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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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Box 1320
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories
Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784
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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, March 14, 2007****Members Present**

Honourable Brendan Bell, Mr. Braden, Honourable Paul Delorey, Honourable Charles Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Hawkins, Honourable David Krutko, Ms. Lee, Hon. Michael McLeod, Mr. McLeod, Hon. Kevin 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 Industry, Tourism and Investment.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 4-15(6): Energy Plan**

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, later today, I will be tabling the Northwest Territories energy plan.

---Applause

This plan provides a comprehensive roadmap to guide and supply GNWT decisions regarding the development, generation, and use of energy in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we have a tremendous supply of energy resources in our territory, yet the cost of energy in our communities is very high and contributes significantly to our elevated cost of living.

Meanwhile, the environmental impacts of energy use, and in particular climate change, are already being evidenced across the North.

For this reason, and to emphasize the importance of addressing the impacts of climate change and establishing targets for greenhouse gas emissions, my colleague Minister McLeod will also be tabling today the revised NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, our residents are demanding action in many areas, including: energy efficiency and conservation; the development of renewable energy; the application of emerging technologies; and, the reduction of energy use by the GNWT.

This plan focuses on actions and investments. It proposes both new initiatives and the enhancement of existing initiatives, representing a total investment of approximately \$6 million. It includes a number of specific projects such as the Taltson hydroelectric expansion, the conversion of three public buildings in Fort Smith to interruptible hydroelectric power, the expansion of wind monitoring and a geothermal pilot project for Aurora College.

It also provides for a significant commitment of funds to advance and support the goals and targets that have been identified in the revised NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy.

Mr. Speaker, much of this investment will be leveraged with federal programs and funding. For example, the

recently announced \$5 million in federal funding from the EcoEnergy Trust initiative will be directed towards the priorities identified in this energy plan.

Together, we are working to ensure a lasting legacy of clean, affordable energy for future generations in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

----Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. McLeod.

Minister's Statement 5-15(6): Greenhouse Gas Strategy

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, later today, I will be tabling the revised Northwest Territories Greenhouse Gas Strategy.

---Applause

In 2005, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources took a stakeholder review of the previous Greenhouse Gas Strategy released in 2001. This review revealed the existing strategy was on the right track and represented a good start towards managing greenhouse gas emissions. It also identified shortcomings, including a lack of emission reduction targets, the absence of an implementation plan, insufficient funding and a general lack of accountability for results.

The revised strategy remedies these shortcomings. Meeting climate change and greenhouse gas emissions head on requires action, and that action is captured in this revised strategy.

The strategy commits the Government of the Northwest Territories to lead through example by adopting a greenhouse gas emission reduction target of 10 percent below 2001 levels by the year 2011 in our own operations.

This will be accomplished by actions such as testing and purchasing hybrid vehicles, increasing energy performance in government buildings and developing a new green procurement policy for the Government of the Northwest Territories.

There are also actions to reduce emissions in the community and residential sectors and in the commercial and industrial sector that have been incorporated into the revised strategy.

This revised strategy will also place a much greater emphasis on the need to respond to the impacts of climate change. Following implementation of the revised Greenhouse Gas Strategy, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources will begin to develop a climate change impacts and adaptation plan.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, the revised Greenhouse Gas Strategy commits the department to undertake a further review of the strategy in 2010 with the objective of establishing long-term targets beyond 2011.

Between the Greenhouse Gas Strategy and the energy plan, I am confident our government will strike the right balance between meeting the energy needs of our residents and industry and the need to protect the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to stress that the time for change is now. There is a saying that goes, "think globally, act locally," and I ask the people of the Northwest Territories to start acting locally by making at least one small change to reduce their own personal greenhouse gas emissions. It can be as simple as not idling our vehicles, or lowering our thermostat in our homes by one or two degrees. Big changes can begin with these small actions.

I invite Members of this Legislative Assembly and the public to join Minister Bell and myself in the Great Hall later this afternoon for a press conference following the tabling of the energy plan and the Greenhouse Gas Strategy. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 6-15(6): Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have chaired the most recent Canada Northwest Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Partnership, CNFASDP, Ministers' meeting on March 10th. The NWT is the lead jurisdiction for the partnership, and Ministers from Nunavut, Yukon, British Columbia and Manitoba, along with representatives from Alberta and Saskatchewan, attended the meeting in Victoria, B.C.

The partnership recognizes the importance of addressing the issue of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, or FASD, by sharing information and best practices in order to promote and develop prevention, intervention, care and support strategies for individuals affected by FASD.

Two years ago, the partnership established a research network to carry out and support research initiatives in western and northern Canada. At the meeting in Victoria, Ministers agreed to increase the funding of this research network to ensure projects underway can continue and to leverage alternative funding.

Ministers from the partnership were invited to attend the closing ceremonies of an international FASD conference held concurrently in Victoria. This conference was sponsored in part by the partnership. The closing ceremonies provided an opportunity for children and young adults with FASD to recognize the work and added value the partnership brings to the lives of children, families and communities affected by FASD.

During the past year, the partnership has achieved a number of other successes. For example:

- network action teams with lead agencies in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia were established;
- Saskatchewan hosted a biannual conference attended by 650 delegates from every province and territory, and the United States, and countries as far away as Africa;
- the research network carried out consultations with First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities; and
- a meeting was held in Yellowknife in September 2006, where Ministers discussed the research priorities of the network in future years.

Manitoba will be assuming the lead of the partnership at the end of this fiscal year as the jurisdictions rotate this position on a yearly basis. The NWT will continue to play an active role in the partnership. I look forward to our continued full participation.

FASD is a lifelong condition. Effective prevention efforts, early diagnosis, support environments and a range of special supports and services are necessary to assist individuals and their families in their journey towards self-reliance and well-being.

The GNWT is committed to preventing FASD in our territory. It is an important task and with alliances such as this partnership, we are working together to help residents make healthy decisions for themselves and their babies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Ministers' statements. Before I go on to the next order on the Order Paper, colleagues, I would like to bring you're your attention to the gallery to the presence of a former Member of this House and former Speaker, Mr. Sam Gargan.

