, the issue of hearing negotiating resource revenue sharing and devolution talks between the GNWT and federal government, we're beginning to tune out the

phrase. Mr. Speaker, for the past 20-plus years this government is still in negotiations, but no light yet at the end of the tunnel. We cannot wait any longer, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with the recent cuts of \$1 billion from the federal government, are we waiting patiently for another drastic cut, this time in health, education or even justice, that is high importance in our regions and NWT?

Mr. Speaker, we need to take a proactive approach, instead of reacting to these changes that occurred. We must lobby the federal government as a united Government of the NWT. Mr. Speaker, we need to invite our aboriginal government neighbours to the negotiating table. The federal government is really not listening to our leadership. It's time that this government come to some agreement in writing with our neighbouring aboriginal governments. Go to Ottawa with a united front. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### **Member's Statement On Need For Strong Leadership To Ensure Progress On Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, Regular Members on this side of the House are going to stand up and try to get some answers as to why three years into the life of this government, we seem no closer to having an agreement-in-principle amongst our northern governments with respect to devolution and resource revenue sharing for our fight with the federal government. We need to have devolution and resource revenue sharing. We need surety on our future. Our children and the next generations to come are counting on us and this government to deliver. Mr. Speaker, where does responsibility lie for the fact that we still do not have a deal? Most are very quick to point and lay blame with the federal government. They are the easy targets, Mr. Speaker. However, much of the responsibility falls on us as northern leaders. Our government and our Premier have failed in getting all the aboriginal governments and leaders together to get us to a unified position going forward to push for a deal, a deal that is collectively what is in all of our best interest.

Let's be honest, Mr. Speaker, with each other here. We all want others to like us. From a very young age, we are taught to get along with others. So it is not hard to see, even as leaders, how many of us strive to be liked above all else. Unfortunately, for our Premier being liked is not a criteria of leadership success. Your staff may like you, MLAs may like you and the public may like you, but why are we not meeting the goal of getting an agreement-in-principle signed? Do aboriginal governments and leadership respect you and, in effect, our government? Mr. Speaker, it would appear that they don't.

Leadership is not a popularity contest, Mr. Speaker. Clearly one of our collective goals and objectives coming through these doors three years ago was to get an AIP and proceed toward a deal with the federal government. We obviously have not done that. We have less than a year left and nothing to show for our efforts. Leadership is more critical today than it ever has been and we need to

have someone get all of our leaders together to have a unified voice in our fight with Ottawa.

The time for playing Mr. Nice Guy is over, Mr. Speaker. This government has to get tough and make demands and earn the respect that it needs to deliver on what all of our residents put us all here to do, and leadership, Mr. Speaker, is all about respect and we need some immediately. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Loss Of Resource Wealth**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if you follow some rough math in the two and a half minutes that I have and each of us has to stand here and make a statement today, \$1,250 will have flown out of the Northwest Territories in resource royalties and taxes. That's \$1,250 in two and a half minutes. That's three-quarters of a million dollars a day, Mr. Speaker, because we have not yet been able to get ourselves together and present that unified voice, that unified bargaining strength with Ottawa among all the northern leaders to ensure that our part of Canada has the share of wealth of this country that most other parts of Canada already have.

Mr. Speaker, it's a dilemma. We don't have a hammer. We don't have axes up our sleeves. We are a territory under the Constitution and the laws of Canada, but what we are really lacking, Mr. Speaker, after decades now of trying to establish ourselves as a legitimate partner in the development and the management and the benefits of all the resources up here, we have lacked the will on the part of the federal government to really make this happen. We are hobbled, as some of my colleagues have already talked about today, by a lack of unity among our collective leadership and that really should be where we should be going. We do, Mr. Speaker, have the moral and the political, even the legal right, to demand this, but we've got to present that strong, unified force.

We've got to set some terms because at the rate at which the wealth is leaving this territory and the expansion of those resources and that wealth, Mr. Speaker, we have a lot to lose. So now is the time when we really have to apply ourselves, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Potential Strength Of A Unified Northern Voice On Resource Revenue Sharing Negotiations**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're having a theme day, as you can tell, on resource revenue sharing. We've been talking about this for a long time. On the plus side, we've got a lot of resources from which to derive revenue in the Northwest Territories. Not every jurisdiction has that, so let's lay that out first and count our blessings. We've got the resources. We have enough resources to make revenue sharing a

win-win for everyone: for Canada, for our territory, for aboriginal governments and their aspirations.

My worry, Mr. Speaker, is that we are in an extremely vulnerable situation. We don't have control of our resources, so we don't have control over the development or the agenda of development. What would give the Government of Canada a good reason to want to cut a good deal for northerners? There's only 43,000 of us. Barely a good-sized town by southern standards. We have a vast geography, but we also have vast resources. But we don't have a lot of people. Is there anything about the North or the people that could possibly want to make the Government of Canada be very fair and generous to us? Region by region aboriginal governments with unsettled claims could probably make a good legal argument for a fair deal. In addition to that though I believe that it's the potential strength of a unified effort from the North that could bring about a fair deal from a legal and moral obligation. Right now we're literally and figuratively all over the map though.

Some regions are satisfied with benefits from businesses and employment opportunities from resource development. Some want access and benefits agreements and they're focused on that. Some want ownership in resource development, infrastructure like the pipeline. Some want advancement and use it as leverage on land claims and self-government. Someone needs to show the leadership to bring all of the interests together and with that unified voice stand our ground with the federal government and with industry. If it's not the territorial government's role to bring that voice together, then I respectfully ask whose job is it, and I seriously put that out there, Mr. Speaker.

I know one thing. While we're deciding who speaks for the North, no one speaks for the North, and we, by default, will concede our agenda to the federal government. It's time to show that we understand what's at stake for all of us and future generations of northerners. Time is of the essence. It's not going to get any easier as time goes on. Would someone please stand up and declare it to be their first priority and their full-time job, if necessary, to speak for the North with our best interests at heart? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Development Of A Comprehensive Vision To Address Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement will focus on the need to rise up as a nation of northern people and to ask ourselves a serious question: Are we going to die or are we going to wither away or are we going to survive as a nation, one North, one nation, in the face of the federal government by reaping our resources right under our land?

Mr. Speaker, I read a book titled "The Genius of Sitting Bull." Sitting Bull used his leadership tactics to save his nation, his movement, his ways to get a goal done. Mr. Speaker, this tactic has been used today in multi-national corporations to save their businesses. Now, Mr. Speaker,

why not consider using Sitting Bull's tactics with the devolution and resource revenue sharing? For example, Mr. Speaker, we need a North who has leaders with a vision of the North to what the North can be. Gather the leaders. We've been told that the North will see all these benefits. We've been hearing for many, many years a North that can put together a plan of all leaders to believe in the idea that the North can survive on its own. We can make a made-in-the-north agreement.

We have talent and skilled people to provide us with the numbers, provide us with formulas to look at post-resource revenue sharing management agreements, post-devolution agreements. We have these people in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've been told by the experts in our briefings, and Mr. Braden has mentioned about the potential losses for the North, of royalties, revenues, and the fact that we are a territory, not a constitutionally protected entity to fit in with the partners of Confederation.

It's high time that this government, along with other aboriginal governments who hold a vast amount of land in the Northwest Territories, get together with the businesspeople, put a management plan together to go down to Ottawa and demand that these resources stay in the Northwest Territories where we can support our people in the Northwest Territories once and for all. Let's get the job done, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Critical Role Of Aboriginal Governments On Achieving A Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of resource revenue sharing agreements has been emphasized by our government as an important first step towards the development of the Mackenzie gas project. Since this approach does not seem to have the full support of the First Nations groups along the proposed route, some of whom are negotiating their own resource revenue sharing agreements with the producers and the federal government, I feel that it is imperative that this government take a more supportive approach to addressing this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, the Aboriginal Summit was first assembled by this government to get First Nations input and cooperation into a resource revenue sharing arrangement, but now it seems that the goal of reaching such an agreement that we can all live with is getting further and further out of the reach of this government every day.

Mr. Speaker, in order to get the full support and commitment of our First Nations groups toward a resource revenue sharing agreement, this government has to come to terms with the reality of the day and recognize that aboriginal governments can and should be the primary beneficiaries of such an agreement.

The aboriginal governments will be the next public governments and we have to support their positions on resource revenue sharing arrangements; arrangements that will see the social gap between aboriginal and non-

aboriginals become non-existent and allow the aboriginal governments to become the agents of many of the programs and services that we deliver and some of which this government struggles to maintain and operate in a manner that addresses the social gap. The acknowledgement and support towards aboriginal governments as the primary beneficiaries will not only bring aboriginal governments back to the negotiating table, but also will send a clear message to Ottawa that we can work together, we are willing to negotiate together, and we can stand united until we get what is rightfully ours, that being our fair share of resource royalties going out of our territory every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Member's Statement On Lack Of Movement By The Federal Government On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, as well, would like to speak on the issue of resource sharing and the long quest that we have had as a territory. On this file, Mr. Speaker, I consider the Conservative government to be as bad and as slow as the former Liberal government in terms of delivering. Prior to the last federal election there were promises made, commitments made in writing to the people of the Northwest Territories. To date they have not been delivered on. There were commitments made to other jurisdictions, like Newfoundland, where Prime Minister Harper recently went to visit, and the Conservative government down there took great exception and umbrage to the lack of action on their commitments that were made to them.

Mr. Speaker, we're in the same circumstance. Yes, it is good for us to be united and coordinated and have one voice. It's critical. But the ones with the levers year after year, the Conservative government, the Liberal government, is the federal government, and they have been very slow. There is no rush for them to solve this issue, to resolve it, to commit to any closure. They are awash in a surplus, it says in the Globe today. A big chunk of that is our cash. They are in no hurry.

My message to the people of the Northwest Territories is very simple. There's going to be an election coming soon. When that election comes and if the Conservative government has not delivered on these commitments, it's as simple as ABC -- Anybody But a Conservative -- when you vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**Member's Statement On Need To Address Immediate Concerns In Absence Of A Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is an important topic we're talking about, resource revenue and devolution. Since the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly started we talked about this government trying to get a fair deal for the

Northwest Territories for resource revenue. Apparently, like Mr. Ramsay said earlier, we're into year three now and we still haven't gotten close to a deal.

The Premier on occasion has travelled to Ottawa and spoken with the Prime Minister and the Minister of Indian Affairs, Jim Prentice, on issues such as this. Most of the time we hear on the radio that oh, the meeting went well. How well is well if you haven't heard exactly what's being discussed on this side?

Mr. Speaker, I have my background in terms of we're going to get a deal during this Assembly. I don't think we will. I'm not as confident as some of my colleagues here. I'm not as confident as the Premier. But we still have to sit down and make sure that our Premier will actually get down to Ottawa and, again like some of my colleagues said, with the aboriginal leaders. Sit down and negotiate a fair resource revenue deal. That has to take place first with the aboriginal people, and then take it to Ottawa. We can't go on and say okay, look, something will come up before this term is over, but I encourage the leader, Mr. Premier, to go out there and get something done for us, for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Time Frame For Finalizing An Agreement On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this morning the headline in *Globe and Mail* reads, "Ottawa Awash in Surplus Cash" and I have to tell you I felt sick to my stomach when I started thinking about how much worse our friends in the NGO community must feel having to live through the latest cuts and having to tell their clients that their services will be less or none, even though the federal government is awash in cash.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it started getting worse when I started thinking about the topic of discussion today, especially when I started imagining the time down the road when the Mackenzie gas pipeline is built and the much needed gas flows ever so silently downward to meet the unquenchable thirst of the U.S. market for energy. Not only that, we will see that the Mackenzie gas pipeline artery has made it possible for the entire NWT territory to be covered with the exploration and exploitation dots on the ground, like the coloured map I saw from one of the environmental conferences I attended. The degree of work that makes the MGP look like child's play. What if I saw the headline in the business section of the *Globe and Mail* that read, "The Imperial and Consortium Makes \$17 Billion in Profit"? Would I be able to, Mr. Speaker, cheer for them and say good on them because they should be able to get the return on their investment, just like the people of the NWT are benefiting from the extraction of these non-renewable resources that made it possible from a real, fair and just great deal with the federal government, with the efforts and leadership of the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly? Or would I have to be overcome with the overwhelming desire to pull a blanket over my head and maybe hide in the closet wishing what should I have done or what could I have done to make that deal possible?

So I think it's very appropriate, Mr. Speaker, that we talk about this issue and that time is running out and that it is time for all of us to act, because in the end I believe that will be the defining issue for us all to be judged on. This file has been going on for at least 20 years and I think the deadline is this year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Moral Right Of Northerners To Benefit From The Development Of Northern Resources**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to continue the theme. Mr. Speaker, I ask myself, where are we? Well, I start out by asking that question by reading a quote by Mr. Handley: "We're close." Now that quote could have been said yesterday. That quote could have been said last week, last month, maybe even two years ago, Mr. Speaker. Because I have heard that the Premier's office says we're close. But I can tell you today, if this Premier is able to deliver on a resource revenue agreement I'll be the first one to put a motion on the floor that we do a Wayne Gretzky statue like in the Rexall with Premier Handley holding a bag of money in front of this building because we need this deal. The problem is that we've been close.

So I ask myself again, where are we? Well, Mr. Speaker, the people of the NWT need the same rights that exist in any other province in Canada and it's about time that the Government of Canada recognizes this, Mr. Speaker. Our Legislature, our government, its people deserve the full control over our resources. We need full control of our destiny, Mr. Speaker, and I think it's only a fair and moral right that we should have. Why does Canada want to keep us in the dark ages? Well, I've come to learn in my three years here, and the rhetoric I've always heard before this is it's possibly the jealousy, maybe it's protectionism, maybe it's fear, maybe it's arrogance, maybe they're just so used to historical control of the Northwest Territories they don't know how to give it up. Some could say the NWT is the golden goose that lays the golden eggs. I don't know. Maybe they don't want to give it up because we've got such wealth in our territory.

Mr. Speaker, many people know that there hasn't been significant, notable ground since Nellie was Economic Minister back in the '80s. Now we know many things have been done and I'll give credit to the Premier's office that they've been working very hard, but there never is a deal. We don't have that deal that we're finally saying thank you. We all know Canada wants us to take the Yukon deal, but I want the Newfoundland deal, I want the Nova Scotia deal on control of our resources, Mr. Speaker.

I think it's only fair and only right. Mr. Speaker, at this time may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement; without a nay?

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, what I'm saying is we need significant movement on this issue. Our citizens have been waiting for it in a timely way. I think the adolescence of the Northwest Territories has grown and we've matured and it's gone. It's time for Canada to recognize that we have come of age and we deserve the respect, Mr. Speaker. Respect is a two-way street. We offer Ottawa respect every single day. Regardless whether it's a Conservative government or Liberal government, we give it to them, and it's time that they recognize we deserve it.

So, Mr. Speaker, in closing I won't be suggesting we pull the Danny Williams move, but we need to morally get our message across and say wait a minute. We're in charge and we finally need to be shown respect from Ottawa. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery.

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

Colleagues, I'd like to draw your attention to the gallery. We have with us today a Member from the House of Assembly from Newfoundland and Labrador, Kathy Goudie is here. She represents the riding of Humber Valley and lives in Deer Lake, Newfoundland. Kathy.

---Applause

Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to also recognize a hard-working nurse that we have with us. My constituent Ms. Susan MacInnis is with us today.

---Applause

Also, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize councillor-elect Ms. Lydia Bardak who is with us today as well.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize some visitors to the gallery who are with the Yellowknife Inuit Association; Katujjiqatigiit, Mr. Speaker. How did I do?

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, with us today are Iga Atagootak who is the president, Deborah Tagornak who is the executive director...

---Applause

...Flossie Oakoak and Ada McGillivray, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Whoa. Freudian slip. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize the folks from the Yellowknife Inuit Association and also recognize Kathy Goudie. I just met her in Hull, Quebec, when we were at a women's parliamentary meeting and I'm pleased to announce that the first meeting of the parliamentary women will be here in the Northwest Territories as an outreach to encourage more women to get into politics and leadership.

---Applause

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome everybody in the gallery, especially recognize Ms. Arlene Hache, our hardest working advocate for women's issues.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a student from St. Pat's, my best friend and my son, Jay Lafferty.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also recognize the honourable Member from Newfoundland/Labrador for visiting us. Also the hard-working nurse who also takes care of the Sahtu patients at the Stanton hospital, Susan MacInnis. I also recognize that today is the birthplace of ice hockey in Deline.