---Applause

Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Villeneuve.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Housing Corporation Rental Arrears

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am going to use my Member's statement to talk about this government's policies on the rental arrears kind of spiralling out of control here for the past five to 10 years at the Housing Corporation. I do support all of the initiatives that do assist people to address their outstanding accounts with the Housing Corporation or the local housing organizations, but this government definitely has to make some fundamental changes to the rent scale policies and their eviction processes if they wish to recover any significant amount of the \$8 million-plus that is owed to the LHOs and to the Housing Corporation, especially if these people that are living in public housing, if we want to stop them from continuing to slide deeper and deeper into debt, which seems to be the way we are going now.

The first thing that this government has to do is to develop a small communities rent scale policy that is not based on the market rent for Yellowknife and is not adjusted because of the vacancy rates in Yellowknife either, and clearly does not reflect the fair share of real earned income that people are willing to pay for some of the conditions that they have to live under like overcrowding and the large inventory of dilapidated housing that we have in our smaller communities.

Mr. Speaker, every client of the Housing Corporation with outstanding arrears has to be addressed on an individual basis and the methods of repayment customized to each individual circumstance. Mr. Speaker, the people who are stepping up to the plate to pay down their outstanding accounts have to be given the gratitude and consideration that they deserve for doing what they are doing, because it is often very difficult for these people to pay down such large debts, especially when they have large families to support and they are on small incomes or they might be on income support.

I have constituents who have made significant sacrifices to pay down their debt, Mr. Speaker. But then, again, they are not given due consideration for better housing or even housing programs because of their so-called bad credit that they had with the Housing Corporation or the LHO. But these are the people who should be accommodated and properly housed, because they have obviously shown us that they can assume the responsibility of keeping current with the rent and may be the better clients with the lesser risks to taking on homeownership, which, I believe, is what this government is working towards and we should continue to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Federal Budget Wish List

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Next Monday, the federal Minister of Finance for Canada, Mr. Flaherty, is going to be delivering his budget. There are a few things on that list that I want to take one more opportunity to make sure Mr. Flaherty knows, from the point of view of northerners, we would sure like to see in that budget.

Mr. Speaker, at the very top of the list, of course, goes the desire and the very deserving proposals that we have been looking for resource revenue sharing, Mr. Speaker, and devolution of the control of those resources to the Northwest Territories. Bring those resources and the wealth home, Mr. Speaker.

We have been asking for, after I think it is some 18 years now, a re-evaluation of the northern residents income tax deduction. The cost of living has increased 150 percent since then, Mr. Speaker. We have calculated that, here in the NWT, if you are making an annual wage of about \$60,000, by increasing this long-overdue tax accommodation for the cost of living up here, you could have about \$840 stay in your pocket if you made \$60,000 a year. I think that is something very worthwhile.

Mr. Speaker, we want to see the cuts that the Conservative Party of Canada brought in last fall restored. I would put it at the very top of the restoring the cuts that

were made to literacy, Mr. Speaker, and to the volunteers initiative.

One more item on my shopping list for the budget next Monday, Mr. Speaker, is that the Visitor Rebate Program be evaluated to make sure that a GST application, which has never been there before, is not put on the cost of visitors coming into Canada when the product was sold to them offshore, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Before I go to the next Member, I would like to draw colleagues' attention to the visitors gallery. There is a group of 16 new officers with Foreign Affairs and International Trades Canada visiting here in the Northwest Territories. Their visit to the Legislative Assembly here today is part of their training to become familiar with economic, political and social issues of Canada prior to their future postings overseas in Canadian embassies, high commissions and consulates. Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. I hope you are enjoying the proceedings.

---Applause

Members' statements. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

Member's Statement On Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to comment on the Yellowknife schools issue, this ongoing saga that has become a very large topic of discussion here in Yellowknife. I have listened to many parents who have phoned or e-mailed me with their concerns. Parents and students are being put in a very difficult position because their children are all part of a very serious discussion regarding space utilization in Yellowknife schools.

Mr. Speaker, some are quick to point the finger at our Education Minister for his known aversion to making decisions. However, the circumstances surrounding the crises that are out there today is not the sole responsibility of Minister Dent or the Department of ECE. To his credit, the Minister has worked with both boards and the Regular Members from Yellowknife on this issue for well over three years. He has tried his best to get both boards to set aside their differences and to do what is best for the children of our community.

Mr. Speaker, I find myself in a very difficult situation with both Ecole St. Joseph's School and N.J. McPherson in my riding. I have seen the space crunch at St. Joseph's first-hand. With the fire last summer and the renovations that are desperately required, their students need to be accommodated somewhere. If the number of empty seats in YK 1 schools is anywhere between 500 and 800 empty seats, then a solution should be workable between the two boards. No one wants to see funding cut or a school close. What parents I have spoken to want to see is a resolution. How can we expect to teach our children to share and to cooperate when both school boards seem so bent on not working together? I implore both boards to cogitate about what their differences are doing to the community, its parents and students. A solution is out there and must be found. I do hope that all relevant information is available to parents of both school districts. The Minister should also host public information sessions

for all parents and stakeholders of both districts to come and discuss the issues. In a time of crisis, this community has a history of being able to pull together. We owe it to our students and to our community to work out this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Activities Of The Territorial Farmers' Association

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I recently had the opportunity to meet with the Territorial Farmers' Association in Hay River. Agriculture is a renewable resource activity that has great potential in the North. In fact, in times past, it has contributed significantly to the production of food in the Northwest Territories.

The TFA has undertaken several innovative and amazing initiatives recently. In September 2006, the TFA hosted a pan-North American circumpolar agriculture conference in Hay River. The theme of the conference was Changing Times in Northern Agriculture. The objective of the conference was to promote agriculture possibilities in northern regions and to generate North American interest in circumpolar agriculture.

I had the pleasure of representing Minister Bell at this conference and speaking at one of the noon luncheons. The TFA has also been involved in testing a product combining sawdust, straw and peat to compost chicken manure to be used to enrich the soil of northern farms. Another very interesting project was the harvesting of a seed collection that would see the future pipeline route revegetated with northern plant species after construction.

Mr. Speaker, a study by the Territorial Farmers' Association estimates that 25 percent of the produce shipped from the South could be grown in the North. This 25 percent could be worth as much as \$13 million and could generate as many as 80 jobs. Soil surveys have proven that about 3.6 million hectares of land in the South Slave lowlands and the Upper Mackenzie, including the Hay River and Fort Liard regions, are potential arable lands.

Mr. Speaker, our government needs to support this forward thinking association. We have all heard the pleas of our people regarding the high cost of living, the high cost of food and the lack of availability of fresh foods in many of our communities.

In order to encourage agricultural activity during our pre-budget consultations last summer, we heard from the TFA of a way that our government could do their part to encourage agriculture through the re-examining of how agricultural land is assessed under the Property Assessment and Taxation Act. There is no unique distinction in the PATA for agriculture lands assessment. Agriculture is a low-impact activity and, unlike non-renewable resources, effort and money invested in agriculture isn't here today and gone tomorrow. I would like this government to demonstrate its commitment to continuing to work with the TFA and its members, by

attending the 16th annual seminar in Hay River on March 24th.

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

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This year's focus will be on gardening and greenhouses. Many interesting presenters are lined up, including a company that specializes in water treatment plants which could provide innovative ideas for small communities and businesses that would benefit from alternate water delivery systems. Mr. Speaker, we need to do what we can as a government to support organizations like the Territorial Farmers' Association who work very hard to generate interest and support producers in the area of agriculture. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Funding For Territorial Sport Organization

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have been in discussions and have been contacted by a constituent. This constituent is a president of one of the territorial sporting organizations that have soccer for the Northwest Territories. He has raised a number of significant concerns with me in regards to the funding and the new structure that is there. Basically, Mr. Speaker, he paints a picture of an inverted pyramid that comes down and is on the backs of a handful of very dedicated, taxed volunteers that he says are frustrated and burning out.

The president states that the organization and funding of sports and recreation is in a state of crisis in the Northwest Territories, and that the overall system is drastically under funded and the allocation of actual monies to the grassroots volunteers in the territorial sporting organizations results to less than \$400,000 out of all the money that the government puts into sports. The president goes on to state that, this year, 22 out of 27 TSOs are penalized \$20,000 in late fees and \$89,000 in performance penalties for a total of \$119,000 being removed from their collective base funding. Mr. Speaker, that comes to 50 percent of the funding for the Soccer Association. All appeals, he says, have been denied. The president goes on to state that it is a bureaucratic nightmare that is taxing volunteers to the maximum. The question is asked, what happens to the \$119,000 that the TSOs are supposed to get if they don't get it? The net effect is that there will be a negative effect on the communities, that they will have difficulty in delivering programs in their communities. He doesn't anticipate there will be a problem in Yellowknife, but there will be in the communities. These problems have put a stranglehold on the system, he said, not allowing the system to grow or move forward.

The president goes on to point out about a serious overlap of duties between MACA and Sports North, not to mention the feud that exists between them. He suggested the system needs some serious streamlining. The net result of all this, Mr. Speaker, is a burning out of volunteers at an alarming rate. The president goes on to recognize that Sport North has become a games delivery organization, which they do very well, but they are little use to TSOs, Mr. Speaker. May I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

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

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The president goes on to suggest that the TSOs should be dealing directly with government, as they do in other provinces. In regards to the funding and the lotteries, the president asserts that is a fallacy, almost unethical to believe, that lotteries can, or should, fund our system. They help, but the government needs to step up and commit real capital dollars to sport.

Mr. Speaker, this points to some serious questions in how do we work together in this new system to make sure we keep all the players in the tent. I will be asking the Minister questions later today in question period.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Patient Services At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The sudden death of Mrs. Voudrach of Tuktoyaktuk shocked husband, Paul, his family and residents of Tuktoyaktuk. Mrs. Voudrach broke her wrist by slipping outside the Rosie Ovayyak Centre on February 2, 2007, in Tuktoyaktuk. After complications in her wrist, the local head nurse decided to send her out to the Stanton Territorial Hospital in Yellowknife on Monday, February 19, 2007, for a wrist operation. My understanding of the situation, she was to have the surgery the following day, on Tuesday, February 20, 2007. Mr. Speaker, for some reason, the surgery was performed on the same evening she arrived at the hospital. Is this a normal practice for people that require surgery on the same day? Complications arose during the operation and eventually Mrs. Voudrach became asphyxiated during the operation and suffered a cardiac arrest. The doctors and staff tried to revive Mrs. Voudrach, but she died on the operating table.

Mr. Speaker, many residents rely on doctors and nurses during minor and major operations. They are specialized in the profession they take and we respect that. However, the question that remains: Did the doctors and staff make the appropriate decision to operate on Mrs. Voudrach that evening? I understand an autopsy was conducted on Mrs. Voudrach and the report won't be available for eight to 10 weeks. Is this a normal time to release information on cause of death?

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Voudrach has publicly announced in the newspaper by asking questions why the operation was

conducted on his wife, Norma Voudrach, that evening; why the report of the autopsy will take eight to 10 weeks to become public; and why the Department of Health and Social Services cannot provide him with information on the cause of death. I understand that Mr. Voudrach may be seeking a legal opinion on his wife, Norma Voudrach's death with the Department of Health and Social Services.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, these questions raised by Mr. Voudrach and his family need to be addressed by the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Administration Of Territorial Sports Organizations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, along with my colleague from Thebacha, I, too, would like to speak to the frustrations that are facing the territorial sport organizations in applying for funding. The Canada Winter Games were recently held in Whitehorse and many NWT athletes that were there held their own against the rest of the country. Many of the coaches and mission staff and those that are directly involved with the athletes are volunteers, Mr. Speaker. It's these volunteers that allow the athletes to compete. We ask the volunteers to coach and mould our athletes and yet we offer them very little support.

Volunteers have to fill out a lot of applications, Mr. Speaker, for funding. They don't get much help in filling out those applications, and then they have to account for everything afterwards and they don't get much help in doing that, either. We have over 27 different sport organizations, as my colleague pointed out, and each one of them face the same problem. I've seen the table of all the money that was owed by these territorial sport organizations and it amounted to a lot of money, Mr. Speaker.

We have too many boards within the sport organizations and, like so many things within the government, we tend to have too much admin at the top and that takes a lot of money away from those that directly use the program. It's a problem that's right across the board, Mr. Speaker. A new sport council was formed recently and came into effect and that didn't really have the blessing of a lot of the territorial sport organizations.

Mr. Speaker, we have to offer support to the volunteers with the amount of paperwork that we expect them to fill out. I do know volunteers that have been burned out because they're expected to do so many things and they'd rather just step back and not have to deal with the politics and the admin of sports. This takes away from those who these programs were really designed for, Mr. Speaker, and those are the athletes.