---Laughter

---Applause

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

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to take the opportunity to recognize a youth that preformed at the Dreamcatchers Conference; a youth from Yellowknife who is an upcoming star, in my view, in her music and her positive message: Kiera-Dawn Kolson.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anybody in the gallery today, welcome to the House. Always nice to have an audience. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS****Question 179-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Premier, Joe Handley. You have heard the Members' statements on this side of the House. I should say, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has heard the Members' statements on this side of the House today and I think that it would be hard to argue that time is of the essence when it comes to getting a fair deal on resource revenue sharing with Ottawa. I would like to ask the Premier what he can tell us that would indicate to us that he agrees that this has to be the highest priority of this government at this time? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 179-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me say I appreciate the statements by all of the Members on this most important topic and I appreciate the concern you express and I express the same kind of concern. Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that I have spent more time on this issue with the federal government and with aboriginal leaders than any other issue. I feel it is the most important issue we, as a government, have to deal with. Now, I can't give assurance we'll achieve a deal. I don't know. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to do everything in my power to get us there if I can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 179-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Premier if, even though we are in this open public forum today, he could share with Members on this side of the House what would be a short list of the possible obstructions or obstacles to getting this deal done? What can we do collectively as northerners to advance this agenda? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 179-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me say that, first of all, there are a lot of good, strong statements made today about needing to work together as northerners. That's one. I can tell you that at my informational meeting with National Chief Bill Erasmus this week that that was the same discussion of the Dene Nation meeting in Fort Good Hope earlier. So working together is absolutely important. Aboriginal leaders have to work together and we have to work together with aboriginal leaders as northern leaders. So that's number one.

Mr. Speaker, a second one is we have to agree on an agenda of how we're going to move forward from where we are now, from the commitments that the Prime Minister has made, commitments Minister Prentice has made, the appeals we have made to them including letters this week to move this forward.

Basically I would say in answer to the question, partnerships working together as northerners, how do we get northern leaders working together with us? Second is how do we get the federal government's attention? That goes from the Prime Minister to the Minister of DIAND would be my two top things that I believe we need to work on. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 179-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Premier for those answers. What is the next thing on the Premier's agenda with respect to this file? What's up and coming and what do we have in our ability, within our ability...I want to say arsenal of tactics of things we can do. We've heard everything from taking down the flag of Canada to putting up a bronze statue. No, that one we don't take seriously.

---Laughter

But we're desperate. Desperate times call for desperate measures. What is the next thing on the Premier's agenda and what do we reasonably have in our control to advance this? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 179-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I think the first essential piece we need is for all northern leaders to work together on this and recognize this as being the most important topic we can deal with. Mr. Speaker, there is a meeting of the Aboriginal Summit leaders on November 9<sup>th</sup> and that is a critical meeting. Following that I intend to, I hope the leaders are able to come to agreement on what their agenda is, who the membership is, and so on. Then I intend to meet with them and I've made that known to the leaders already.

Second, Mr. Speaker, with aboriginal leaders it's not all the aboriginal leaders who see devolution and resource revenue sharing as the top of the agenda. Some of them see settlement of their negotiation processes as being an essential ingredient that they have to resolve first. Mr. Speaker, we have to find a way of being able to work with all leaders, including those who don't see this issue as being the top of their agenda. They've got other things that are more important to them and I respect their wishes.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the federal government, it's true, as someone mentioned, there's only 43,000 of us. We only have one seat in the federal Parliament, so we

have limited authority. The federal government has all the authority on permits and land use and so on, except for bits of Commissioner's land. So we don't have that legal lever. Mr. Speaker, what we do has to be persuasion, it has to be in some cases assuming some space that is unoccupied. By this I mean taking things like on the financial side. We have to look, and the Minister of Finance has to look, very carefully at what areas could we occupy on taxation, for example. I don't know what those are, but we need to look at what things can we do that are going to cause the federal government to pay attention to our needs.

The other one, Mr. Speaker, is we face a huge bureaucracy in Ottawa and I have to say quite frankly that in my view a lot of the bureaucrats working in Ottawa feel threatened by devolution and resource revenue sharing. Somehow this is going to challenge their right to a job. In that way they continue this colonial legacy that's been going on for so many years. We have to get through to that bureaucracy.

So, Mr. Speaker, as I speak I know the Secretary to Cabinet is writing to Mr. Sulzenko who is the lead for Mr. Prentice on the pipeline file. He is also writing to Harvie Andre who is the lead on devolution file; being very clear with them of what our agenda is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 179-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When the Premier says there are groups or areas or regions in the Northwest Territories that do not see this as a priority, my next question to the Premier would be then what can he do as the Premier to convene a dialogue or something that will create the awareness? I mean development is proceeding here. The incentive for Ottawa to deal with this is going to get less rather than more as the increased amount of revenue flowing to Ottawa proceeds. So can the Premier give us a commitment that he will convene a forum where a dialogue to create awareness amongst leaders about the significance of this? Draw a picture, draw a map, explain what's at stake. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 179-15(5): Advancing The Resource Revenue Sharing Agenda**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I couldn't make it to the Dene Assembly meeting in Fort Good Hope last week, but I did meet with the national chief, as I mentioned. I want to build on the mood of partnership and working together that was started at that meeting. As I said, there is a meeting of the Aboriginal Summit leaders on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Following that I am going to invite, in fact before that happens I will invite all of the leaders to a meeting of the kind that Members referred to here. Just leaders. We don't need a lot of staff, just ourselves as elected leaders. Mr. Speaker, I hope to do that in November, but it depends on the leaders' agendas. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral Questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Question 180-15(5): Time Frame For Achieving A Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I was referring to in my Member's statement today, the people of the NWT contribute to Canada. This is an amazing country and we do our share, Mr. Speaker. But respect is a two-way street. So as I pointed out in my little press story that could have been anywhere between yesterday and two years ago, Premier Handley says that we are close. Where are we on this deal? Where are we? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 180-15(5): Time Frame For Achieving A Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I have said we're close, we're moving in the right direction on several occasions. Mr. Speaker, during the past three years of our government's life we've had to go through two federal elections, a number of band elections and so on. But the federal elections in particular tend to throw us off schedule. So we've had two of them and we may in fact have a third one before our government has completed its agenda. So those certainly slow us down.

Mr. Speaker, I think we're closer.

---Laughter

I can tell you right now that the Prime Minister, this Prime Minister, has committed that northerners will be the primary beneficiaries. That is an agreement we never got out of any government before, any federal government, and we finally got that, and I take the Prime Minister at his word on it.

Mr. Speaker, the second thing is that the federal government has recently appointed a new federal negotiator. I take that as a sign that they want to get on with negotiations. Mr. Speaker, as I said, the Secretary to Cabinet is writing to that individual saying we want an agreement-in-principle by the end of this fiscal year and we'll lay out what our plan is to achieve that.

Mr. Speaker, those are steps that we can take to try and move us along. I can't guarantee it as I'm only one out of three parties that have to negotiate this. I'm saying that's the aboriginal, our government and the federal government. But I can tell you, I'm doing everything in my power to be able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 180-15(5): Time Frame For Achieving A Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer I was here when the Prime Minister had mentioned no pipeline, no deal; and he was referring to resource and self-government, devolution deals. Mr. Speaker, I want to hear the Premier of our Northwest Territories say no deal,

no pipeline, because the pipeline has got the attention of the country, the federal government wants it. I'm not opposed to the pipeline by any means, but people want this, the federal government wants this, I want to hear how the Premier is taking offence to this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 180-15(5): Time Frame For Achieving A Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not going to tie a devolution and resource revenue sharing agreement specifically to the pipeline. But what I am going to tie it to is resource development generally. I don't think the people up and down the Mackenzie Valley should pay the price. We should all, as northerners, be willing to make that sacrifice if it's necessary in order to get a better deal and it doesn't matter whether it's mining in this area or pipeline or whatever, but let's make it fair to everybody across the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 180-15(5): Time Frame For Achieving A Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to reaffirm. I didn't say that in the context that I'm against the pipeline or in the context that I'm against resource development, because I have significant environmental concerns as well as economic concerns. Until we get that control, we can't control either of them. We're in a difficult situation.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier had spoken about partnerships. I'd like to hear from him today about what is he doing with our local Dene Nation of the Northwest Territories or aboriginal groups to reach outside of the Territories and say, well, wait a minute, let's contact the AFN. They're a huge lobby group and they would morally help us fight for our rights. What about talking to guys like Buzz Hargrove? They have a huge membership and that would deliver a massive statement. What are we doing about delivering a message in the Globe and Mail, a full page to say the NWT has come of age, give us our rights back, or give us our rights to start with, Mr. Speaker.

So what is the Premier doing to advocate that and build those partnerships? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 180-15(5): Time Frame For Achieving A Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said earlier, I've spent more time and energy on this issue than any other one. In terms of getting us out there on the national stage, we have done everything we can and I can tell you we've had more coverage in this government in national media than any other government. Mr. Speaker, that's been important. We've done that along with aboriginal leaders. I have worked very closely with the

aboriginal national leaders. I was the first Premier to bring the national aboriginal leaders into the Premiers' meetings when we met in Inuvik, and that's continued on and they continue to be strong supporters.

Mr. Speaker, with the other Premiers we have a very clear message and very clear support from Premiers across the country. We participated in the fiscal imbalance reviews and the fiscal imbalance reports and we've got strong support from the Premiers. Mr. Speaker, we have strong support from the Prime Minister. Mr. Speaker, what we need is to get more action going on the statements that have been made and we have a short window before the next election. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 180-15(5): Time Frame For Achieving A Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that was all well and good and I take it for what it was because it was good. But, Mr. Speaker, I did not hear about building the coalitions and the partnerships, Mr. Speaker. The real ones out there, like building it with the AFN. I heard a great statement by Premier Danny Williams about supporting the Northwest Territories' right to exert our own control. Mr. Speaker, what is the Premier doing with the provinces in getting them to put forward motions in their Legislatures about it's time that we get control over our own lands? So, Mr. Speaker, would the Premier take that extra step and start building individual coalitions with individual provinces who also have the right to slow this process down? Let's get them on board. What will the Premier do?

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

**Further Return To Question 180-15(5): Time Frame For Achieving A Resource Revenue Sharing Agreement**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, we already have unanimous support from all the Premiers around the table. Every one of them without exception has given me that support. I have not asked them to take and make motions in their Legislative Assembly. I've not gone that step, but, Mr. Speaker, I don't know if they'd feel comfortable doing things about another jurisdiction within their jurisdiction. We certainly have statements of support from those who have come here, and many of them have. We will continue to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to build those coalitions with them. I want to build it with the aboriginal leaders. I want to continue to build it with the business community. We have been working closely with the Business Coalition as well. We will continue with those and I want to do it with your support as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Question 181-15(5): Municipal Elections Proxy Voting Procedures**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are addressed to the Minister of

Municipal and Community Affairs and they're in relation to the issue of proxy votes as they pertain to municipal elections. Mr. Speaker, my concern goes back to the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly with the territorial government. When I first ran, there were very loose rules for proxy votes. There was a major court case in the Thebacha riding revolving around proxy votes. Legislation was changed; they were limited, but not eliminated. In the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly, further changes were made where proxy votes were eliminated. Other options were put in place: mobile polls, special ballots, extended advance polls. I've noticed over the last few municipal elections that you can still, in a municipal election, get pieces of paper, proxy forms, and a person can just go up and down the street and collect votes.

Mr. Speaker, my question to the Minister is, is there any consideration being given to bring the municipal voting regulations as it pertains to proxy votes in line with the standards that are there for the territorial election? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Return To Question 181-15(5): Municipal Elections Proxy Voting Procedures**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Local Authorities Elections Act provides for the use of the proxy votes. A number of issues have been brought forward over the last while regarding the Elections Act. We have looked at laying out a process to do a review and we are, right now, in the midst of putting together a discussion paper and we're expecting that to come out at the end of this calendar year or very early in the new year, and I would expect this would be one of the issues that would be covered. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### **Supplementary To Question 181-15(5): Municipal Elections Proxy Voting Procedures**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that information. Could the Minister indicate the steps once this document is in? Are they anticipating that any changes would require legislative changes? Thank you.

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

#### **Further Return To Question 181-15(5): Municipal Elections Proxy Voting Procedures**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The time frame around this whole issue regarding some of the issues that have been brought forward under the Elections Act, these concerns are being researched. The time frame we're looking at, as I stated earlier, more than likely early in the new year. We don't anticipate that we'd be in a position to change legislation in the life of this government, but it would be something that we would expect would take place in the new government of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Thank you.

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

#### **Supplementary To Question 181-15(5): Municipal Elections Proxy Voting Procedures**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My final supplementary to the Minister would be, as we look at the transition from the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly to the 16<sup>th</sup> and the work that's being done to ensure that there's continuity, would the Minister commit to ensuring that in the work that's there, that's put on the rails, that the target date is prior to the next set of municipal elections territorial-wide three years from now? Thank you.

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

#### **Further Return To Question 181-15(5): Municipal Elections Proxy Voting Procedures**

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I'm in a position to commit to something of that nature. There are a number of municipalities that have elections coming up on a staggered basis. So I will commit that this is an issue that's been brought forward by a number of municipalities and also the NWT Association of Communities has this on their radar and it's something we are in a position where we're doing the research. We will lay out a number of the different issues, a number of the concerns that are out there, have discussion with the stakeholders. We will try to fast-track this as much as we can; however, I cannot make the commitment that this will be something that will be in place before the next election that the Member is referring to. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

#### **Question 182-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are going to be on the review of the situation at the Stanton Hospital. But seeing as that involves both Health and Social Services and Human Resources and we don't have a permanent Health and Social Services Minister yet, I will direct my question to the Minister of Human Resources. I'm wondering, Mr. Speaker, given that whatever comes out of this review, I'd like to ask the Minister as the Human Resources Minister whether or not the government will be able to meet the deadline that was set by the former Minister of Health to finish that review, at least the preliminary results anyway, by the end of next week? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for Human Resources, Mr. Roland.

#### **Return To Question 182-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've been working with both departments looking at the previous work that was done and fine tuning the previous human resource survey that was done in that facility and updating it and be prepared to bring it to Members to have a look at that and then set up a procedure for moving forward. So I believe we can meet the commitment that was made by the previous Minister. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 182-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think I'm prepared to accept being compassionate and considerate that the government may not be able to meet this two-week deadline, but I would be happy to just have the government follow up on the commitment made by the previous Minister that there will be a review of what is happening, all the array of staff issues and morale issues at Stanton Hospital, and that it will involve a direct communication of the CEO and the deputy minister, if necessary, with the front-line workers division by division. That was a big commitment. That's more important to me than meeting the strict deadline that was committed to. So would the Minister of Human Resources commit to meeting that requirement? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 182-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, to the involvement that Human Resources would be involved, we will be supportive in the initiative that commitment was made in this Assembly not too long ago. From the Department of Health and Social Services' side of the equation, we are looking at the process that was discussed and the plan was put there. A lot of initiatives are underway and we want to meet the commitment that was made here in this Assembly and we'll work towards that end. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 182-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That answer was so general it's really hard to tell whether he is saying that he'll go with state of the status quo, the way it is now with the existing guidelines, or whether or not government is confirming its commitment made by the previous Health Minister that it will really take a look and be proactive to figure out what is going on at the hospital and what government has to do to fix it. So will the Minister commit that very specifically to the Stanton issue, not just human resource issues in government in general as he's stating? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 182-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from the Human Resources' side we are working with the Department of Health and Social Services to meet the commitment that was made by the previous Minister. From the Department of Health and Social Services side, reviewing the work that's been done, where things sit is only part of the equation again and meeting the commitment that was made by the previous Minister and our goal is to do just that. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 182-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last follow-up. As I've stated and other Members have stated, I do believe that there is no question that the biggest area of concern with what's happening at Stanton is the recruitment and retention issue and management and morale issue, for whatever reason. I'm not assigning blame, but I think that's the thing. That needs an involvement and leadership on the part of the Minister of Human Resources. So could I get the Minister to make a personal commitment, as Minister of Human Resources, that he'll see to it that a solution is found and then acted upon? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 182-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from the Human Resources' side I think we can show a positive track record in trying to deal with the issue of nurse recruitment, of nursing program in the Northwest Territories, as well as at Stanton. When it falls into the whole territorial aspect of how we deliver services from the Human Resources' side, we can show many examples of what we're trying to do government-wide in trying to deal with this specific issue. On the side of dealing with the Stanton issue, we will work with the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure that the review is an adequate one. Thank you.

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

**Question 183-15(5): Amount Of Resource Wealth Losses**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. (Translation) Mr. Speaker, I'd like to question on my Member's statement regarding revenue sharing. (Translation ends)

...stress to finalizing this important deal that we're faced with, resource revenue sharing. It is essential we unite as one voice in the North.

Mr. Speaker, my first question was already asked by my colleague Mr. Hawkins. I will just continue with my next question. Mr. Speaker, to date, over the past 20 years how much have we spent approximately to date, just a rough figure on these negotiations with the federal government? I think the public needs to be aware of how much we've spent to date. Mahsi.

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

**Return To Question 183-15(5): Amount Of Resource Wealth Losses**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have a calculation and I'll have to take that as notice and provide the Member with a written response on that. Sorry. Thank you.