I met a guy one time who was a goaltending coach for one of the NHL teams and he said the North has some of the best natural athletes he's ever seen. We just have to make sure we nurture them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Performance Audits Of Crown Corporations

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In February 2006, I made a statement on the need to perform regular performance or value for money audits on Crown corporations owned by the GNWT. At the time, the Finance Minister indicated he was open to examining the issue and possibly considering an expanded role for our very own Audit Bureau. Over a year has gone by and I have yet to hear anything from our fine Finance Minister on this issue and there have been no concrete steps on implementation of this idea.

We all know that Crown corporations are subject to annual financial audits by the Auditor General's office, who examines the books and ensures that financial reporting practices are in accordance with the recognized accounting principles. But I don't think we should stop there, Mr. Speaker. While this is a valuable exercise, it does not provide the directors of the Crown corporation or the stakeholders, the residents of the NWT as represented by this government, with any indication that all the resources are being managed efficiently, economically, or the operations are being carried out effectively and the assets are truly in safeguard. Federal legislation provides that indication, and as the Auditor General's office has pointed out to me in her letter, this is one of the major differences between the different level of governments; that special examination of Crown corporations.

There is a need to move ahead on this file, Mr. Speaker, and we have the opportunity before us through the upcoming review of our Financial Administration Act to accomplish this, to strengthen the NWT's legislation. The Auditor General's office has indicated that they would be willing to assist. Mr. Speaker, Canada's top auditor, Sheila Fraser, has made an offer that would be truly unreasonable for this Assembly to refuse. This is an olive branch of accountability, Mr. Speaker, that would provide and serve all northerners well. It would provide an independent point of view that our Crown corporations are giving us value for money.

All we need to do is the recognition by this government for the need to monitor operational practices of our Crown corporations on a regular basis. All we need to do, Mr. Speaker, again, is just ask. It won't cost us much and it will cost us everything if we do not consider this seriously.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions at the appropriate time for our Finance Minister. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Northern-Based Research Capabilities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have some concerns brought to me by my constituents. Almost all the research taking place in our region is

coming from outside institutions in the Northwest Territories, specifically my region. Communities are not being brought into the research that involves them, that serves their own needs. It always serves the institution needs or the organization needs. Yet they receive numerous research proposals from institutions based on the outside, Mr. Speaker.

The reason that the community wants to be involved is that they can learn too, so they can strengthen their ability to participate in decision-making processes. This is a matter of life and death for my people, Mr. Speaker, who are now facing major social impacts of development in our region. Yet despite the major investments in research in the Northwest Territories in honour of our International Polar Year, virtually none of the research will directly involve the benefits of northern communities.

Mr. Speaker, as I said, in recognition of International Polar Year, the Northwest Territories has a golden opportunity to establish a research institution as a centre for excellence in community-based research, especially in social and cultural research. Mr. Speaker, in the early part of the decade, the Aurora Research Institute did have a full-time staff person responsible for promoting and supporting community-based research. Projects supported in the Sahtu region and elsewhere were very, very successful, but this position has not been fulfilled.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister at the appropriate time regarding how can the community get involved in this type of research in terms of what can the government do to strengthen our research and our capabilities in terms of looking after the people first and the institutions second. Mr. Speaker, thank you very much.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Addressing The Needs Of Northern Immigrants

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Census Canada released results from a 2006 survey yesterday which seems to more accurately reflect the demographics of the NWT population. I'd like to acknowledge the Stats NWT for doing the work they did in assisting Census Canada with the work. When we get our funding per capita, every head counts, obviously, Mr. Speaker, and this also just shows you why we need to do more things in the North, not in Ottawa, to get the things done right.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things that emerged from the 2006 Census is that Canada now gets most of its population growth from immigration and will continue to do so in future. If this is the case, I don't believe our country as a whole is doing enough to prepare and plan for what this means to us in all aspects of our Canadian life. This is especially true for the NWT where we also experience a huge influx of immigrants from all over the world.

Last fall, the application to the federal government to get a small amount of funding for an immigration support centre in Yellowknife was denied. We don't even have enough staff at the immigration office to answer most basic questions about immigration or other related issues. Just

last month, I read an article from the Deh Cho Drum about someone in Fort Simpson who was asked to travel to Inuvik to be sworn in as a Canadian. Obviously, someone in Ottawa does not know how much it costs to go to Inuvik or how far it is from Simpson.

Mr. Speaker, even in Yellowknife, over 200 people had to wait over two years, after going through all the necessary procedures, just to be sworn in as Canadian citizens because we don't have enough Canadian citizenship judges in Canada. Mr. Speaker, this doesn't go anywhere near all the issues that we have raised about accreditation of foreign-trained professionals to be able to be employed in jobs that they're trained to do, skills that we could use in the North, that continue to be unfilled in some of these jobs.

Mr. Speaker, as is the case with every other thing we face in the North, Ottawa doesn't understand the extent of the needs of the northern immigration population from over 140 countries who live in Yellowknife and NWT. Mr. Speaker, as someone who was given everything she has from the singular privilege of being an immigrant to Canada, I worry about what our future holds for us. If we are going to maintain and grow our population by immigration, we need to implement a plan. Mr. Speaker, may I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement?

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

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to maintain and grow our population by immigration, we need to employ a plan that would bring new and old people together and raise everyone to an equal playing field. Territorially and nationally I believe this is a sleeper issue that will challenge us a great deal as a nation unless we pay attention to this at the level it deserves. I'd like to urge this government and the federal government to address these issues, not just as an issue of number of votes, but an issue that is important to our economic and political future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Members' statements. Returns to oral questions. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize Marino Casebeer, a constituent of mine. I believe he's just gotten a job recently with Arctic Energy Alliance, so I suspect he's here for the announcement later today. Thank you.

---Applause

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, wanted to recognize Sam Gargan from my hometown of Fort Providence, former Speaker and MLA for Deh Cho. Welcome.

---Applause

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize a friend I met the other day, a former Member of the House of Parliament, Mr. Andrew Chatwood. Also sitting with him, his daughter, Susan Chatwood.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the House. I hope you're enjoying our proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience in here.

---Applause

Oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 25-15(6): Performance Audits Of Crown Corporations

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will follow the line my Member's statement drew out, so my questions will be directed to the Minister of Finance. Mr. Speaker, in short, I want to make sure our Crown corporations are giving all the NWT citizens value for money. Mr. Speaker, my question, therefore, is, is there a value to the directors of the Crown corporations and the GNWT shareholders in conducting occasional performance audits on Crown corporations? Can the Minister indicate whether there has been any progress on this file since I raised the issue back in February 2006? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 25-15(6): Performance Audits Of Crown Corporations

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the area of accountability is something we take seriously within this government. We have reviewed our administration act, the Financial Administration Act, as well as our Financial Administration Manual, and highlighted a number of areas where there's a fair bit of accountability that falls into place. Instead of going to each section, I can provide that information to the Member. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 25-15(6): Performance Audits Of Crown Corporations

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the offer from the Minister. Mr. Speaker, in the letter I

tabled last week -- and the Finance Minister does have a copy of this -- Sheila Fraser, our top Auditor General here, talks about the great things value for service that audits do. Would the Minister be willing to take a serious look at this letter and take the Auditor General's office of Canada up on the service they are willing to provide to ensure we have value for service in our Crown corporations?

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

Further Return To Question 25-15(6): Performance Audits Of Crown Corporations

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, each corporation that we're involved with has an act that establishes and talks about accountability. As I stated, through our acts we have accountability as well. As well, the third-party accountability framework is another piece that we've recently added, as a government, when it comes to how corporations are involved and spend money in the Northwest Territories.

As well, through the Auditor General of Canada's office, when and has in the past, from time to time, been called to come and look at a number of issues within the Government of the Northwest Territories departments and corporations and, in fact, were recently involved in the Housing Corporation. We're waiting for that report. So they have been involved and we'll continue to work with them from time to time as called upon. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 25-15(6): Performance Audits Of Crown Corporations

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't deny that the Finance Minister was correct on that information. However, I'm talking about a proactive approach that actually gets ahead of the problem before it gets away from us. I'm talking about getting ahead of the problem so we don't have to work on trying to force and try to reach a compromise to have these big, deep, forensic-style audits. So, Mr. Speaker, the fact is the Auditor General will do this. All we have to do is put it in a line item now that we have the FAA open. Would the Minister reconsider that? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 25-15(6): Performance Audits Of Crown Corporations

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess, for the record, let's make it clear that there are no problems to date. Potential problems, I guess the Member is referring to. The Member is correct; we are going through work on the Financial Administration Act and that is an opportunity, as we sit down with Members, that we could look at including something of this nature. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 25-15(6): Performance Audits Of Crown Corporations

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I can take the Minister up on his small, but -- I heard it -- olive branch on that as something they can look at, what will we be looking at and how soon will we get some information back from the Minister on the direction that I've been trying to draw out? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 25-15(6): Performance Audits Of Crown Corporations

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the work on the Financial Administration Act is a very large piece of work and I'm unable to give a timeline commitment on this particular piece. As we bring it forward to committee, members we'll have to incorporate this. I'm not looking at pulling a piece of this out and doing it that way. We're doing a full review of the Financial Administration Act, it has been ongoing for some time, and hopefully in the near future we'll be able to bring something forward to Members of this Assembly. Thank you.

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

Question 26-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask questions today to the Minister of ECE. It gets back to the facilities usage here in Yellowknife and the school issue. I think some people may be thinking this is a relatively new issue. This isn't a new issue. It's been at the top of our agenda since at least three years ago when we were elected and recent events with the fire at Ecole St. Joseph last summer. It's surfaced again now because there is a desperate need to accommodate students from St. Joseph School. I'd like to ask the Minister of ECE what, maybe he can give us a little bit of a chronology of how and what he has done to address this issue over the past three years. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 26-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member is aware, the issue about school space was first raised by school boards when we met with them right after the last election. So it has been something that all the Yellowknife Members have been involved in for almost four years now.

The issues of or the manner in which it's been handled was, first of all, after the first couple of meetings there didn't seem to be any easy way to move forward, so I put together a committee that involved all of the stakeholders in education in Yellowknife. That committee met and over the course of a number of months; delivered a final report about a year ago.

Subsequent to that, since it didn't come to some resolution on space for schools in Yellowknife, I brought in

a mediator and asked him to meet with the two boards. That didn't come to any fruitful resolution.

Following that, I met myself with the two boards to try and move the process along. So there's been ongoing consultation to try and bring this to some resolution over the past three years. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 26-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was wondering if the Minister can give the government's assessment of what might be able to happen to try to get both school boards together to come up with a workable solution to the situation. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 26-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point, I have, by way of letter to YK 1, indicated what I think should happen in this circumstance. As discussed between Ms. Lee and myself yesterday, perhaps the next step, if we're unable to reach resolution there, would be to ensure that there is a better understanding among the public of what the recommendations are and what they mean. So we may have to look at some mechanism for a public meeting to allow stakeholders in Yellowknife to get all of the information.

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

Supplementary To Question 26-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that the more information that gets out there into the public domain would be a step in the right direction for the Minister and the department to undertake that work, and I'd say move forward on that. I'd like to ask the Minister what would plan B be if the two school boards absolutely cannot work together and cannot find a solution amongst themselves? What is plan B, or is there is a plan B to this situation? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 26-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd say right now that plan B is to make sure the parents have all of the information and then I'm hoping that they would be prepared to put some pressure on the boards to ensure that they are acting in the most appropriate way. That, to me, is plan B. For us to go beyond dealing with the boards and actually deal with the public is a step beyond what would be in the normal course of business. So at this point, that's plan B, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 27-15(6): Funding For Territorial Sports Organizations

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister of Municipal and Communities and it's a follow-up to the statement I made in the House about some of the concerns that have been raised to me and to my colleague from Inuvik. As opposed to talking about the specifics of the concerns, the question is more in terms of process to the Minister. There's been a new structure put in place and there has been a lot of work done, but clearly there seems to be some issues out there that need to be resolved. I'd just like to ask the Minister how he would anticipate being able to get the players together to keep working through these issues so that we don't lose any volunteers that are in such short supply already in the communities? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 27-15(6): Funding For Territorial Sports Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the whole concept of amalgamation and putting all the sports organizations under one roof, one umbrella structure, has been something that's been proven to be working quite well. We're quite satisfied that we're making some really good progress with the lotteries; we're making good progress in terms of amalgamating a lot of the administration; we've also made some great headway in terms of housing all the organizations in their own building under one roof. There have been a few concerns that have come forward, especially in light of some of the territorial sports organizations that have been penalized. That is an issue that we are talking to the Sport North organization about, how they can deal with these things. There have been appeals but, Mr. Speaker, for the most part, we're quite satisfied that things are going ahead pretty good and we hope that they will continue to do so. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 27-15(6): Funding For Territorial Sports Organizations