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

**Question 184-15(5): Assistance Required To Build A United Northern Voice**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to direct some questions to the Premier as our point man, our lead on devolution and resource revenue negotiations. Mr. Speaker, a little bit earlier today the Premier said we have to find a way to work together with aboriginal leaders. I think that was the context and the whole theme. One of the big themes today is northern unity.

You know, Mr. Speaker, as a number of my colleagues have already said, we've been trying to do that. This has been our goal for 20 years, yet we still keep saying the same thing. We have to find a way to work together. So we're struggling to find that one common agenda. We know we have dozens of areas, Mr. Speaker, where we're different, we're apart, we're separate. We don't have to be one big mixing bowl on this, but how can we find the one common agenda that will bring us together?

Mr. Speaker, my question is, what can we do in this Assembly to help the Premier, to enable the Premier to take that case to the aboriginal leaders in the Northwest Territories and achieve that core unity that we need to move our agenda ahead, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Return To Question 184-15(5): Assistance Required To Build A United Northern Voice**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the main thing we do is what we say right here in this House, because people are listening to what we're saying. I think the Members' statements today sent a strong message that we are ready and willing to sit down and work with aboriginal leaders.

Mr. Speaker, having said that, we also need to think through how do we do this in a way that those who have settled claims are able to realize the benefits and begin to implement the benefits out of their claim and do that in a way that isn't somehow going to forfeit or compromise the rights and benefits of those who have not yet settled a claim? I don't know the easy answer to that one, but there has to be an answer and there has to be a way of doing it, whether it's following what Yukon did and putting monies in trust or whatever it may be, but there's got to be a way of doing that.

But, Mr. Speaker, the reality in the Territories is that we have some regions with settled claims and some without settled claims, and there are clearly different priorities of what's the most important thing to focus on. And limited capacity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 184-15(5): Assistance Required To Build A United Northern Voice**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, the Premier also said earlier today that he would like to see a target or time frame on achieving this at the end of the fiscal year. It's more or less consistent with what he said a few years ago that

perhaps four months was an achievable time frame for this. I'd like to ask the Premier, Mr. Speaker, just why is he choosing this time frame? What is significant about it? How is it going to be achievable within that time frame, if not less, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 184-15(5): Assistance Required To Build A United Northern Voice**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I have consistently said that I believe that we can achieve an agreement-in-principle within four months. Whether it's the end of February, end of March, I don't know. But somewhere before our new fiscal year we need to know where we stand financially. My reason for choosing that is we're starting a new fiscal year with a situation that I said in my sessional statement that is just not sustainable. We cannot keep up with the needs with the current amount of money that we have.

Mr. Speaker, I believe four months is lots of time for the federal negotiator Harvie Andre to get up to speed and get on. Mr. Speaker, we've been close on devolution, except for six issues that are largely around finances. I think with the attention of the federal government we can resolve those six within the time frame we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 184-15(5): Assistance Required To Build A United Northern Voice**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're close and perhaps getting closer to some answers. To paraphrase what's been said here a bit earlier today, does the Premier have the concurrence, the agreement, the cooperation, along with the aboriginal leaders in the NWT, Mr. Speaker, to achieve this AIP within that time frame? Are we all at least agreed on that time frame to get this deal done?

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

**Further Return To Question 184-15(5): Assistance Required To Build A United Northern Voice**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I can't speak for all the leaders and say that we have this. I believe I have the agreement from all of those with settled claims to get on with getting this resolved and to be able to begin to, as I say, exercise the benefits out of their claims. Those without claims I'm not sure. I'm not sure whether they see this, as I said earlier, the highest priority. But, Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize, I'm not trying to speak on behalf of all the regional leaders. That's not my place. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 184-15(5): Assistance Required To Build A United Northern Voice**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those First Nations that do not yet have a settled claim, recognizing that situation, respecting it, should we be considering that

as a reason for us all not to join together? Is that in effect a deal breaker, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 184-15(5): Assistance Required To Build A United Northern Voice**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, not in my mind. I think we can work out a deal that can be worked out either regionally or with those who have settled claims and do it in a way that doesn't compromise the rights of those who have not settled claims yet. I think that can be done.

Mr. Speaker, I might say that that is the message that I have heard from Minister Prentice as well. So politically he's on side, I'm on side, if those with settled claims are on side then let's get on with the job and let's do it in a way that doesn't compromise someone else's rights and benefits. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

**Question 185-15(5): Beluga Whales In Husky Lake**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last week I did a Member's statement on the beluga whales and...(inaudible)...Listening to the CBC report this afternoon, half of the 200 whales are making their way out of Husky Lakes. DFO is apparently watching and monitoring them very closely. Also, subsequently in the report this afternoon the president of hunters and trappers in Tuk indicated that if it comes down to it, if it's necessary to harvest these beluga whales, that they don't have the funds to do that. So I'd like to ask the Minister of ENR, will the funds be available at a certain point of time when they have to harvest these beluga whales? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Minister responsible for ENR, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 185-15(5): Beluga Whales In Husky Lake**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I haven't had a chance to talk to the deputy minister on this issue. I heard the reports this morning, but I can tell you that -- and I haven't heard from the hunters' and trappers' association either -- but if there is a need for some support in harvesting those whales and not just waste the meat, then, yes, we will work with them. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 185-15(5): Beluga Whales In Husky Lake**

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's response. I will keep him informed in regard to the beluga whales that are still stranded in Husky Lake and I will continue to work with him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. I don't know if I heard a question there, Mr. Premier. Mr. Handley, I don't know if there was a question there. Do you want to respond?

**Further Return To Question 185-15(5): Beluga Whales In Husky Lake**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I didn't hear a question, but I'd appreciate hearing from the people in the area and, as I said before, we're ready to help in whatever way we can. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 186-15(5): Comprehensive Vision To Address Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister, the Premier, had indicated to us the next six to 12 months are very critical for us, the people of the Northwest Territories. Survival, I said in my Member's statement, of a nation and of a people is critical in terms of the issue that we're talking about here today. I'd like to ask the Premier if he would call an emergency meeting of all people, of all leaders in the Northwest Territories, to deal with this issue once and for all. Strike a plan that would see the benefits stop leaving the Northwest Territories and stay in the Northwest Territories. Would the Minister, Premier, call a meeting of all the leaders of the Northwest Territories who have a stake in the resource revenue sharing and devolution? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 186-15(5): Comprehensive Vision To Address Resource Revenue Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've had those discussions with not all the leaders, but some of the leaders. They have asked that I wait until they have a meeting of the leaders of the summit, which is scheduled for November 9<sup>th</sup>. I told them I would. At that meeting they want to iron out some issues amongst themselves first. But if, for some reason, that isn't ironed out, then I think we have to call a meeting in any case. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 186-15(5): Comprehensive Vision To Address Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also referenced the book I called, I read "The Genius of Sitting Bull". Sitting Bull, in order to save his people, save his nation, rallied the leaders around that country to get a job done. He did it swift and quickly. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier, in terms of doing things in the North as Mr. Braden has indicated, millions are leaving here as we speak right now. There's thousands leaving this community and the Northwest Territories. Would the Minister consider with the aboriginal leaders having some discussion about constitutional reform issues? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 186-15(5):  
Comprehensive Vision To Address Resource Revenue  
Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, in terms of constitutional reform issues, we want to take our rightful place in the country. We are paying our fair share. We are earning our share through resource revenues and I will entertain doing that. I want to do it with all northerners, whether it is Metis, Dene, Inuvialuit, other people, whoever, all of us together. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 186-15(5):  
Comprehensive Vision To Address Resource Revenue  
Sharing**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly support the Premier's comments in terms of all northerners have a stake in this nation here. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier if he would invite the regional director, Mr. Bobby Overvold, also to this very important meeting, because he is a key person in this whole issue of devolution and resource revenue sharing. He can give us insight as to how Ottawa is behaving towards the Northwest Territories and explain why this craziness in terms of why we are not having a devolution and resource revenue sharing deal in the North today. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 186-15(5):  
Comprehensive Vision To Address Resource Revenue  
Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Prentice has made very strong statements of support for the Northwest Territories. He has visited the Northwest Territories three times in the last eight months, more than any other Minister has in that short period of time. Mr. Speaker, rather than inviting a senior bureaucrat to join us, I would invite an elected leader. I would invite Minister Prentice to come here and sit down with us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 186-15(5):  
Comprehensive Vision To Address Resource Revenue  
Sharing**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly support Mr. Premier's invitation to have Mr. Minister sit in the middle of all of our leaders so they could talk to him. Mr. Speaker, shortly after the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, how soon can the leaders from the Northwest Territories settle our unsettled land claims, come together and have some real discussions as to how we save this nation in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 186-15(5):  
Comprehensive Vision To Address Resource Revenue  
Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, time is of the essence. We need to do this quickly. I want to respect the aboriginal leaders' request to meet themselves on November 9<sup>th</sup> first. I want to follow it. I will continue to meet with the national chief, Bill Erasmus, and other leaders. But we need to do this soon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Before I go on, I would like to draw Members' attention to the gallery to Mr. Fred Carmichael, president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and Mr. Tom Williams, chief operating officer for the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

---Applause

Oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 187-15(5): Literacy Program Budget  
Reductions**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know Fred is up there, so I better sound intelligent here.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, we heard talk of resource revenue sharing now for years and years. As I said before, it seems like we are going in circles. I would like to ask Premier Handley what is the single biggest issue that is preventing us from moving this agenda forward? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 187-15(5): Literacy Program  
Budget Reductions**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I don't know which one is the main one, but I tell you, us not working together is one for sure. We need to work together. You put your finger on that one today. A second one is a real infrequency by the bureaucracy in Ottawa who just don't get it. They want to treat us as if we are a colony out there. Mr. Speaker, I think those are the two main things that are stopping us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 187-15(5): Literacy  
Program Budget Reductions**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Premier for that answer because it is something that I have always been wondering about. I look around this Assembly. We have Inuvialuit in here. We have the Gwich'in. We have the Sahtu. We have the Dehcho, Tlicho, Akaitcho, Metis. We pretty well have everybody covered in here as far as the major claimant groups go. The Premier just heard me name off the major groups as I see them. Has the Premier ever sat in a room leader to leader, government to government with these seven or eight major claimant groups, came up with a strategy and tried to move this issue of resource revenue and devolution forward? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 187-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, yes, I have several times. I have sat down with all of the leaders and tried to come up with one consensus on agreement. In fact, we have done it through the Circle of Northern Leaders. I think we are the first government to have all of the leaders together, 50 some leaders together around the table, to try to get a consensus. Mr. Speaker, we need everybody to work with us and to recognize and maybe some compromise and so on on everybody's part to make this work. But we have done it. We have done it on several occasions. I have done it individually. I have done it with everybody together. I have done it with those with land claims, those without and so on, Mr. Speaker. I am going to continue to do that, because I think working in partnership is something that you can't just do once. It is an ongoing exercise. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 187-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Premier said that he met with all these groups. I was asking if he met with them all at the same time, all seven or eight major leaders, because I have gone to a few leadership summits. There is the Aboriginal Summit, there are some other groups, but it seems to me that there is always someone missing. There is always a group missing. Are all of these groups part of the Aboriginal Summit? Has he met with every single leader in the same room? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 187-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I met with every single regional leader in the same room several times. The most recent time was in Norman Wells in about April. At that time, in fact, I met with the leaders and with Minister Prentice in the room as well. Mr. Speaker, we have had several of those meetings. In terms of all of the leaders, chiefs, mayors and everybody we tried; we never got everybody together, but regional leadership, yes. We have met with them several times. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 187-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was something that I always wondered about because there always seemed to be one...Someone is always missing. My colleague from the Sahtu likes to quote a commercial, hands in your pocket. We don't have pockets. They have the whole pair of pants.

---Laughter

The Premier talks about the bureaucrats. This is not about the bureaucrats. I would like to see the Premier

and major leaders go down to Ottawa, meet with the Prime Minister, skip the bureaucrats. We have to start skipping the bureaucrats and relay that message to the Prime Minister that we want to negotiate with him directly, no bureaucrats, because that is why it has gone on for 20 years and that is why it may go on for another 20 years. We are going to wander around in the wilderness for another 40 years before we reach this Promised Land. Would the Premier communicate to the Prime Minister that he does not want to meet with any more bureaucrats; meet leader to leader, government to government himself? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 187-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify, I don't go to Ottawa to meet with bureaucrats. I don't meet with bureaucrats here. They meet with our bureaucrats. I go to Ottawa and meet with the leaders and that is the Prime Minister, the Minister of DIAND or another federal Minister.

Mr. Speaker, just to be clear though, I think it would be very difficult and it may be impossible to have the Prime Minister to agree to meet with me as a political leader without having one of his staff in the room and so on. I think putting in that kind of a request, we probably wouldn't get the meeting. But even if the bureaucrats are sitting there, it is political leader to political leader. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

**Question 188-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland. It is in follow-up to Ms. Lee's questions. The Minister was here last week when I was questioning the former Minister of Health and Social Services on a meeting that I had with 17 constituents here in Yellowknife who brought to my attention a number of issues, patient safety, staff safety, and staffing in general at Stanton. Mr. Speaker, I have been hearing, after making those comments in this House last week, from other health centres in Inuvik, Fort Smith and Hay River, that some of these issues are prevalent in other health centres as well, not just Stanton Hospital here in Yellowknife. The former Minister said that it would take two weeks to get a redraft of the staffing report that was done in April that went to the department. Obviously, it wasn't good enough or it didn't say what the department wanted to say. It went back to the drafters or the consultant for a redraft. I would like to know exactly when we are going to get a copy of this staffing report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

**Return To Question 188-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can't give the Member an exact date of when the report will be brought forward. I was part of the discussion or listening to the commitment made by the previous Minister in this area. As I stated earlier to Ms. Lee, it will be our duty to follow up on that to ensure that the information does come forward in a timely fashion. There has been much work done that we have to look at and pull together. But I believe there was a commitment made already. Again, I have confirmed today that we will bring that forward and deal with that. It is easy enough to say that there are difficulties within the territory in the delivery of health care services. The more difficult thing is how are we going to work together to ensure that we provide the adequate level of service to all residents? I think we have gone a long way in trying to meet those needs. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 188-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my mind, and judging by the comments I have heard, the e-mails I have got, and the telephone calls that I have taken on this issue, I don't think the government is listening to the front-line health care professionals here in the Northwest Territories. It is obvious to me that there are problems, especially in the area of staffing. When management says that the front-line worker is expendable, that causes me a great deal of concern. This is happening far too often. I think we run the risk of losing a lot of our front-line staff here if we don't take some immediate action to try to address this concern. I am not sure who is going to be the next Minister responsible for Health, but in the meantime, the Minister responsible today, I would like to ask him if he would entertain getting together some Regular Members from this side of the House to actually go out and do some of the work and listen to the concerns that are out there, because I think people want somebody to listen. Management is not doing it. We are here. I will certainly make myself available to do that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 188-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not prepared at this stage to have a committee of Regular Members and myself or a joint committee of members and Ministers go through a political process of questioning staff and putting them under that situation. In fact, I believe an employee survey was used in 2002, if I have the dates right or the year right of an employment survey done on an independent process. I think that would be the more appropriate tool to use.