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree, as well, that there's been a lot of positive changes, but clearly we're hearing from some of the TSOs that the structures that are there -- and we focus a lot on the structure -- still comes down to the volunteers in the communities delivering the programs. The question to the Minister is what specific steps will be done to try to address or bring the TSOs to have a discussion with the rest of the organization to try to sort out some of these differences before we have an exodus of critical volunteers? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 27-15(6): Funding For Territorial Sports Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Member is referring to a concern that was brought forward this year as the result of Sport North levying some penalties. I guess it should be clear that Sport North is an independent body; they are registered a society; they have their own administration; these are their own rules; these are the members of their partnerships. There are two types of penalties that are being levied here. There are penalties for late filing of their accounting and their forms and the general accounting practices, and there's also some penalties that are being levied as a result of performance. So there are two types of penalties that are being implemented here and, Mr. Speaker, these are the rules that the TSOs have agreed to have placed upon themselves; they agreed that they would work within the confines. There is a concern that some of the filing is starting to be a challenge for these volunteers. We're working with that whole concept to try and improve it, and through our Pan Territorial Sport Strategy we'd like to see if we can place some resources within the ranks of the TSOs. So far we've had one position dedicated to hockey; we have another half-time position dedicated to skiing. We'd like to improve that. We'd like to up that to maybe five this year. Pending the positive response from the federal government, we'd like to update that to five so that three more TSOs can be brought on stream with staff that can help them out; or maybe even more than five, I'm not sure, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 27-15(6): Funding For Territorial Sports Organizations

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are in this Legislature as elected politicians and when constituents come to us outside of the processes that are there -- in this case, dealing with sports and recreation -- it's indicative, clearly, that there some heartburn, some angst, some unhappiness and frustration. I'd like to ask the Minister, we want to keep everybody in the tent; we want to keep this new system evolving and improving. Could the Minister commit to encouraging Sport North and all the TSO folks to gather around the table? Clearly, they may have made some decisions that now, through application, have proved wanting; that obviously require a second look. Could the Minister commit to trying to make sure that these folks gather around the table to see if they can work this out, so that we're not tying up their time and the time of this House if it can be sorted out? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 27-15(6): Funding For Territorial Sports Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there have been filings of appeal from six of the organizations. I'm not sure if that has taken place. My information was that there would a gathering of the territorial sports organizations in April. We are having our discussions with Sport North to see if there's a better system, a more user-friendly system in terms of reporting. We'd like that to happen and we will continue those

discussions. However, we recognize that it's a real challenge for some of the organizations out there to meet the accounting requirements. We have to have good accounting requirements, and that may mean that we'll have to provide some form of support, and that may mean some staff positions within the ranks of the TSOs or other organizations. We'll have those discussions with Sport North and some of the other organizations that are experiencing some growing pains or some pains in terms of providing programs. I think the Aboriginal Sports Circle has had some challenges that we're working with them, also, to meet. Thank you.

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

Question 28-15(6): Agricultural Land Taxation Policies

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in follow-up to my Member's statement about the Territorial Farmers' Association, I will direct my question to the Minister for Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, in 2005, I asked the Minister of MACA about reviewing the Property Assessment and Taxation Act and including the assessment of agricultural land in that review. The Minister replied that MACA received several requests from communities to do a comprehensive review of the data. MACA was going to look at the issue of exemption to land where land is granted through a land use permit and also look at some technical amendments., but MACA had been unable to commit to when they would do a comprehensive evaluation or review on the whole act itself. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister, two years later, for an update on changes to the PATA as they relate to the agricultural industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 28-15(6): Agricultural Land Taxation Policies

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seem to recall that the Member raised it in 2004, 2005 and 2006. It seems that this issue, I agree, has been on the table...The Member has been very vocal about having the PATA reviewed. There have been other organizations and other Members of this House, including community governments, that have asked that we review the act. We have not been able to do so; we haven't been able to dedicate the resources. So we don't believe we'll be able to review the act within the life of this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 28-15(6): Agricultural Land Taxation Policies

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, at this point I'd be happy if it was in my lifetime, but anyway, Mr. Speaker, does the Minister have any other vehicle available to him by way of ministerial directive or any other interim measure that he could have the authority to an act that

would look at pulling agricultural land out for a separate assessment process? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 28-15(6): Agricultural Land Taxation Policies

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we can certainly take a look to see if there's any other method of doing what the Member's asking. We have not received, I don't believe we received, a request. We had made the offer to the Territorial Farmers' Association to do a presentation on the situation with lands. We must realize that this area -- this is being referenced by the Territorial Farmer's Association -- is also further complicated because there are two outstanding land claims in that area. The Dehcho First Nations have a land claim in that area, and the NWT Metis Nation has also indicated that they are interested in that area. We have offered to the Farmers' Association to go in and do a presentation on land how the land is allocated and the process. We have not received a request from them to do so and we'll follow it up to see if there's any desire to do that at this annual meeting. I certainly will commit to talking to our staff to see if there's another process that we can use to deal with the farmers and their ask, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 28-15(6): Agricultural Land Taxation Policies

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that was going to be my next question. That was one of the things I had asked about previously, that a commitment had been made to putting out a consultation paper and perhaps holding a workshop in Hay River for the Territorial Farmers' Association. I don't think that's been done and I didn't realize that MACA was waiting for us to do something to initiate that, but I will certainly communicate that back to the Territorial Farmers' Association and we would look forward to such an opportunity. Absolutely, we respect and understand the land use processes that are underway and I would like to ask the Minister if there's...I'm sorry I've lost my train of thought here. I want to ask the Minister if it would be a convenient time. The Farmers' Association is having a major gathering in Hay River on March 16th and if that would be too short a notice for his department to respond? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 28-15(6): Agricultural Land Taxation Policies

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will commit to the Member that we will have somebody attend and we will make the offer again right away to do the presentation. We were ready some time ago and we'll go out and contact the Farmers' Association and offer to do a presentation and have a discussion on some of the issues that they have concerns about. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 28-15(6): Agricultural Land Taxation Policies

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There was also a specific recommendation with regard to the assistance for the agricultural sector by identifying arable land to ensure that it's not used for other activities and establish an agricultural land reserve designation. I know that recently MACA has hired new land officers and I'd like to ask the Minister if there's been any follow-up of this nature as per the TFA's recommendation to have someone actually assist them in identifying arable lands in their region? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 28-15(6): Agricultural Land Taxation Policies

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't confirm whether we've done that yet. We'll need to talk a little more with ITI, who has had some contact with the Farmers' Association. However, I certainly will commit to getting back to the Member on this issue. Thank you.