As the Government of the Northwest Territories on the human resource side, dealing with the front-line workers, we have done a lot to try and alleviate the problems. It is not 100 percent, but we have gone a long way. The use of agency nurses to cover our shortages and that is not

the best response but that is a response that we have been able to do. Recruitment of nurses, we have now a unit within Human Resources to deal with that. Community Health Nurse Development Program has been put into place. Graduate Nurse Placement Program, the guarantees of jobs for those graduates here in the Northwest Territories, Nurse Practitioner Education Leave Bursary Program, Physician Program and bursaries that we have available. We have done what we can to try and meet the needs out there and deal with front-line service issues. We are not going to be able to take care of it all at once, but we are working to ensure that we are dealing with them respectfully. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 188-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I respect the Minister and what he has brought to the table here today. There are a number of programs out there. I am not talking about programs. I am talking about our front-line staff who want to be able to have someone to listen to their concerns and act on them. You can have all of the programs you want, but if you are not listening to your staff, there are going to be difficulties and such as I mentioned earlier, patient safety and especially staff safety. There are a number of areas of concern here. I would like the Minister to again make a commitment that he will go out, if he is, in fact, the next Minister of Health and Social Services of the government, whoever it is going to be. Somebody has to go out. Somebody has to listen before we lose any more front-line health care workers in this territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 188-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree; we have to listen to the front-line workers. We have to listen to, whether it is on the health side, social services side, the teachers' side, people that deliver the programs that we discuss in this Assembly, those people that are on the front lines delivering that to meet the needs of our residents. We have to pay attention to what is being said out there. But at the same time, we have a responsibility to ensure that we are doing it at a level that is acceptable throughout the territory. That brings its own challenges. We also have to deal with boards out there that have impact on the delivery of those programs. We have to work with them. Ultimately, it all comes down to the dollars we have available to deliver the program in the Northwest Territories. That is always a challenge that we try to deal with as an Assembly. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 188-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister why he is so quick to say a group of Regular Members couldn't work in conjunction with the ministry of Health and Social Services to go out to

Inuvik, Fort Smith, Hay River and Yellowknife here at Stanton and actually talk to the front-line workers and come up with a game plan how to address the issues that are there and are real. I would like to ask him that question. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 188-15(5): Stanton Territorial Hospital Human Resource Survey**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been a Member for a number of assemblies now. I have seen the committees put together. I have seen the results of them. We have come up with some positive changes in a number of areas. Ultimately, if it does become my full-time responsibility in this field, I want to make myself comfortable with the file as to what work has been done. For example, I know, under the previous Minister, that a Joint Leadership Committee between all health boards and the department has been formed. They have put together a strategic plan. That would be, I think, some of the things we need to ensure we get on with and ensure that we bring to completion, because I have also been part of governments where a lot of work has been done and shelved. Really, we don't change anything. That is not what we want to be about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

**Question 189-15(5): Thelon Area Management Plan Implementation**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, the Honourable Joe Handley. As everyone is well aware, we did sign an MOU in Lutselk'e to look at the viability of establishing a protected area in the East Arm area. Lutselk'e, the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, the Lutselk'e First Nations Council and the Akaitcho Territorial Government recently approved the Thelon management plan that would ensure better protection of the Beverly herd calving grounds in the Thelon area. This management plan has been provided to the government a little over a year ago, I guess, for their approval so they can begin work on extending this protection for the Beverly herd. With the dwindling, declining numbers of caribou and the Barren Ground Caribou Management Strategy that is coming out, why hasn't the GNWT, being the last jurisdiction to approve this management plan, approved it to date? I just want to know what the hold-up is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for the Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 189-15(5): Thelon Area Management Plan Implementation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure all of the reasons for the delay. I want to first congratulate Lutselk'e on the protected area and the MOU that was recently signed. In terms of delay, I am not sure of all of the reasons for it, Mr. Speaker. I can tell you, though, that there is a workshop being held in November of this year to work on some of the issues, to look at

survey results and also to work with the people involved on a management plan for that caribou herd. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 189-15(5): Thelon Area Management Plan Implementation**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I realize that the workshop is coming up, but since this management plan has the approval of the Government of Nunavut, the Government of Canada, the Lutselk'e First Nations and the Akaitcho Territory Government, but not the approval of this government to move this plan forward, and with the declining numbers of caribou that we are addressing here today, why do we need another workshop for this government just to basically rubber stamp the plan and move it forward so the WWF in conjunction with the Lutselk'e First Nations and the Beverly Caribou Management Board can start moving on sort of working to develop and implement the protection of this critical caribou calving ground? Can the Minister commit to me, after this workshop, I think it is November 12<sup>th</sup>, that the government will give us a response, hopefully a positive response, as to when they plan on approving this management plan? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 189-15(5): Thelon Area Management Plan Implementation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will give the Member my commitment that we will be there. We will participate in the workshop. We will share our latest survey results and we will work with the other partners on a management plan with the objective of having an agreed to management plan by all of the partners. Mr. Speaker, we don't have any particular reason to delay this. We have a lot of concern about the health of that herd and do want to make sure that the management plan we and all the partners come up with is one that takes advantage of the most recent survey information we have. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 189-15(5): Thelon Area Management Plan Implementation**

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, the plan has been approved by everybody but this government. I don't know what the hold-up is. Basically what the people are worried about, Mr. Speaker, is that the claims that have been staked in that area are uranium exploration claims. The amount of activity is dramatically increased because the price of uranium has obviously gone up, so everybody is going in there and investing in their exploration towards mine development in this area. The people want to get some protection against the mines to ensure that the calving grounds of this Beverly herd are not damaged or developed. Can the Minister provide a commitment to the Lutselk'e and Nunavut residents who rely heavily on this herd as their main meat source, that this government will approve the management plan shortly

after the workshop, within the next month or so? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 189-15(5): Thelon Area Management Plan Implementation**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I will give that assurance but, at the same time, I want to discuss this further with the officials in ENR. But I don't know of any reason why we would not be able to achieve what the Member is requesting. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Time for question period is expired. However, I will... Thank you, Members. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to seek unanimous consent to return to Item 6 on the Order Paper, oral questions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will return to Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question 190-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on the first day of session, which was October 17<sup>th</sup>, I was asking the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment questions about the literacy cuts and what he was doing about it. Mr. Speaker, if I may roughly quote from page 627 of our unedited Hansard, the Minister said he would be hopefully attending this meeting next Tuesday, which would have been yesterday, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of this month. His meeting was supposed to be with the Council of Ministers of Education. Mr. Speaker, did anyone go on the Minister's behalf? If they did, what did they say and what are they promoting? Can the Minister give us those details? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

**Return To Question 190-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the Honourable Diane Finley notified the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada that she was unwilling to meet with a group of Ministers and asked if one Minister would be delegated to speak on all of our behalves. I transmitted my approval for that position to the chair of the CMEC. However, the majority of Ministers from across Canada did not support that; therefore, the meeting did not take place.

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

**Supplementary To Question 190-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. While I am not glad to hear that the meeting was cancelled, I am glad to hear that the Minister was doing something in the sense of making sure it could go forward. Mr. Speaker, I asked the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment if, assuming that nothing has changed as far as the cuts are concerned, what is the Minister now doing in regards to the literacy cuts so we can get a handle of this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 190-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members of this House are aware, as I said earlier, I have written to Minister Finley to protest the cuts. The Premier has written to the Prime Minister to talk about the cuts, particularly the literacy and Status of Women cuts. I have another trip planned to Ottawa later this fall. I have my office working to see if I can add to that trip a meeting with Minister Finley to discuss this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 190-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Education Minister working with the coalition, with the other Education Ministers in this regard to basically knock down the door of Ms. Finley's and saying what are we going to do to get attention of this issue? Mr. Speaker, what is this Minister doing, for the record to, again, bring highlights to this issue? Is he going to arrange not in a letter, but a full force down there in Ottawa to finally get attention to these literacy cuts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 190-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Ministers of Education for Canada are continuing to work together to see if we can find some way to raise the profile of this issue. Yes, it is my intention to continue to seek a face-to-face meeting with Minister Finley to press the case. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 190-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can I expect that the Education, Culture and Employment Minister would maybe take steps so far as to work with other Ministers across the country? These cuts affect everywhere in Canada. Maybe he could speak to the other Ministers in the other provinces and territories about passing motions in every Legislature across Canada to get the attention of this government. Would this Minister agree to do something like that, again to get the attention

of the federal government that every Legislature, every group of people, are concerned about these cuts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 190-15(5): Literacy Program Budget Reductions**

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I have told this House, I am already doing that. I am already working with other Ministers, and not just with Education Ministers. At the last FPT that I attended, all of the Ministers there took occasion with the Minister who was present to express our concern about the cuts to the literacy file in hopes that it would be passed on to Minister Finley. We are working, not just as Ministers of Education, but generally, federal, provincial and territorial Ministers across Canada are working with our Premiers to make sure that the federal government is aware that we are very concerned with these cuts. We are expecting that we will see some reinvestment in the area of literacy in particular. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Oral questions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

**Question 191-15(5): Norman Wells Oilfield Revenues**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to continue on with my questions to the Premier in terms of the human resource revenue sharing and devolution agreements. I want to talk about some of the outstanding issues that are still on the table. I want to specifically make reference to the Norman Wells oilfield revenue and the position of this government that is given to our negotiators in terms of what is the status and what is our position in regards to the Norman Wells oilfield. Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 191-15(5): Norman Wells Oilfield Revenues**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The GNWT position is that the federal ownership and a share of that oilfield is in lieu of resource royalties. Therefore, the profits they make from that ownership should be subject to the same rules as any other resource revenue sharing arrangement. The federal government is of the view that they should be able to take the profits out of their equity share and not have to pay royalties on it. We don't agree with that. Mr. Speaker, we are firm on that position. The revenues need to be shared with us as a government as part of the resource revenue sharing deal. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 191-15(5): Norman Wells Oilfield Revenues**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given that the federal government has some ownership in the Norman Wells oilfield along with some pure oil, in 1920 they struck a deal, so I don't think they really want to give up their golden pot here to say we are going to share with our own people in the Northwest Territories. So that

position, I am not too sure how strong our argument is, Mr. Premier, in terms of how we negotiate something like that. I think it is over 86 years that they have been retracting royalties from the Norman Wells oilfield. I think they own a considerable amount of dollars. I want to ask the Premier, without giving any type of indication as to our strategy in terms of negotiating this specific area, what type of discussions are happening with the leadership in the Sahtu and also with the North in terms of coming to a resolution to sign off on these other five outstanding issues to come home with a package that will be satisfactory to people of the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 191-15(5): Norman Wells Oilfield Revenues**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Norman Wells oilfield issue of where the royalties are going to be paid, whether they should be paid at all and so on, how we treat the federal ownership, is one of the six issues that are outstanding. Mr. Speaker, I won't get into all of them, but in the last meeting of the leaders I outlined that we, as a territorial government, wanted to come to an agreement with the federal government. The aboriginal leaders' negotiator in the summer of 2005 had said this is not an issue for the aboriginal leaders, it's only between the GNWT and the federal government, but they were ready to initial off on a draft devolution agreement. We said we weren't until this was settled, and I believe the aboriginal leaders understand our position and, in fact, agree with us because this some day could be part of their resource revenues as they take over self-government. But, Mr. Speaker, it's one of the issues I want to talk to aboriginal leaders about, following the November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting.

I've also written a letter to Minister Prentice saying let's start devolution by resolving these six issues. The Secretary to Cabinet has also written to Harvie Andre with the same message. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 191-15(5): Norman Wells Oilfield Revenues**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of the Norman Wells oilfield is an issue where the federal government has their cake and they're eating it too, and they're just throwing us the crumbs.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** The crumbs.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Premier what is his position from the government in terms of Imperial Oil or if the federal government ever decides to sell their share of the oilfield. What are the chances of the Government of the Northwest Territories to have some ownership in an oilfield, because if the Norman Wells oilfield is being sold by Imperial Oil, the first agreement says in here under the Norman Wells Imperial Oil Agreement, Imperial Oil shall give the U.S. government the option to buy half of the recoverable reserves in the proven area. So I want to ask the position of this government here. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 191-15(5): Norman Wells Oilfield Revenues**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, let me say that it's our view that if the ownership of the federal government's share of that oilfield were to change hands we should not have to buy it. That should be part of the devolution deal. If they don't want to agree to that, then let us get a share of the royalties off their equity piece as well. It doesn't matter to us whether it's Imperial who owns it or the federal government or Petro-Canada or who it is, we should be collecting royalties from it. But if it is to be transferred, then it should be transferred but we shouldn't have to pay market dollars for that. That wouldn't make any sense, from our position. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 191-15(5): Norman Wells Oilfield Revenues**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with Mr. Premier that it should be ours, rightfully ours. When does this government give anything away for free? The U.S. government said they were addicted to oil, so I don't think they're going to give anything away either. Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Premier in terms of the Norman Wells oilfield in terms of the issue of staying on the table. Would the transfers and the resource royalties coming from that field, would the Premier again sit down with the negotiators, sit down with the leaders and get us the oilfields back and not have it back into the U.S. government as it says in the Norman Wells agreement here? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 191-15(5): Norman Wells Oilfield Revenues**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will do. In fact, we're going to meet following their November 9<sup>th</sup> meeting, then I want to sit down on all of the six outstanding items and refresh everybody's memory of where we're at with it, why we're holding the positions we do, and then get on with negotiating with the federal government hopefully with the aboriginal leaders' support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Handley. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Question 192-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a couple more questions for the Premier with regard to our theme day topic today -- resource revenue sharing -- and our efforts on behalf of that file. I would like to ask the Premier what other resources that he has at his disposal to affect some progress on this file. Last week when we talked about the distribution of workload in Cabinet, the Premier shared that he carries a very heavy workload and that his desk is seldom clear of items that need to be done. That being the case, combined with what he said today about this is his highest

priority, I'd like to know what other things that the Premier is engaging or using to advance this. We say if the federal government appoints somebody on a certain file like the pipeline or devolution or resource revenue sharing, we go oh, that's a really positive signal. That means that they're interested. That means this is a high priority. What do we have in our government that would signal that? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Honourable Premier, Mr. Handley.

**Return To Question 192-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly on these files I don't do it all myself. We've got a very competent negotiator who is experienced and is continuing to work for us. We've stayed with the same negotiator. He's there.

Mr. Speaker, as we need, we do hire consultant help. Again, we're careful but we would sooner pay to have a consultant give us expert advice on a particular area than take our chances on trying to just estimate it ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to that, of course, we have the backup of departments like our Department of Finance, we have our Ottawa office, we have our own staff of people who are working with us on it. But, Mr. Speaker, we are not going to go out and waste money hiring more experts, but we will do it where we need it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 192-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if this is the highest priority of our government, I've been in the government 11 years and I've never heard who the negotiator is in our government on the resource revenue sharing file. I don't know if the Premier wants to share the name of who that person is; maybe I'd recognize it. But I've never heard the name of whoever that person is. We also have a presence in Ottawa? How much of the workload that is ascribed to the presence that we have in Ottawa relates to this topic? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 192-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I heard two questions. I'll answer the first one, and I apologize if the Member wasn't aware of who our negotiator was. Our negotiator is Hal Gerein. He has been our negotiator going back in the previous government, I believe. He's been there a long time. He's an experienced person who spent many years as a deputy minister in our government and has done an excellent job, in my view, for us.

The second question is how much time in the Ottawa office. They are dealing with all kinds of files there from

all the Ministers and so on. But I would estimate that probably in the neighbourhood of 50 percent of their time is on issues related to devolution, resource revenue sharing, our relationship with the federal government, in those areas. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 192-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to suggest to the Premier that if this...I do know Mr. Gerein, with all due respect, and we don't want to take away from the good work that he's done here at all. I had honestly forgotten about him though; I haven't seen him for a long time. Mr. Speaker, we have appointed...On the energy file for example, we appointed a very high profile Conservative. I think Peter Lougheed did some work for our government on some previous file. It seems that when the federal government appoints somebody like Harvie Andre or David Petersen or somebody like this, it's a name and a face and experience that is undeniable and recognizable. I'd like to ask the Premier if there's any appetite, or would there be any value, in engaging somebody who has an absolute proven track record, maybe a little in with the Conservative government? I don't think we're doing enough. If this is the highest priority of our government, we need to do more. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 192-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, for the Member's information, Peter Lougheed, former Premier of Alberta, has and continues to work with us on a number of files, primarily on the hydro file but he's also worked with us in other areas in terms of relationship with the federal government, and I'll continue with him.

In terms of other people, if there's suggestions, I'd like to consider this further. But definitely, if there is somebody out there who can help us move this ahead in a big way, then, yes, I'm in favour of making an investment in that person's time and reputation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 192-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I'm not trying to be too prescriptive in terms of telling the Premier what he should do. I'd like to go to Ottawa myself on this file, but I'm a little busy right now. But it is so important and I'm glad to hear that the Premier is willing to dedicate resources to this. We have 4,500 people in our public service. We have money for a lot of things and I just want to see, if this is our highest priority, I want to see the resources and the effort that bears that out. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Mr. Handley.

**Further Return To Question 192-15(5): Resources Necessary To Achieve Progress On Resource Revenue Sharing**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again I'm not sure I heard a question, but, Mr. Speaker, I want to do that too and, yes, we're not going to be shy to invest money if we feel there is going to be a good return, and this is the highest priority file we have. We've got a short time frame and whatever resources we can muster out there, we need to pick up on. Thank you.

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

**Question 193-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for Mr. Roland, the Minister of Health and Social Services, and it concerns the stoppage of addictions treatment at Nats'ejee K'eh which ended Monday afternoon, I understand, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to confirm or find out, Mr. Speaker, who exactly is the employer of the 22 people involved in the Nats'ejee K'eh Treatment Centre, Mr. Speaker?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

**Return To Question 193-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Nats'ejee K'eh Society board of directors are the employer. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 193-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In general, Mr. Speaker, what is the nature of the contract or the relationship that our government has in terms of funding and supporting this society?

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

**Further Return To Question 193-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the arrangement we have is with the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority who then has a contract in place for delivery of these services with the Nats'ejee K'eh Society. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 193-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, is our government directly, or perhaps through the health authority, involved in any

way with the negotiations or the framework for negotiations with the workers?

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

**Further Return To Question 193-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're not directly involved with the negotiations or the board in this area. We are monitoring the situation as things progress. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 193-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, are negotiations in fact underway at this time? We're now two days into the disruption of service there, and what steps will we take, Mr. Speaker, to ensure that what I would say is an essential service is restored as soon as possible, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 193-15(5): Disruption Of Service At Nats'ejee K'eh**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what we've done to date is I've just signed off a letter to the organizations, both parties, to urge them to get back to negotiations. From the side of delivery of services, we are prepared for those who are seeking support in the area of addictions help, that we would ensure that services are available to them whether in the territory or out of the territory. Thank you.

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

**Question 194-15(5): Community Freezer For Tulita**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been handed a note by the president of the Renewable Resource Council in Tulita in terms of community freezers. I want to ask the honourable Brendan Bell if he has any idea as to my question here in terms of the community has been promised, similar to Paulatuk, community freezers for individuals or families that need it. So I want to ask the Minister if he's aware of such a promise, maybe by the previous government or the previous administration, in terms of community freezers for the community members in Tulita.

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

**Return To Question 194-15(5): Community Freezer For Tulita**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me say that no, I was not aware of a commitment made in that regard, if one was made. A little bit of history, Mr. Speaker. I think in the mid-90s there were 17 communities who had community freezers and I think some of them had more than more, but certainly not more than two. At that point, the government made a decision

to get out of funding the O and M for these community freezers for a variety of reasons. Cost was one of them. Upkeep was another. When freezers fail, obviously the entire community's subsistence harvest can be lost, Mr. Speaker. So we looked at a number of arrangements and they varied by community. As we've heard earlier, in Paulatuk and in Holman a commitment was made to move to chest freezers that individuals would take care of. In other communities, the facilities were sold to the community. My understanding is, Mr. Speaker, that in Tulita an arrangement was made with the community to sell the freezer for \$1, but I don't have all of the history on this. I'd certainly be willing to instruct my officials to sit down and go back and revisit this if there's a feeling there was some commitment that was made and not lived up to. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 194-15(5): Community Freezer For Tulita**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would ask if the Minister would continue on with this commitment to look into this issue and come back to the people in Tulita in terms of looking at the options of what they were promised. People in the community knew and had asked me. They said there was a promise made and to date nothing has ever come about in terms of our community freezers. Maybe something where they have chest freezers, I believe they're called. So they're waiting for a promise to be fulfilled by this government.

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

**Further Return To Question 194-15(5): Community Freezer For Tulita**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will certainly sit down. I'll have the regional staff sit down with the community. The information I've been provided if we feel the commitment to sell the freezer was made. In other communities, there were one-time payments made for chest freezers. Those payments have concluded. So really it is a variety of solutions in a number of communities. But we will go back. If there was a commitment made and we have not lived up to that, we will. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 194-15(5): Community Freezer For Tulita**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A promise made, a promise kept. Mr. Speaker, promises where it's going to be he said, she said, they said. You know, it's going to get into this craziness. So I would ask the Minister if he would instruct his staff to come to Tulita, talk to the people who heard and who acknowledge that a promise was made in terms of having community freezers in Tulita. I would ask the Minister if he could do that within the next week or so. Go to Tulita and talk to the people there in terms of what type of promises were made in terms of providing them with some form of freezer. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 194-15(5): Community Freezer For Tulita**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly I will ask the regional staff to visit Tulita, talk to the community leadership about what they feel the promises were. We do have records going back. I'm not sure we have the specific discussions, and the Member is right; we don't want to get into a you promised, he said, she said debate. Clearly, we can't afford to give everybody in the Northwest Territories a freezer, so we do have to go back to the arrangements that were made and the commitments that were made. We will do that, Mr. Speaker. I give the Member my commitment in that regard. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 194-15(5): Community Freezer For Tulita**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if we had resource revenue sharing we could give everybody two freezers in the whole Northwest Territories.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Two freezers.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the Minister, and I sure appreciate the strong commitment to the people in Tulita in terms of instructing his staff to come into Tulita and talk about the freezer issue. Would the Minister commit to the people in Tulita that within a certain time frame, let's say next week, maybe on October 31<sup>st</sup>, on Halloween night, trick or treat, in terms of having this issue settled once and for all in the community of Tulita and in terms of getting them a freezer? I hope it's a treat, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 194-15(5): Community Freezer For Tulita**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'm sure the Member doesn't want a trick. In fact, we will sit down, talk to the community. My staff are listening. I'm sure we're busily going over people's schedules and trying to figure out how we can get somebody in there as quick as possible. So I will make the commitment that we will move as quickly as we possibly can, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Oral questions. Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**ITEM 9: REPLIES TO OPENING ADDRESS**

**Mr. Miltenberger's Reply**

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to speak on some environmental issues that are of very grave concern to me, and some suggested changes that we, as a government and a Legislature, should be contemplating as we move into the coming months and years.

Mr. Speaker, this morning at 8:30 I had the opportunity to meet with the Mackenzie River Basin Board. That is a

group of representatives from Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and the Northwest Territories, as well as aboriginal representatives from each of those jurisdictions. This board was formed nine years ago to look and oversee what is happening in the Mackenzie River basin, which is one of the biggest river basins in the world and it's fed by the Athabasca basin as well as the Peace basin.

Mr. Speaker, I met with this board because I am fundamentally convinced that from what I have seen over the years -- and I've been raising this issue in the House for 11 years -- but in the last couple of years in my time as Minister of the Environment, I am fundamentally convinced that the issue of water is going to be...not is going to be, is more important to us than is oil and gas, than is diamonds, than is gold or uranium.

I met with this board to let them know that as MLA for Thebacha, that I was very, very concerned what was happening in the Mackenzie basin. I'd like to give you some examples of why I am concerned.

The Slave River is down at least 10 feet. I've walked down to the rapids and you can almost cross the river on the rocks that are now exposed. They walked a Cat across the Peace River last summer. The ferry at La Crete could not run because there was no water.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Shame.

**MR. MILTENBERGER:** The ferry here on the Mackenzie is run aground because of low water. There are huge issues in Alberta. There is a growing drought. Precipitation rates have changed. There used to be over 150 glaciers; those have gone, they're down to about 35.

I met with the Member from Alberta when I had the file for the MOU between Alberta and the Northwest Territories, and the assistant deputy minister for the Environment indicated that in Calgary, for example, they get 30 percent of their water from the glaciers that come from the Rockies. They expect that water to be done within the next 20 years and those glaciers to be gone.

Two weeks ago we hosted the first gathering of environment, resource, forestry Ministers, fishery Ministers, in over 10 years, in Yellowknife. For every Minister from every jurisdiction, there were two fundamental issues that came up. Climate change is upon us and we have to be able to deal with it, and directly flowing from climate change are the water issues, Mr. Speaker. In our jurisdiction it is the same. We are no different. We are a land-based jurisdiction where the land defines who we are. We are a resourced-based economy. Every community we have is tied to the water, to the rivers or the lakes, and the studies tell us that the lakes are lowering in levels. In some, the smaller ones have disappeared. We know that without water our jurisdiction is going to be in significant trouble. We are a downstream jurisdiction from Alberta, which is a huge concern to us. There are talks about 24-inch water pipeline from Lake Athabasca straight into McMurray to feed the tar sands. That is a very significant concern. We are already extracting hundreds of millions of cubic metres of water to feed the insatiable demand of the oil and gas sector.

The Mackenzie Basin Board is our vehicle to deal with our concerns. We are a downstream jurisdiction. Just about

all our water concerns are transboundary issues. This board has laboured long and hard in almost complete political obscurity. They published a report called the State of the Aquatic Ecosystems a few years back from data that's from the 1990s. They are trying to redo that one. I believe that things are changing so fast that we have to encourage them to move on this.

When I met with the Environment Ministers I took the opportunity to ask the Minister of Saskatchewan, the Minister of Alberta, would they be interested and willing to meet on water, given all the concerns we've heard; the impending drought in the western provinces, especially in Alberta, and the concerns that I raised at the table repeatedly through the week-long meetings, and they are very interested. I would say in this House that it is time for us, as well, to politically recognize water and what it means to us and what is happening.

Mr. Speaker, I've heard concerns, for example, of what's happening with the quality of the water in terms of how it tastes, that for the first time ever people are having to pull their nets out of the water to clean out the algae. That tells us that things are growing in the river that didn't grow, because of the increased volume of things being released into the water like fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, that are all contributing to deteriorate the water quality. This is a major issue for us.

I had supper in this House with former Member Steen last week from up in Nunakput, from Tuk. He would tell us the water is so low around his area, that they're going to have to build roads because there's no water left for boats to travel on. We know that the permafrost is going down. We know that temperatures are warming, that the fire seasons are starting earlier and lasting longer. These all affect the water.

We know that in the Mackenzie basin there are over one million head of livestock on the farms and ranches, and they release tremendous amounts of methane and those farms, as well, use tons of fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides.

We know that in Alberta there are vast tracks of the forest land that is being cut and harvested, and that when you remove that amount of ground cover, it has a dramatic impact on the environment and what flows into the river and how and what kind of retention there is of the moisture. And we see this. Ten feet the river has dropped, the Slave River has dropped in Fort Smith. That is a massive amount of water that is no longer flowing into Great Slave Lake, into the Mackenzie and into the surrounding environment where we all live, where all our people live. That is an enormous issue.

There are climate change factors underway that we cannot change. That is clear. Things that have happened over the last 30, 40 years have been building and we are living with the results now. So what we are in, Mr. Speaker, we are in a time of trying to anticipate what is coming and how do we adapt. We cannot stop it, but we can try to anticipate and adapt.

In our jurisdiction, Mr. Speaker, the environment has tended to be in the shadows. We have chased resource development as we have to and as we should, but the issue is of balance.

Mr. Speaker, the concern that I have is that up to this point, without the political support, the environment will continue to be second fiddle. What I am suggesting in this House, given these significant concerns, is that we have to look at how do we move the issue of environment to the centre stage along with resource development. Why do I say that, Mr. Speaker? Because we are surrounded by examples of what has happened to our environment when we don't pay attention. We have Giant Mine in Yellowknife with the 300,000 tons of arsenic stored underground that still hasn't been sorted out. South of the lake has Pine Point sitting there with vast open pits and a tailings pond as big as a small lake, still sitting there bubbling. There are sites all across our land that have never been cleaned up.

So as we rush to embrace resource development and talk about balance, it is no longer possible just to look in isolation at each individual development. We have to take a long distance look of the Northwest Territories. What does it look like right now if you take a top-down view, if you look at the land, and what is there in terms of the human impact in all the areas that I just talked about?

Tied to the water are our wildlife issues. What is happening to our wildlife? We know that there are serious concerns because we proved beyond a shadow of doubt that our caribou herds are being impacted. They are being impacted by climate change, resource development, increased pests, predation and hunting. But, without a doubt, those factors all come into play.

The Minister from Alberta told me that the pine beetle, as another example, is in Grande Prairie. That is about 10 or 11 hours south by road, Mr. Speaker, from your community. The Northwest Territories has one of the biggest tracts of the boreal forest in the country; about 18 percent, I believe. A lot of that is Jack pine. The warming climates have shown us that the pine beetle is moving east and north. I have seen the pictures in British Columbia that they have taken with satellite photography of what B.C. looks like in the interior where their forests are. There are vast tracts of dead forest that they are scrambling mightily to try to harvest but they never will, because there is far too much wood. That beetle is 11 hours away and coming this way. You cannot stop it. Those are the kinds of impacts we have to worry about.

This government, and rightly so, has tried to take a big picture approach to the economic development unit and are proposing that we set up a macroeconomic policy. What I am suggesting is that we have to contemplate, maybe not in this business plan because it is set, very soon and make the policy decision that we cannot look at economic development without having our own macro-environmental policy unit or something of that nature. It should no longer be the case, Mr. Speaker, of us going after the diamond mine or the pipeline and saying oh, by the way, somebody check the environment. They should make sure it is taken care of, and we focus on resource development alone. We have talked about it. We raised it in the JRP, but the reality is that we have not sat down as a government, as a Legislature, to look at the cumulative impact.

There are issues everywhere. There are parks issues. The federal government came in and signed a deal with the people from Lutselk'e for a park. They gave us about two days' notice. There is the Thelon Game Sanctuary that has to be protected. There are protected area

requests all across this land that have yet to be addressed that the federal government, following in the Conservative footsteps, give lip service to but no money. We have requests for resource development everywhere. There is exploration everywhere for every possible minerals, oil and gas everywhere, on the edge of parks, down in the South Slave, in the north, around Yellowknife. We have to, as a government, take a step to bring the environment centre stage with resource development.

I am motivated to say this because of another very major issue of concern to me, and should be of concern to everybody in this room and everybody in the Northwest Territories, and that is the fact that the Alberta government has one of the biggest hydroelectric projects on its books at the preliminary stage of assessment. That dam is proposed to be on the Slave River at Fort Smith. This was discussed 20 some years ago. They spent about \$30 million doing their studies, and when they decided not to proceed at that time because of the poor economy, they told us. It was not a matter of if they were going to build this, but when. They are desperate for power in Alberta. They are desperate for clean power in Alberta because they have the dirtiest energy in the country. They are a resource-based economy. So they are looking very seriously at this. Twenty-five years ago it was seen to be an issue for the South Slave, but we have lived, all of us, with the impacts of the Bennett Dam and what that has done to us. Well, you combine that with the lack of precipitation and all of the extraction that is taking place plus the dam, Mr. Speaker, I shudder to think what the Northwest Territories would look like.

The issue of climate change and the issue of water is absolutely fundamental. We can live without diamonds. We used to live without oil and gas. We can live without uranium. But, Mr. Speaker, there is not one of us in this country, in this world, that can live without water or clean air. For us, the issue is water. That is tied to the land. That is what allows this land to exist. Every aboriginal government has it built into their land claim settlement for a reason; because they know that. They have known that for thousands of years. We have to work collectively to address that issue. We should not be scared of it. We should not try to diminish it because we might scare away the resource development. We have to embrace it. Economic development cannot proceed, in my opinion, without environmental oversight there. We cannot do plannings of government unless we integrate those two pieces because we are a resource-based territory.

I think, as we talk to people about caribou and as we talk to our constituents about what is happening with the environment and on the land and the things that people are seeing that confirm that there are tremendous things going on. Our water systems and our environment are under tremendous stress. Our obligation as a government is to keep that balance, but that balance cannot be kept if resource development is here and environment is here. So what I am saying to this Assembly and to the people of the Northwest Territories is, that as we move forward we have tried to address that, but the signals and signs to us are so dramatic that we have to even make a greater effort to bring the environment into the equation for all of our planning. If we do not do that, then we are going to see the continued deterioration of the very thing that gives us life. That is water. If we as legislators do not take those right steps, then our children and grandchildren will look back upon us and say what have you done with our

birthright? The land is no longer habitable. The wildlife has disappeared. The fish are gone. What have you done and why did you not do it when you were supposed to?

In the coming months, Mr. Speaker, I will be coming back to this theme because I think it is absolutely critical to us as we move forward as a territory, that absolute balance, but there has to be an equal balance. We cannot place one resource development above the environment. That is my concern. That is why I have asked for time to address this through the replies to the opening address. It is much longer than two and a half minutes, but I think this is an issue for me and everybody I have talked to in all of my travels across the Northwest Territories, that what is happening to the land and to the animals is of primary concern. If we don't address those, people will also turn their back on resource development.

So I would like to thank you for your time, Mr. Speaker, in the House for listening to me on this very important issue. As you go back to your communities, I would ask, check with your constituents and see. I know that most of you already know this. I am not telling you anything new. It is just that for us as a government, as a Legislature, it is time to acknowledge that we have to do a better job of addressing that balance. If we are going to put resources into a macroeconomic unit, we have to recognize that we don't want to wait. We want to, as well, do one for macro-environmental assessment the same way. That has to include all the work we are doing with energy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Replies to opening address. Petitions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 5 on the orders of the day, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We will return to item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to recognize Mrs. Linda Golding and Mr. Lloyd Henderson. They are both here from NAPEGG and they are here watching from the gallery today because we are reviewing Bill 6, Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act. Thank you for coming.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad to recognize Mr. Tom Williams from Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and

strong advocate of trying to get everybody in the NWT on the same page, Mr. Fred Carmichael.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. Reports of standing and special committees. Reports of committees on the review of bills. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

#### ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

**Tabled Document 57-15(5): Seventeenth Annual Report Of Victims Assistance Committee Of The NWT - April 1, 2005 - March 31, 2006**

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Seventeenth Annual Report of the Victims Assistance Committee of the NWT, April 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006.

**Tabled Document 58-15(5): Annual Report On The Activities Of The Rental Office - January 1 - December 31, 2005**

I would also like to table, Mr. Speaker, the following document, Annual Report on the Activities of the Rental Office, January 1 to December 31, 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**Tabled Document 59-15(5): News Release From Yellowknife Education District No. 1 Entitled, YK 1's Metro Huculak Recognized For Exemplary Leadership**

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to table this document. On October 20, 2006, there was a press release from Yellowknife Education District No. 1. It is titled, YK1's Metro Huculak Recognized for Exemplary Leadership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Tabled Document 60-15(5): Letter To All Members From Yellowknife Resident Craig Yeo Regarding Territorial Electoral Districts**

**MR. BRADEN:** Merci, Mr. Speaker. During yesterday's debate, Mr. Speaker, on the electoral boundaries issue, I quoted from a letter circulated to all Members of the Legislative Assembly by Craig Yeo, a Yellowknife resident. It is a letter dated October 18<sup>th</sup>. I would like to table this for the record.