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

Question 29-15(6): Interim Refundable Rate Rider

MR. VILLENEUVE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 2007, the Public Utilities Board approved the Northwest Territories Power Corporation interim refundable rate rider effective February 1, 2007. I want to ask the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board, what is the interim refundable rate rider and how is it going to affect people that are on hydro as opposed to people on diesel? Can he explain that just for the public's interest? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Villeneuve. The honourable Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board, Mr. Menicoche.

Return To Question 29-15(6): Interim Refundable Rate Rider

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The interim rate rider that was approved to the NWT Power Corp is typically asked in a rate application until a final decision is made. With the recent NWTPC general rate application, that is going to take, we figure, up to a year to get to final approval. In the interim there has been a case made that due to the increased cost of fuel and operating costs, that they do need an increase for their operating expense. We do say that it is refundable in the case that the final approval is less than what has been asked for in the general rate application, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

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

Supplementary To Question 29-15(6): Interim Refundable Rate Rider

MR. VILLENEUVE: On January 10, 2007, before this interim refundable rate rider was effective, the Power Corporation's fuel rider and the rider T was approved by the Public Utilities Board. So we have the fuel rider and the rider T approved by the Public Utilities Board. Now we have an interim refundable rate rider. I don't understand what the differences are and what effects it will have for people on hydro on diesel. Could the Minister explain that to me? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 29-15(6): Interim Refundable Rate Rider

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. That's a level of detail that I don't have right now. There were not two riders in that application that was brought before the Public Utilities Board. It must have been a separate application for the T rider. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 29-15(6): Interim Refundable Rate Rider

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information I have, okay, we have the approval of the fuel rider and the rider T for the consumers that are on hydro, and now we have an approval of this interim refundable rate rider. Is the Public Utilities Board, or is the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board, going to be putting out any kind of a public notice that will explain to myself, my constituents and the people of the NWT, what the effects are of this fuel rider? The rider T is pretty cut and dried, but explain what is this interim refundable rate rider going to be and what the changes are going to be to people's power bills. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 29-15(6): Interim Refundable Rate Rider

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. There are a couple of zones that we do speak of when there's a general rate application; one's hydro communities and one's the diesel communities. The general rate application process is usually explained by the proponent which is, in this case, the NWT Power Corporation. I can commit to getting more information on this matter to explain to the Member and the public consultation process, and I'll get that back to the Member, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 29-15(6): Interim Refundable Rate Rider

MR. VILLENEUVE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for making that commitment, I guess, just for the public interest. I would maybe want to ask the Minister for

a commitment that either the Public Utilities Board or the NWT Power Corp or his department, whoever, because we're already into one month here that this has been approved; it's been approved effective February 1, 2007, and I don't think people even really know what it is that has been approved. Just for the public's interest and how it's going to affect their power bills, I would like to see something maybe in Monday's paper, perhaps, you know, a full-pager on how, explaining what these rate riders are, what this interim refundable rate rider is and how it's going to affect everybody's power rates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 29-15(6): Interim Refundable Rate Rider

HON. KEVIN MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I don't think we can be publishing a full-page ad, but I can, once again, commit to getting more information out to the public if it's with the Public Utilities board; or else I can contact the NWT Power Corporation, the Minister responsible, and see if we need more consultation or more advertising of this process for the rates, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

Question 30-15(6): Administration Of Territorial Sport Organizations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I spoke to the administration of the sport governing bodies in the Northwest Territories and did some checking, and I know of seven that exist today and a new one is being formed. I'd like to ask the Minister of MACA, why did the department see the need to form another council for sport? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 30-15(6): Administration Of Territorial Sport Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The whole concept behind forming the NWT Sports and Recreation Council was to try to pull all the organizations under one roof and to set up a funding program that would give everybody a fair share of the dollars as they delivered their own programs. It was also a cost-cutting measure so that the organizations would start to share some of the administration, cut down on the administrative costs and be able to put more dollars towards programming. Mr. Speaker, this has been working quite well. All the organizations are operating under one roof. We plan to put our sports division, sports and youth division, in the same facility so that everybody can have close contact. It would also help improve our delivery of programs, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 30-15(6): Administration Of Territorial Sport Organizations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand Sport North has a board of directors made up of members of some of the territorial sports organizations. Now we have a new sports governing council. I'd like to ask the Minister, what is it that this new governance council will do that Sport North couldn't do? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 30-15(6): Administration Of Territorial Sport Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are expecting the new Sports and Recreation Council to ensure that all communities have a voice in the decision-making. It was, for the most part, from the smaller communities and from communities that didn't have TSOs raising concerns over many years that they didn't have a mechanism for them to talk about sports and recreation. This has changed now and we're also expecting the Sports and Recreation Council, through this whole system, to streamline decision-making and also to streamline program delivery. We would expect, now that everybody's working off the same page, that we'll see more effective use of resources and we reduce money spent on administration. Again, that would result on more money being spent on programs. I guess the bottom line is that this would ensure that the resources that are out there for sports and recreation are spread across the board in a fair and equitable manner that all communities and regions can benefit. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 30-15(6): Administration Of Territorial Sport Organizations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know a lot of people who work in the sporting field and they're all hard workers, but again it seems to me there's a lot of sport governing bodies. I'd like to ask the Minister, with the formation of the new Sports and Recreation Council will the other governance groups be dissolved and amalgamated into this one big sports council? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 30-15(6): Administration Of Territorial Sport Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not in a position to tell anybody to dissolve or force them to dissolve. We've assured all organizations that they will continue running as they are currently operating. We have set up a board now with the sports council that everybody has a voice, everybody can share in the discussion. There's a methodology of everybody coming together. We're hoping that at some point some of the organizations are going to recognize that there is some merit to working under one roof, one umbrella structure. We're not quite at that stage yet; however, some of that discussion with some of the organizations has already taken place and we're hoping that will continue. As people become more comfortable working with the Territorial

Sports and Recreation Council, I'm sure that we're going to arrive at that point later down the road. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Robert McLeod.