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

#### ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

**Motion 7-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing**

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, October 27, 2006, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommend that the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories aboriginal governments reach a fair and equitable agreement-in-principle before the next federal budget; and further, that, for the sake of the future generations of northerners, all northern leaders set aside their differences and work together to achieve an agreement that will stop the flood of resource revenues leaving the Northwest Territories.

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

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

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

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

#### ITEM 16: MOTIONS

**Motion 7-15(5): Devolution And Resource Revenue Sharing, Carried**

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

WHEREAS, the people of the Northwest Territories desire a self-reliant future within the Canadian federation to enjoy the same freedoms as other Canadians in determining their own affairs and priorities;

AND WHEREAS the people of the Northwest Territories desire to have a prosperous future for ourselves and our children, based on the wise management and sharing of the wealth of our lands and waters, and the hard work and the resourcefulness of our people;

AND WHEREAS the anticipated royalties and taxes resulting from current and prosperous mineral and hydrocarbon resource development could amount to an estimated \$20 billion within the next 20 years, of which northern governments will receive little or nothing in the absence of a resource revenue sharing agreement;

AND WHEREAS the gross domestic product of the Northwest Territories increased by 71 percent in the last six years, eclipsing even Alberta by almost three times, and has the potential to continue at an accelerated pace;

AND WHEREAS the Prime Minister of Canada, the Right Honourable Stephen Harper, told the people of the Northwest Territories on August 22, 2006: "It is time we begin to hear the call of a New North - a North that is

stronger, more prosperous and liberated from the paternalistic policies of the past";

AND WHEREAS the Government of Canada has recently appointed a new negotiator with a mandate to arrive at an agreement-in-principle between Canada, the Northwest Territories and aboriginal governments for the devolution of resource development authorities and the sharing of resource royalties;

AND WHEREAS it is entirely within the power of the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Northwest Territories aboriginal governments to arrive at a devolution and resource revenue sharing agreement;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the Government of Canada, the Government of the Northwest Territories and Northwest Territories aboriginal governments reach a fair and equitable agreement-in-principle before the next federal budget;

AND FURTHER, that, for the sake of future generations of northerners, all northern leaders set aside their differences and work together to achieve an agreement that will stop the flood of resource revenues leaving the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to support this motion. I think that the time is critical, as Mr. Handley indicated between six and 12 months. I think it is really critical now, as Mr. Handley and also his Cabinet has heard from all of us on this side here, in terms of coming to an agreement-in-principle with the Government of Canada working closely with our aboriginal governments as we are the key ingredients to the key to what type of devolution and resource revenue sharing we are going to have in the Northwest Territories. That is regardless of a lot escaped. There is a lot of land. I think that we, as northerners, set aside our differences and look at more of our similarities. It is well spoken by this side that we have a lot of similarities in the small communities. We need to put a focus on what is good for all northern people, what is good for our communities in the settled and unsettled areas. We need to look at the basic ingredients that keep us together. We need some good housing, good sheltering. We need some food on our table that we can afford. We need some good water. We need to have ownership of the land. We need these basic necessities to live up here. I think it is high time. It is a critical time. It is a time that all northern people come together and, as I said in my statement prior, Mr. Speaker, that all northern people come together for survival of the Northwest Territories, of the survival of a nation of people.

We are not going anywhere, Mr. Speaker. Our people will live here. They are going to die here. There are lots of good northerners who came from the South who are making the Northwest Territories their home now. There are still some that migrate back to the southern area.

That is okay. The real people that stay in the Northwest Territories have the real benefits. It is at our cost that, if we don't get this deal done, we are the losers in this one here.

So I say to this motion that the government seriously consider this motion and look at ways to get a deal done that is going to make all people of the Northwest Territories very proud that we, as leaders, this is our role. They put us out in the front. This is what we have to do. Our people are waiting for us. The elders are waiting for us in terms of the comforts of living in the small communities. The young people are going to wait for us and say what type of deal have you given to us that we can live by?

We have gone in areas where our own communities, the aboriginal governments, have settled a land claim for the people and for the generation. We have gone to great discussions in terms of putting together a resource revenue deal, a devolution deal for all people of the Northwest Territories. We have to work together. We still drink the same water. We still breathe the same air.

Under our leadership and, of course, by the elders, Mr. Speaker, our elders are always saying we have to work together. That is going to be our greatest challenge, is to put our differences aside. Some of us are really going to have to bite our tongue on some issues here, but we have to think about the ones that are going to come before us, the ones who came before us and the ones who are going to come after us in terms of what is our contribution, our legacy to put together a northern strong unique style of leadership that will just amaze Ottawa. It will blow them right out of the water because we come together as one.

We are unique. We are special. I don't see Ottawa coming up here and staying here. They make a quick trip up here, they make a quick announcement and they go back.

So I say, Mr. Speaker, in closing, that we are at a critical time in history of the Northwest Territories. I look forward to working with people of the Northwest Territories on this motion here with all Members. I hope that we do come out with a strong vision that we could all be proud of and have a goal, a good sense of, yes, this is what the people of the North want. This is where we are going. Really think about the ones who have done this work prior to us even being born. The elders have really gave thought to what the North can provide and give to the people of the rest of Canada. So I am going to say that I am glad this motion came to the floor to give us some direction to the leadership and to all leadership in the Northwest Territories to look at this motion to consider the possibilities that we could have if we put our minds and hearts together, Mr. Speaker, with one voice. Give one voice that would bring a lot of good benefits to the people in our communities. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**MR. VILLENEUVE:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I am also a strong supporter of this motion simply due to all of the reasons that all of the Members gave in their Members' statements today. I hope that we can reach some

agreement-in-principle by the deadline that was specified in the motion.

Mr. Speaker, in my constituency of Tu Nedhe, we have two multi-billion dollar mines that are operating. We have one that is currently under construction. We have another one that is in the regulatory stages. We have a few more that are in the assessment stages of whether they are going to develop or not, and many more exploration claims that are being actively assessed in the uranium, lead, zinc and other industries. That is just going to add to more resource revenues leaving our territory if and when they do start producing. If we are standing here in two or three more years still wondering where our resource revenue sharing agreement is, how many millions of dollars are going to be gone by that time, Mr. Speaker? Like the one Member said, we are talking three-quarters of a million dollars a day. That is just mind boggling to think of how much we are losing out on.

In our smaller communities all over the Territories we have high unemployment rates because we don't have the resources to provide training to these people that want to take some upgrading and want to improve on their skills. We have high crime rates in the smaller centres. We have high rates of illiteracy amongst the aboriginal peoples just simply due to the fact that this government just doesn't have the resources available or the adequate resources at our disposal to deal with all of these issues that come forward in this House everyday. I think that if we do have some kind of agreement-in-principle which even sets aside some dollars for future use or where aboriginal, regional or community governments can access in order to build capacity, assist our elders in housing and assist the youth in furthering their education, it is a win-win situation, Mr. Speaker.

I really have to emphasize that we have to really come together as northerners and really put some stringent demands on bureaucracy, the House of Commons, the leaders in Ottawa, to ensure that everything that Stephen Harper said when he was here, that we have to hear the call of a new North. We are a new North. We are prosperous. We are strong, but we are not liberated. I think that is the whole issue of resource revenue sharing, is the fact that we are not liberated so we just don't have the clout and the guns to make stringent demands. Maybe we have to even go further than a motion and come unified and just halting all development in the NWT altogether until we get a resource revenue sharing agreement.

Like another Member said, the more resources start flowing out of the Territories, the harder line the federal government is going to take in ensuring that we don't get a resource revenue sharing agreement anytime soon. So time is of the essence. It is about time that we really stand together and really draw our line in the sand and move forward with the federal government in tow to develop a resource revenue sharing agreement which we can all live with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. People who lived in this land before government came along were very self-reliant. They had no choice. Sometimes things

were tough. Sometimes there was an abundance of what people needed. Government came and people became very dependent on the generosity of a government, whether it was a federal or territorial government, far too much. I believe every person in the Northwest Territories wants to regain that self-reliance, pride, that self-esteem that comes with it.

Mr. Speaker, our young people have gone to school on the promise that there would be jobs, that there would be a future for them. We have record numbers coming through the school system. We need to provide them with a future. We need to do it in a modern way. They don't want to go back, all of them, and be trappers and hunters and so on. That future doesn't exist for most of them anymore. They want their place in Canada in a modern world.

Mr. Speaker, we have the good fortune of an abundance of wealth in the Northwest Territories. We are agreeable to having that resource, much of which is non-renewable extracted from our land, but on the condition that it is done in a way that is environmentally right, that it is done in a way that the people in the North will benefit the most from it. The Prime Minister has made that commitment, that we should be the primary beneficiaries. He said we should get the principal share of the resource revenues. We believe him.

Mr. Speaker, I think we have an opportunity ourselves as a government and the federal government to do something that is here with us right now. It may not return again if we miss this opportunity. It may not return for 20, 50 or 100 years, or we may never have this opportunity again. I think it is dependent on us as government and aboriginal leaders to take advantage of that opportunity for our people and for future generations. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that our government supports this recommendation 100 percent...

---Applause

...and we appreciate the support of all of you as leaders in trying to move this ahead along with the federal government, our government and with the aboriginal governments. Mr. Speaker, like I say, we support this 100 percent. Our Cabinet will not be voting on this issue because it is a recommendation to the government and following tradition, we do not vote on recommendations to us. With that, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. speaker, this has been a good discussion here today and I am happy to see it's coming onto the floor of this House, because in committee we talk about resource revenue sharing a fair amount. I won't give you any of the details, of course, because that's against the rules, but some of the quality of debate that sometimes goes on behind closed doors, I am glad to see it's coming onto the floor of the House here because northerners need to hear where we stand on this.

The resource revenue sharing aspect of our aspirations here quite often overlaps and is interchangeable we think

with resource development. Those two subjects are related, but sometimes when we talk about wanting a good deal for resource revenue sharing, in our frustration sometimes we say let's just stop development until we get it. Then, of course, we hear from all the folks who are poised to benefit from resource development. As Premier Handley said, the young people out there are looking forward to jobs and opportunities and businesses that are looking forward to contracts and things to do. So sometimes in our desperate desire sometimes to get some kind of a good deal going forward, the deal could stay in place for generations to come. We can't afford to ink a bad deal for the Northwest Territories. We've seen other provinces and have had to live with the consequences. We can't afford that.

We feel that our leverage and our ability to affect Ottawa on this subject is limited, so we get frustrated sometimes. I come from a community that prides itself on being pro development and often referred to as the business centre in the South Slave and hub of the North and activity for communication and transportation and the service industry. There are definitely businesses that have evolved and have grown and matured over the years in the North that are poised to benefit from resource development. But I just want to make it clear today that sometimes when we just look at the near future, we think let's go for all the development that we can have here. But when we look at the long-range needs of northerners and we look at the desire for quality health services and education...

I just ran into a mom from Hay River last night who told me that this program has been cut in their school and that program has been cut. With these vast resources, we have to have a way of translating that into the best quality of services, programs and support for our residents as we can possibly acquire. There is no reason for there to be such a contract in the picture of a region so rich in resources and people so suffering without ability to access what they need to make their life a quality life.

So this is sometimes the conflict that we are faced with. We want development, we want jobs, we want business opportunities, but we can't afford a bad deal for the long haul. I have no sense of how realistic our expectations are in terms of Ottawa. I wish we had something. We have thrown things out here today, a comment here or there from the Prime Minister. Myself, personally, -- and I have been very close to the politics in the North for many, many years -- I still don't see anything I can really hang my hat on that gives me confidence that we are being heard and that our aspirations and what's duly owed to us is going to be forthcoming.

I wish we had that and I hope Ottawa is listening to this discussion today and I don't think we are being unrealistic. I don't think we are being greedy. We know the population is going to grow. We know that resource development is going to continue to grow and in those years and decades to come, we have to make sure that we have a deal that will provide sufficient resources, financial resources to this territory to allow us to live in the style to which we should live, given the fact that we have these resources. Sometimes we get frustrated and we say let's join Alberta or let's build a fence at the border or let's put up a roadblock. That's just because we are desperate. We desperately need Ottawa's attention on this file. The diamond mines are operating and being constructed and those resources are going to flow.

Albeit, Canada has been supporting the North for a long time. When you do look at some of the infrastructure and some of the things we have enjoyed here over the years, we have to be realistic and say it is a lot better than what you see in a lot of rural, northern, remote areas in other parts of Canada. I think the federal government has been supportive, but we are kind of at a crossroads here right now where resource development is growing to the magnitude that if we do not have a resource revenue sharing deal that is good for northerners and will carry us for many years ahead, we are starting to get nervous about it. That's where we find ourselves. That's where we are in time. I suppose if there was no diamond mines and there was no promise of a Mackenzie gas pipeline and all these things, maybe this wouldn't be such a pressing subject for us.

In the past, we had the Northern Accord which required unanimous support or they didn't get it. Then we had Ministers of Indian Affairs who came along and said we get a majority of aboriginal governments and territorial government to agree to a plan, that's good enough. Well, we didn't achieve a majority under those Ministers. Now we have a government that is looking at the resources here in the North and they are saying -- at least this is what I heard Mr. Prentice say and I think he said it here in the North -- if we can't make up our minds, if we can't come to an agreement, they will make the decision for us. I don't like that. I think we have got to stand up, be counted, take a position and hopefully that we will be listened to.

We don't want to discourage or discredit in any way the aspirations of the different groups that potentially will be affected by resource development. The Northwest Territories and the North in general is really the last place in Canada where the federal government can do right by northerners and it's a fact. Half of our people in the Northwest Territories are aboriginal people. They are people who have a special right to which the government owes a special duty. We have not seen the conclusion of all of those discussions and negotiations with respect to those obligations, but you only have to look in southern Canada to see how people who had treaties with the federal government and how they were marginalized and how they were put onto tracks of land. I don't need to give anybody a history lesson here, but the Northwest Territories is one place where the federal government has an opportunity to do right by aboriginal people in terms of the issues that need to be settled and the deals that still need to be made that is to their benefit.

It's a wonderful opportunity ahead of us, but it can be lost. We have an opportunity to seize and it can be lost if we cannot come together here in the North and respect and recognize what northerners want. We have an obligation to speak about that in this House and that's what we have done today. I feel encouraged by that. I encourage our leadership on the other side of the House to press on, make it the priority that we have talked about here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am going to be speaking today in favour of the motion that

is before us. I would like to start off by thanking the Regular Members of this House for the input that they have had in putting this motion together over the last number of days. I would also like to thank the Premier. I do know, Mr. Speaker, that the Premier and his government are making this a priority and they are working hard at achieving our goals in Ottawa.

I do want to talk for a second about this motion. Mr. Speaker, the Conservative government -- and there has been some discussion again here today about what the federal government is or isn't doing -- we must remember that the Conservative government has only been in office for 10 months. The previous government, the Liberal government, was there for 13 years and did absolutely nothing, Mr. Speaker. I believe Stephen Harper, when Mr. Harper was in our Great Hall a couple of months ago, I believe what he said. I believe he is a man of his word. I believe Jim Prentice, the Minister of DIAND. He is a man of great integrity and I believe, as well, a man of his word. I do believe that the Conservative government will hold to their promises of delivering a resource and devolution deal here in the Northwest Territories in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, what I see is no one seems to really respect our government. To me, that's a problem. I mentioned it in my Member's statement today. We seem to lack the respect, especially in the aboriginal community and the governments across the Northwest Territories, the respect factor is not there and, Mr. Speaker, we seem to always get the short end of the stick when it comes to any development or opportunities or anything. The government seems to always be in last place.

From where I stand, Mr. Speaker, the best thing the federal government could do is look at actually blowing up DIAND in Ottawa and take it out to the regions. Take it where the northern development is happening here in Yellowknife, Hay River, Inuvik. Put the offices here where the people can actually get to work on northern development issues, or in Whitehorse or Iqaluit.

They don't belong in Ottawa. One of the big difficulties I see too is the federal bureaucrats in Ottawa trying to protect their jobs at the sake of our territory trying to gain its aspirations and its development as a territory. These bureaucrats, Mr. Speaker, are standing in the way of that happening, in my mind. The government in Ottawa, the Conservative government, has to realize this and take measures to stop that type of attitude from happening in Ottawa. Northern development belongs to northerners, Mr. Speaker, and this is where it belongs.

I also wanted to touch on another item, Mr. Speaker. To me, when there is a dispute and obviously there is a dispute here at play even in the Northwest Territories between some of our aboriginal governments, our government and Ottawa. There is a dispute. The fact of the matter, Mr. Speaker, is the revenue is leaving our territory and going to Ottawa. What I have been saying since the day I walked through those doors is why don't we, by any means possible and if we have to take legal action, why don't we demand the federal government put every last cent that leaves this territory in resource revenue in trust until such a time as there is an agreement amongst northern governments and there is an agreement with northern governments and Ottawa? Once the money starts piling up, Mr. Speaker, I think there would be more of an onus obviously to settle our differences and to divide up those resource royalties.

If I could, just one other item here, and that is if we look at the recent raft of federal cuts and the impact we had in the territory the size of the Northwest Territories, 43,000 people here, Mr. Speaker, we are not a province. We have no ability to replace those dollars. I am not sure how it's communicated with Ottawa from our government, but that message has to be sent loud and clear, Mr. Speaker. The federal government can't continue to take our resource revenues and expect us to replace cuts when they cut across the board with literacy cuts, cuts to the Court Challenges Program, cuts to volunteerism. It runs the full gamut of what we are trying to do as a people and trying to develop ourselves as a territory. It is shameful and that should not be allowed to happen.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I do support the motion. I do support the Conservative government in Ottawa, but the message has to get through to them. I am not sure who is going to deliver that message, the cuts happened across the board, various departments were affected. Somebody has to get the message through to Ottawa that we have to be treated fairly. We have not been treated fairly and I think it's time, Mr. Speaker, that we stand up and demand that we deserve better as a territory and as a people, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

---Applause

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

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am, of course, standing here today in favour of the motion. You know, Mr. Speaker, there are a few points I would like to make, but I would like to perhaps pick up from where my colleague, the Member for Kam Lake, left off. It is a plea for Ottawa to hear the message, but it is also a query, a concern about who is going to take that message. I would volunteer, Mr. Speaker. As we have been talking about this afternoon, will it, should it really come down to one person, one messenger? I would argue that it is really a collective, Mr. Speaker, a collective of representatives of our government along with our colleagues, our counterparts in the aboriginal governments. It will be a joint message delivered by a team, by a group of people who stand in favour of the common good, what is in it for all of us, which is really what is missing right now, Mr. Speaker. That is who I know, Mr. Speaker, has the mandate to take that message.

As we have been talking about here this afternoon, our most fervent desires that we can put together, that collective cause, that collective purpose, set aside our differences and carry that message to our nation's capital.

Mr. Speaker, I have talked to or asked questions a few days ago, at the start of the session, in fact, about the negotiation itself, that we are engaged or we are presuming to be engaged in with Mr. Andre, the negotiator with Ottawa's authority on this one. That, indeed, has been a question and a concern of mine, Mr. Speaker. Just what authority, what mandate is Mr. Andre bringing to the table here? I was going over the record of the Premier's answers to me from last Monday and it is not apparent there that indeed Mr. Andre is bringing to the table the authority from his bosses in Ottawa to negotiate the bundle, the full meal deal, Mr. Speaker, that we know we want to go forward on and that is a devolution, a resource responsibility to the North and to our governments along with the wealth, the resource royalty sharing agreement.

It's a concern because I was not able to get from the Premier's answers that Mr. Andre does indeed have the authority and the mandate from Ottawa to get a deal on both of these critical areas.

Mr. Speaker, while we have seen numerous efforts by other governments from Canada to do this, I, too, want to give the new Conservative regime a reasonable chance to get this deal done. Indeed, Mr. Prentice and Mr. Harper have said more definitively and clearly than any other of their counterparts that this is something they realize can and should be done. But without the real nuts and bolts mandate, without giving Mr. Andre the toolbox to do this, I must admit I am sceptical that we are engaged in a series of negotiations that really amounts to anything more than we had before.

I do continue to put confidence and optimism into this, but it is going to be the proof, of course, that I will be looking for and every one of us will be looking for to show that we are not just engaged in another chapter of the never ending story. We really are going to get to a deal.

Mr. Speaker, it's been said here before, but I think it's worth underlining, that our dispute here is not with the developers, the miners, the builders, the drillers, the people who want to build and own pipelines here in the Northwest Territories. Those are shareholders, those are companies, those are corporations that have taken risk. They have put their dollars on the table in good faith in the hope that they are going to get a return; some of them have, some of them haven't, Mr. Speaker. All you have to do is look at my meagre portfolio to show that there is still risk money out here on the ground in the NWT that just might not get a return on the investment. That is part of our economy and part of the way we work up here. So we do not want to curb or stem or choke off that flow of risk money that's going into the exploration and the continuing development. But as we have said so many different ways this afternoon, there must come a point, there must be a time when we will say to ourselves, for ourselves, for the benefit of ourselves and our children, that we have got to see something in it for us.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is an assumption made, at least in southern circles and maybe in the bureaucracy that we talked about: What the heck is the matter with those guys in the NWT in that big pink part of the map that can't look after themselves? They are getting all this money from us, from the southern taxpayers already. They sound like a bunch of crabby whiners up there. Why don't they get with the picture?

Mr. Speaker, what is essential between us and most other jurisdictions in Canada is that we do not have that control over the pace and style of development. We do not have a share of the cycle of wealth as it flows out of the ground through corporate hands, through taxation hands and through governments. That is something that is missing in this gap here and it's something we want, Mr. Speaker. We want the responsibility to handle the obligations that come with resource management. We don't have that right now. As has already been said here this afternoon, we are on a fixed income, but the pressures and the consequences of the kind of wealth and the kind of activity that we have around here are hobbling us. They are slowing us down and it's very much, Mr. Speaker, part of the frustration that you are seeing here this afternoon and I think what you are seeing in many other corners of the Northwest Territories. Just what is the benefit of this pace

of development, triple that of Alberta's of the past six years? What is in it for us? That's the question that you want to get an answer to.

Mr. Miltenberger this afternoon, I listened with great attention and very strong agreement at the message he was delivering to the Assembly, his passion and concern with the environment. Mr. Speaker, that is very much a tie in with the motion in what we are trying to achieve today. We have many other people dictating and deciding the kinds of development that is going to go on up here and the pace of development. How are we going to obtain the control over the environment that Mr. Miltenberger so eloquently pleads for? We have got to bring that home. We have got to bring that into the Northwest Territories and do what Mr. Miltenberger is advocating which is to integrate all of those decisions so we can come up with something that's economically and socially and environmentally responsible. How can we hope to attain that when all these different decisions are being made at different times in different venues and we are quite removed from it?

Mr. Speaker, the last point I wanted to make is to the timing that we have suggested in our motion. Earlier today, the Premier answered some questions for me about that. He is suggesting that the end of the fiscal year is when we should be trying to resolve that. I don't want to argue against that, Mr. Speaker, but it's rather bureaucratic and a process and systemic kind of time frame. The motion that we put forward was crafted, Mr. Speaker, with the idea that it was going to be by the time of the next federal budget, normally in February as the deadline we should seek. We've already been told, Mr. Speaker, that on a few fronts, especially our formula financing one, that we are going to have to wait until the federal budget to find out what Ottawa wants to do with us.

I would suggest that if there are going to be any fiscal agreements made in our negotiations that we are going to see the proof of that and the delivery of that will begin, we hope and pray it will begin, at least with the coming of the next federal budget. That is an explanation for why we chose that time frame. That is a political tipping point, if you will, Mr. Speaker, that will really show what the new Conservative government is indeed prepared to commit to and take to the floor of the House of Parliament to get approval for.

Mr. Speaker, the longer we choose not to get together on this to form that unified approach, to link arms and take our case to Ottawa with and among aboriginal leaders as well as this government, the more we stand to lose, Mr. Speaker. I am going to put the ultimate responsibility and authority for delivering this deal to northerners with Ottawa, but we also have our responsibility to demonstrate that across the board as we go about this Northwest Territories is going to run, not just next year but for generations to come. It is ours to lose, Mr. Speaker, if we don't put ourselves together and act as one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, wish to speak in favour of this motion and, Mr. Speaker, I

would like to spend my time talking about not why we need this resource revenue sharing deal but how I think we should get it. Of course, I don't have the million dollar answers there, but perhaps I could add my argument here, Mr. Speaker. Let me just put it on record that I support resource development and the benefits to be gained from that, Mr. Speaker. I have to say that the last time I was in Inuvik, I hadn't been there for a little while and I got to see the new Mackenzie Hotel for the first time, and then we were also in Norman Wells for the Circle of Northern Leaders and I saw the new hotel there. If there was no other indication, I think those two hotels should tell us that the people in the northern valley of the Mackenzie Delta are ready for this. They are optimistic for the pipeline development and all the benefits that can be gained from that.

I think the energy is possible and there is no question, Mr. Speaker, that this Legislature has also spoken twice in favour of resource development projects such as the Mackenzie Valley pipeline. The Assembly spoke in March of 2004 and the motion said we support Mackenzie Valley pipeline development, although we did speak to the fact that the support was conditional and that we wanted to have the benefits of that.

Just to make it clear, this House passed another motion in October of 2004, almost to the day, Mr. Speaker. It was October 21, 2004. The motion read that the Legislative Assembly urges the federal government to negotiate a fair resource revenue sharing agreement that provides northern governments with an equitable share of royalties from our hydrocarbons and minerals as essential to ensuring the people of the Northwest Territories are the primary beneficiaries of the development of our resources.

So, Mr. Speaker, the Legislature has spoken very clearly that we do support resource development projects, but we do want to benefit from that and the only way we can see that can happen is by achieving some sort of deal on resource revenue sharing, Mr. Speaker, and it is quite frustrating to see that two years later to the latest motion, we are here passing another motion saying almost the same thing and really not getting that much further ahead.

Mr. Speaker, I know the Premier indicated earlier today that we're a little close to the deal before, and I have no idea. I've asked questions in the last week for the evidence of that. Maybe we are one foot closer, I don't know, 100 metres closer. But if our distance is in fact from here to the moon, I'm not sure if being one foot closer is really getting us anywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I like to think that I am an optimistic person, especially when we are talking about politics of possibilities. I know people often say how could you be in politics. Politics is not always seen in the best light, and I'm not going to the politician thing, but I have to tell you I believe, I honestly believe in politics and the possibilities of politics, especially when you think about a group of like-minded people coming together and really working honestly and earnestly to resolve something and reach a deal that would benefit the people that they represent. I mean those people don't even have to be like minded. You could be coming from all sorts of different directions with different self-interests, and self-interests aren't a bad thing either. But I believe in the possibility of politics. I believe in the possibility of working together and working out differences. But in this instance, Mr. Speaker, I have

to say this motion is saying that we need to do something different.

We have six months left, or maybe I shouldn't shorten that, we have maybe 11 months left. But to do real work, we are desperate. We really need to do something to make sure that we do reach a deal that will give us benefit for the pipeline.

Mr. Speaker, one thing that I noticed in listening to the debates going back and forth, and something that a lot of people know about, and that is that when you have a situation where you're not getting to where you want to get to or you're not seeing the results, the first thing I think we need to accept is that we have a problem. A lot of times people don't like politicians and politics because everybody wants to spin their stories and they always want to put the best possible light to a really bad situation, and nobody wants to take responsibility. I heard a lot of that today, Mr. Speaker, and let me tell you I want to be the first one to say that I am willing to accept any responsibility there is for me to share in my little role. I'm not the biggest player in the Northwest Territories, but I'm telling you we are all responsible. Not just in this Legislature as 19 Members, and there are some here with bigger hats and more important seats. I think it's about time that we all kind of look at each other and say you know what, whatever we're doing is not working and we're failing our people, and I don't hear that. We hear people who have addictions problems. Everybody tells you you're not going to change anything and improve on anything unless you realize that you have a problem. You have to admit it, find a way to change it, try to get help where you're needed. At least look at your records. I don't see that, Mr. Speaker, and I say that to all the leaders in the Territories. I think Mr. McLeod from Inuvik Twin Lakes wanted to send that challenge.

I'm going to tell you thing, Mr. Speaker, the Premier said earlier that this is the most important file, he's had thousands of meetings, probably millions of miles, but none of that really matters, Mr. Speaker. Government has come and gone, but the Premier has been in place for three years, we've been in place for three years, it's really time that somebody take responsibility for lack of progress.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say that I've done by share of bashing the federal government, because we are an entity or we are an arm of DIAND legislation.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** You got 'er.

**MS. LEE:** I can't remember what the exact word is. We're a creature...

**AN HON. MEMBER:** A creature.

**MS. LEE:** We're a creature of statute. We're not a constitutionally formed provincial government, so now it's very scary but it's probably technically possible for the federal government to...She's coming toward me. I thought she was going to give me some words or something.

---Laughter

It's probably technically possible for the federal government to get through the pipeline, get the thing

done, get the pipeline going south without a deal. There's nothing in it for us. It's up to us to make it happen.

Earlier it was mentioned that Prime Minister Harper promised resource revenue sharing and development. I didn't hear that anywhere. In fact, he came here and said you've got to show us you're ready for business and the way to do that is approve the pipeline. I also heard him say and trying to say in Norman Wells, that nobody has veto power.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** That's right.

**MS. LEE:** I heard that and that's a call of alarm in my opinion. That is telling us that the NWT government does not have veto power, no aboriginal government has veto power, and if we are thinking leaders and responsible leaders and we don't want to fail the people, we have to take that as a challenge from the federal government, that we know what we want, we want a pipeline, we think the North has a useful role to play in terms of meeting the energy needs of the world, and of any kind of resource requirements because we have a ton of them, and we will do as little as what we need to do to get it. That's the answer I get. It's up to us, as the leaders of the Territories, to step up to the plate and say you know what, your minimum is not good enough for us. I don't hear that and instead I hear our leader for the last three years saying every time he comes back from Ottawa, everything is great in Ottawa. Everybody's saying the right things, I think they like us, they understand us, they understand our file, they want to work out a deal. The same thing with aboriginal leaders. I'm working with aboriginal leaders, everything is happening and yet on the sidelines, I have heard more than once aboriginal leaders saying that we don't have the same understanding. I am just saying somebody has to take the leadership of this role, we know who's supposed to do it, somebody has to step up to the plate because I'm telling you we would have a lot of humble pie to eat, or a lot more actually serious than that, because I don't want to be the one 20, 30 years down the road when I want to pull a blanket over my head and say my goodness, if I could have just done something, what is that. I tell you, I urge really the only way we could get the maximum, the only way we could get more than the minimum that the federal government is willing to offer, the only way we could get a deal that is not crippled because of someone not having veto power is for us to be united. We need to support every table and all the regional governments. That's the only way we're going to be as strong and actually stronger than the combined players.

I have to tell you there are those, probably in Yellowknife, too, and some conservative elements in society who believe that nobody should have veto power, and I can understand that side. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm telling you we need to look at this in a completely different way, and the resource revenue sharing deal cannot come without answering to the grievances politically and socially, and we need a vision for the North about how we're going to achieve this. There's no more. We are failing our people if we say I'm doing my part, there's somebody in one corner of the NWT trying to get a better deal with the NWT, the GNWT is doing their thing, somebody in the South, somebody in the North, everybody's going off doing their thing and we're going to fail our people. I really think we could be an enormously successful party, a strong party, strong party at the table if we could get all the leaders together and say this and really unite and

come up with a position. I understand how difficult this may be, but that is the task at hand. Any leader in this territory who likes to think himself as a leader or herself as a leader or anybody out there, that's the challenge. I have to believe in the politics of possibilities. I am not being naïve. I think it takes give and take, and I know that with the resource development issue here of the diamond mines, the biggest beneficiary, outside of Yellowknife, is the North Slave region. I think there's an example there where when the aboriginal people and aboriginal governments benefit it helps all the rest of us. That's the principle also that this government should advocate more on. But I tell you, Mr. Speaker, so far I hear everybody spinning, everybody saying we're doing everything we can, everybody is happy, things are happening, just wait, we're close to a deal, you know hanging onto every little spin that every Prime Minister gives, and I'm not just talking about the Conservative government.

So, Mr. Speaker, the most important paragraph in this motion is, of course, the last paragraph and we're giving a deadline. We're saying to all of us -- and that's all of us here -- but anybody who considers themselves a leader and has any say in the political and social and economic development of the Northwest Territories, we all have to step back and look within ourselves and say is this the best we can do for our people that we represent, and isn't it time that we set our differences aside and unite so that we make sure that we're not sidelined with the minimum deal that the federal government is willing to give us so that it will play on the most vulnerable and weakest link of our territory and in the end failing all our people.

So, Mr. Speaker, in the next two months I'll be looking for real strong leadership and no more excuses and no more proclamation of progress where there's no evidence...

**AN HON. MEMBER:** No more.

**MS. LEE:** ...to show whatsoever. So, Mr. Speaker, it's time to step up to the plate and produce some goods. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Time. Time. Time.

---Laughter

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a believer that the citizens of the Northwest Territories should be finally taking control of their own destiny, Mr. Speaker, and that doesn't necessarily mean the revenues from petroleum or minerals, Mr. Speaker, it's about setting a course, a northern course, that we will guide ourselves by our own principles in relationship with the aboriginal governments, Mr. Speaker. I've been a supporter of that, I always have and I always believe that the Northwest Territories government will play a leadership role in that. As a council is, we build a giant council for our whole territory, Mr. Speaker.

But that council can only exist with fair controls given back to us that I think are rightfully ours, Mr. Speaker. It's time that we get control of our own destiny. Even things like land and water boards, Mr. Speaker, they report to the DIAND Minister. I mean it's our land and our water boards

that are talking to the Minister of DIAND, Minister Prentice. That doesn't seem fair, Mr. Speaker.

We've talked many times about not having a veto card or anything on any of this development or any process, but, Mr. Speaker, it seems humiliating the one person that should qualify for a veto card is the Northwest Territories. I'm not saying that lightly that we should have it, I'm saying it's something that we should be able to say. If this development or any development is working either environmentally or in a fiscal sense that benefits the Northwest Territories people, we should be able to stop it immediately and say wait a minute, we need to wake up. But that control, as we all know, lies in Ottawa. As I said even in my Member's statement, that it is ridiculous for whatever reason it is, they don't want to give up that control. If they've just had it so long, they're so used to having their own finger on the button of control, that they're not comfortable letting it go. I don't know.

A few weeks ago I was watching Minister Prentice on television and he was talking about the aboriginal claims and things he has to deal with, and he talked about them as files. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think the Northwest Territories is a little bigger than just a file. I think of it as true people wanting to follow its destiny and it needs the opportunity to do this. So when I talk about taking control of these things such as a land and water board, I don't mean in a sense of we have to be hard on people. I think it's about environmental stewardship. I think it's about economic balance that sets the course again and again about a northern course and about a northern destiny.

This motion says that we have self-respect, Mr. Speaker, and I don't think it says really anything other than that. It's time that Ottawa starts showing some respect back to this Legislature, because we are rightfully in control, we are a responsible government. You know, this creature clause given by DIAND or whoever it is, the bottom line is it is a ridiculous state that does not exist anymore.

The Legislature, a few years ago in the old Assembly, had given unfettered support to the pipeline. You know what? At the day that might have been the right decision, to ensure that industry knew what they were dealing with. I don't blame ministry wanting to have certainty when they want to spend millions of dollars in a region, Mr. Speaker. I certainly welcome that. But, Mr. Speaker, my concern is when this Legislature, the 14<sup>th</sup> Assembly, had given unfettered attention and respect and said yes, go right ahead, we're in support of the pipeline, all of a sudden our phone stopped ringing with the concerns and respect what can we do for you, how can we make this happen. I say this half jokingly, but I'm sure the Prime Minister doesn't care right now because he sees the territorial government on auto pilot. Well, I've got what I wanted. We know that they're in favour of the pipeline. We know they're in favour of resource development, and, by the way, we control the land and the water boards anyway, so they're on auto pilot so we don't care.

Mr. Speaker, I'm not saying that the territorial government should take stance about saying no more resource development, Mr. Speaker, but we have to find a fair way to have discussion that brings united groups together, such as the aboriginal governments, the territorial government, again to sing in a strong and united voice to say look, Ottawa, we need your attention.

Now, let's get to the next subject when we talk about our Premier being a nice guy in Ottawa. Well, Mr. Speaker, I like the Premier and he is a nice guy.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Aw.

**MR. HAWKINS:** But let's keep in mind, nice is a balance. I don't want him to be nice in Ottawa, because that means he has to be less nice in the Northwest Territories, because I want him to be nice to our people and be tough on that Prime Minister, Mr. Speaker. Be tough on him. He's not going to cry, okay? I feel that the Prime Minister can shoulder a little criticism and I'd like to hear it from our Premier of saying put...Mr. Speaker, I want the Premier to put his foot down and say well, I can't say the right language in the House, but I can say that the Premier can say it in a nice or less nice way of saying that we demand these resources and control over our rightful destiny, Mr. Speaker.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the Northwest Territories has every right to have their rightful place in Canada, and you know what? I think this is an impoverished situation that's being created. It's not fair. They know it. And as long as we can't bring attention to it, they will continue to ignore us under those circumstances. This motion speaks to cleaning that mess up and it speaks to the fact that we want it done as soon as possible, regardless of whatever little games they're playing in advance of this next election. So, Mr. Speaker, I fully support this motion. Thank you and my colleagues.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. I'll allow the mover of the motion to wrap up. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much for the comments from the Members. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to conclude, saying that when you look at this motion Mr. Premier is right; it is a strong recommendation to his government to look at working with the aboriginal governments, working with business, working with other strong leaders is the North to bring home a deal that would benefit all of us in the Northwest Territories. So we're not quite home yet in our own home here, so I'd ask the Premier to really seriously consider our recommendation from this motion.

I will ask that all the leaders in the North, and urge the leaders in the North, and ask the people in the North to talk to their leaders in the Sahtu, the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in, Dehcho, Akaitcho, Tlicho, the Metis, the municipal councils. Really talk to your leaders and encourage them to get in touch with the Premier's people, the Cabinet, and say we've got to sit down on this one here.

We have, and has been said, an opportunity to get something done for our people. It's a blessing in disguise. We have the resources, we have the means. Our northern people may be small in numbers, but we're strong in our strength and for the land that we value so much. So I urge again that the leaders ask their people to come forward and stand together, united by a common bond of resources, development, oil and gas, mining, resources in terms of our environment, our land and water because our water is going to be a really valuable commodity in the future. People are not going to want our

oil and gas anymore, they're going to want our water. It's going to come; it's been prophesized by our elders.

Mr. Speaker, I say this so we can release the grip of the iron hand of the federal government on the Northwest Territories people.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Iron grip.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** We must join together, as the elders have said. We must join together like the arrow, and the arrowhead being us leaders and the stem of the arrow being our people. We shoot with the support that we have from them. And the bow being our elders to support us for what we're going to do for our people, and to guide us and to know who to work with. And our children being the people, as little as they are, but as innocent and honest as they are, shooting the arrow for us. They're a gift from God and I believe in miracles. I think miracles can happen. Look at your own children. They're miracles. Why not believe them?

So, Mr. Speaker, the recommendations to the Premier and his Cabinet to look at our elders' recommendations like a hunter who makes strong recommendations to other hunters to go where there's good moose and caribou to feed their own people. More importantly, to share the moose or caribou, which is a value in fairness and equitable and that everybody should be treated the same, certain parts have to go to certain people.

We in the North are hard workers. Right down the Mackenzie Valley we're not shy of work. Look at the elders' life. They've been here for thousands and thousands of years. We must, as leaders, plug the dam of the resources that are leaving the Northwest Territories.

I thank the Members for their comments and I have to thank the House for allowing us to have this discussion. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

---Applause

Motions. First reading of bills. The honourable from Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 15: Elections And Plebiscites Act

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 15, Elections and Plebiscites Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 15 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Bell.

##### Bill 16: An Act To Amend The Jury Act

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Jury Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried.

Bill 16 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

##### Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 3

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 17 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

##### Bill 18: An Act To Amend The Education Act

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Education Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 18 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Dent.

##### Bill 19: An Act To Amend The Archives Act

**HON. CHARLES DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Archives Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? Those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 19 has had first reading. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Roland.

**Bill 20: An Act To Amend The Income Tax Act**

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? Motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 20 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 6, Bill 7 and Bill 11, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

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

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** I'm going to call Committee of the Whole to order. What's the wish of the committee with the number of matters we have before us today? Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, Members wish to consider Bill 6, Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act. Mahsi.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen):** Agreed. Then we will resume in a few minutes.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, committee. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We are dealing with Bill 6, Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act. I would like to begin by asking the Minister responsible, Mr. Bell, if he would like to introduce the bill.

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know it's a little out of the ordinary, but I would also like to say hello to my daughter Emily who is at home watching, I understand. Daddy won't be home for supper.

---Laughter

I'm sorry. I love you and be nice to your sister.

---Laughter

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to have an opportunity to speak to Bill 6, which proposes to enact the new Engineering and Geosciences Professions Act. The new act will provide for the continuation of the present Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of the Northwest Territories.

As the new Northwest Territories Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, the association is and will continue to be responsible for the regulation of

these disciplines in the Northwest Territories and also in Nunavut. The impetus of the bill has come from the association itself, which has noted deficiencies in the existing legislation and has tracked legislative developments related to the regulation of engineers and geoscientists elsewhere in Canada. In the development of the bill, the Department of Justice and the association considered many models for regulation including recent professional regulatory statutes enacted in the Northwest Territories. The resulting bill provides an effective, usable and up-to-date legislative framework for the self-regulation of the engineering and geoscience professions. It serves the needs of engineers and geosciences and also protects the public.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to take the time to note the presence in the gallery of Linda Golding and Lloyd Henderson from the association who were instrumental in helping us develop this legislation.

---Applause

Some of the key provisions of the bill include setting out the powers of the association to manage its affairs including: the powers to hold property; borrow money; make bylaws and elect its governing council; registering members, licensees, members in training and permit holders; setting our rules respecting various aspects of professional practice, including, Mr. Chairman, the use of the titles engineer and geoscience, the use of stamps, the payment of fees set by the association; conducting disciplinary proceedings including the resolution of some disputes by mediation; authorizing the association to accept responsibility for the exercise of powers and functions for the regulations of the professions in Nunavut and providing for certain transitional issues including preserving registrations given and proceedings taken under the former act.

While this bill may be enacted by the Legislature, it may not be brought into force until associated legislation has been enacted by Nunavut. Both the association and our Department of Justice are working with the Government of Nunavut to this end. We expect that Nunavut will introduce its companion legislation in early 2007.

I would again like to acknowledge the efforts of the association in general, and its legislation committee in particular. They have been, as I mentioned, very thorough and collaborative in the development of this legislation. I would also like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its considered review of the bill. During the course of its hearings, the standing committee recommended an amendment that would extend the limitation period for bringing a prosecution under the act where the evidence necessary to support a charge is not discovered until after the fixed two-year limitation period. Both the association and the Department of Justice support the amendment and, I believe Ms. Lee will bring it forward at the appropriate time.

We would be pleased to consider or any questions committee may have. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Minister Bell. I would like to welcome Ms. Golding and Mr. Henderson to our proceedings here this afternoon. Welcome. I will now go to the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs for committee comments. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to welcome and thank Ms. Golding and Mr. Henderson for being with us and waiting patiently for this momentous event for them.

Mr. Chair, the Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 6, Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act, on September 5, 2006, and October 16, 2006. The committee would like to thank the members of the Northwest Territories Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists for appearing before the committee to speak in support of this long-awaited modernization of the act. The act will increase the prerequisite for membership from two years of practical experience to four years. The association representatives were able to clarify that they had been operating under these criteria for a number of years and they were consistent with national accreditation standards. The intent of these criteria is to ensure full members have sufficient experience to work independently. This does not prevent training the individuals without sufficient practical experience from working, but their work has to be supervised and reviewed by a full member.

One of the main features of this bill is the updated set of disciplinary provisions for resolving complaints of unprofessional conduct against members. The association advised the committee that, on average, it receives one to two complaints per year. It is hoped that the new alternate dispute resolution option will allow for complaints to be resolved in a more timely fashion.

Some committee members have heard complaints from constituents, that engineers and geoscience professionals sometimes undertake work in an area without making nearby communities aware of what they are doing. This is a concern, especially in settled land claim areas, and will only become more of an issue when mineral and hydrocarbon exploration continues to accelerate. In the interest of better relations between their membership and communities, the committee suggests that the association consider taking some leadership on this issue; for example, the association may wish to initiate discussions with community and aboriginal governments on communications, best practices and/or develop information for new and non-resident members about the North's unique cultural environment and governance structures.

Three amendments were made to the bill during the clause-by-clause review. One amendment clarified that candidates for membership in the association can use work experience they obtain before graduation toward their requirements. The other two amendments were of a minor and technical nature.

The committee understands the Minister will be bringing forward a further motion today in response to a concern committee raised with the two-year limitation period placed on prosecution under the act. I believe I will correct that, I believe the motion will be made on this side of the House. Mr. Chair, this amendment will allow a prosecution to proceed after the two-year period has passed if evidence of an offence does not come to light until later.

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 6, Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act, as amended and reprinted, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole.

This concludes committee's opening comments on Bill 6 and individual members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for Bill 6, the Honourable Brendan Bell, Minister of Justice, if he would like to bring in witnesses.

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** I would, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will now ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses in. Thank you.

Mr. Minister, would you please introduce your witnesses, for the record.

**HON. BRENDAN BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, with me today is Mark Aitken, our director of legislation, Department of Justice. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Minister Bell. Welcome, Mr. Aitken. We will now go to general comments on Bill 6. Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Very briefly, I speak in support of the bill. One of the important functions that every Legislature has is to enable professional organizations such as here, geologists and engineers, to set up organizations by which they can govern themselves and hold themselves accountable. We do this in many areas, Mr. Chair, nurses, lawyers, many professions. So this is just the kind of good housekeeping that a Legislature should do and I compliment the people engaged in this profession here in the North. I commend this bill to our colleagues in the Nunavut Legislature and hope that they can give it their earliest attention, so it can be brought into force, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As a Member of the Legislature, just a very brief comment to express my appreciation as a member of the Standing Committee on Social Programs for the involvement and participation of NAPEGG, the association that has been behind this legislation and for which this legislation is about. I think it should be noted, in one of our public hearings we had an entire set of past presidents of the association, about six or seven of them. I don't want to name all of them, but I think that was a real show of interest and showed the history and the effort that went into the association to make this legislation passable. We are all aware of the efforts in an association like this, especially all the volunteer work that has to go on for these professionals, engineers, geologists, and for those people who really work towards and spend a lot of their private time and personal time to put this legislation into place and make it possible. Of course, it's the government that does that but without their effort, I am sure it would not be possible. The legislation seeks to modernize a body and the work and give them more powers to do what any organization or any professional licensing body and the organization that oversees the profession would want to do.

So I just want to make a brief comment to acknowledge that and to also thank the Minister for pushing this through. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Any further general comments on Bill 6?

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Bill 6, Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act. We'll start, committee, on page 7, interpretation, clause 1.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 9, part I, Northwest Territories Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists, clause 2.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 3.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Over to page 11, clause 6.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 7.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 8.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 12, clause 9.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 10.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Part II, practice, clause 11.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 14, Part III, registrant and permit holders, clause 12.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 13.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 14.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 15.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Over to page 16, clause 16.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 17.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 18.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 18, clause 19.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 20.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 21.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 22.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 23.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 20, clause 24.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 25.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 26.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 27.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 21, part IV, discipline, clause 28.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 29.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 30.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 31.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 22, clause 32.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 23, clause 33.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 34.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 35.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 36.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 37.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 24, clause 38.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 39.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 40.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 41.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 42.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 26, clause 43.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 27, clause 44.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 45.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 46.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 28, clause 47.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 48.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 29, clause 49.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 30, clause 50.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 51.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 31, clause 52.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Part V, general, clause 53.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 54.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 55.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 56.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 57. Mr. Braden.

**Committee Motion 29-15(5): To Amend Clause 57 To Bill 6 (re: Limitation Period For Prosecution), Carried**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an amendment to move. I move that Bill 6 be amended by deleting clause 57 and substituting the following:

57. A prosecution under this act may be commenced at any time within two years after the day the offence is alleged to have been committed or within six months after the day on which evidence, sufficient to justify prosecution for the offence, comes to the knowledge of the association or another appropriate authority.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Braden. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

To clause 57, as amended.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, committee. Clause 58, page 32, part VI, operations in Nunavut.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 59.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 60.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 61.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 33, clause 62.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 63.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Clause 64.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 34, part VII, miscellaneous transitional, clause 65.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Consequential amendments, clause 66.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Page 35, clause 67.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Repeal, clause 68.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** And commence, clause 69.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** To bill as a whole?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Does committee agree that Bill 6 is read for third reading, as amended?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, committee. Bill 6 is now ready for third reading, as amended.

---Applause

I would like to thank the Minister and thank you, Mr. Aitken, for being here with us this afternoon as well. Ms. Golding and Mr. Henderson, thank you for being here with us this afternoon. Mahsi. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Lafferty.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Chair. At this time, I wish to report progress.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Move the motion.

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Move the motion? Sorry. I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Mahsi, Mr. Lafferty. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Could I have 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 6, Engineering

and Geoscience Professions Act, and would like to report progress, with one motion being adopted and that Bill 6 is ready for third reading, as amended. 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. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Pokiak.

#### ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

##### Bill 14: An Act To Amend The Legislative Assembly And Executive Council Act, No. 2

**MR. POKIAK:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Pokiak. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 14 has had third reading. Third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

#### ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Thursday, October 26, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address

11. Petitions
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
  - Bill 9, Write-off of Assets Act, 2006-2007
  - Bill 13, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No.2, 2006-2007
18. Second Reading of Bills
  - Bill 15, Elections and Plebiscites Act
  - Bill 16, An Act to Amend the Jury Act
  - Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3
  - Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Education Act
  - Bill 19, An Act to Amend the Archives Act
  - Bill 20, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
  - Bill 7, Pharmacy Act
  - Bill 11, Tourism Act
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
  - Bill 6, Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act
22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 26, 2006, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 18:02 p.m.