Supplementary To Question 30-15(6): Administration Of Territorial Sport Organizations

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for his answers. I said earlier that volunteers are overworked. I'd like to ask the Minister if this Sport and Recreation Council is going to make any effort to ease the administrative burden on volunteers? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 30-15(6): Administration Of Territorial Sport Organizations

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That has been an issue for some time at the NWT Sports and Recreation Council's meetings, and it's been raised by a number of the organizations, and it's been brought to our attention, and it's something that we are really concerned about. As I indicated earlier, we are looking at ways that we can ease the administrative burden on all our organizations by either having better reporting or more user-friendly reporting systems, providing some of the additional dollars through some of our new federal programs that we're hoping we'll be receiving to provide some resources to help the volunteer organizations to deal with the accounting, deal with some of the administrative responsibilities that they have to carry now. Thank you.

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

Question 31-15(6): Northern-Based Research Capacities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement talked about the recognition of International Polar Year about the number of researchers and research institutes that are going to come to the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment in regards to the International Polar Year how can the North benefit from the number of scientists coming here? More so, how can the community-based projects be strengthened and supported by these types of projects? Can the Minister please explain to me how can this be so as there's none right now, I understand, by the researchers coming to the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 31-15(6): Northern-Based Research Capacities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is responsible for licensing all scientific research that takes place in the Northwest Territories. So through that licensing process, we would expect that we would gain an understanding of the scientific research that's taking place. Part of the licensing process requires that the

scientists who are applying for the licence commit to reporting back on what information they have found. We also expect, as part of the application process, that they will advise us of how they are going to involve the local communities and how they will report to local communities, because we expect the scientists who participate in research in the North will also find a way to bring local communities and traditional knowledge into their work.

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

Supplementary To Question 31-15(6): Northern-Based Research Capacities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to this government and this Minister in terms of monitoring how these scientists involve and report back to the communities. I want to ask the Minister in terms of how does the community get its needs met in terms of being involved in the research project? I mean you're going to meet the needs of the scientists and meet the needs of the institutions. How does it meet the needs of the community in terms of implementing their traditional knowledge into a science that is internationally recognized, not just from the scientist but also from the traditional knowledge that is recognized as just important as the scientist? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 31-15(6): Northern-Based Research Capacities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's a good question. Because we don't have a university in the North which is sponsoring the researchers who are coming to the North, we don't have a lot of control, or awareness even, of what is being proposed for International Polar Year. Much of the research is going to be done in cooperation with scientists who work in the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. So by working in concert, we're hoping with them, with ENR and the southern scientists, we'll be able to ensure that there is a clear understanding that we want traditional knowledge to be incorporated in all the work done in the North.

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

Supplementary To Question 31-15(6): Northern-Based Research Capacities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, would the two Ministers look at supporting the Aurora College in terms of promoting a position to support community-based research on social and cultural areas during the International Polar Year? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 31-15(6): Northern-Based Research Capacities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Mr. Speaker, a lot of this is in the communities, but I'll certainly make sure that Mr. McLeod and I are aware of the issues and look at them together.

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

Supplementary To Question 31-15(6): Northern-Based Research Capacities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, would the Minister commit to looking at proposing to have a position at the Aurora College institute that promotes and supports community-based social and cultural research? We need a position; we need a staff person at the research centre of excellence in the Northwest Territories, because the Northwest Territories has a lot to offer to the world. We have to get that message to the scientists. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 31-15(6): Northern-Based Research Capacities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll certainly take that recommendation under advisement. We'll take a look at where we've got the resources and whether or not we can afford to do that. The staff at the ARI has recently been ramped up in order to accommodate the increased numbers of requests for research that we've been receiving over the past couple of years. So we're hoping that we're going to have the staff on hand to be able to handle the workload that we see coming over the next 18 months as IPY rolls out, but we may have to look at, as the Member suggests, increasing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Question 32-15(6): Federal Budget Wish List

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are for Mr. Roland, the Minister of Finance. It concerns the upcoming federal budget. Mr. Speaker, I would like to see if the Minister went to bat for tourism operators in the Northwest Territories who potentially face a major increase in the cost of their product sold overseas, because the Conservative government wants to apply the 6 percent GST to those packages, something that's never been done before and creates an enormous barrier to these tourism operators. Did the Minister relay, on behalf of our tourism operators, objection to this move, Mr. Speaker?

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

Return To Question 32-15(6): Federal Budget Wish List

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on that specific issue, most of my focus has been around formula financing and how we work that through the system and get the issues recognized on that end. So unfortunately, I haven't had an opportunity beyond the northern residents tax deduction piece, as well, to work with my colleagues and other Finance Ministers around the country to bring this issue up on a territorial perspective of tourism. I haven't had any direct contact with Minister Flaherty on that issue. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 32-15(6): Federal Budget Wish List

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister just mentioned item number two on the shopping list here, and that is the northern residents tax deduction. This Assembly passed a motion asking the Minister to take this up with his Nunavut and Yukon counterparts and then, of course, take it to Ottawa. Has the Minister now taken this request directly to Ottawa and what have they got to say about it, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 32-15(6): Federal Budget Wish List

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have worked with our territorial counterparts on this file. As well, I have sent a letter to all the provincial Finance Ministers, because northern parts of the provinces would fall into a number of the zones that may be affected. Once we start receiving input back from them, we would hopefully carry a joint effort forward to federal Finance. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 32-15(6): Federal Budget Wish List

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, there was consternation across the land in the last few months with cuts to many front-line social service organizations, Mr. Speaker. Especially of concern here in the North were cuts to those agencies involved in literacy and volunteerism. Mr. Speaker, this government chose to do some backfilling there and they're to be complimented for that. But it is intolerable, unacceptable, that this should be a download from Ottawa onto the provinces and the territories. Mr. Speaker, has the Minister taken these cuts and our objection to them directly to Ottawa to ask for the federal government to restore this spending?

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

Further Return To Question 32-15(6): Federal Budget Wish List

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier has led the charge dealing directly with the Prime Minister's office. As well, each department that was affected by that also contacted their appropriate federal Ministers to highlight their concern and the displeasure with the announcement that was made, and encouraged the federal government to re-evaluate its stance. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 32-15(6): Federal Budget Wish List

MR. BRADEN: Finally, Mr. Speaker, the other big one on the shopping list here is related to the resource revolution stuff, is the formula financing deal that I know in fact we tried to crack that one even late in the previous Assembly, Mr. Speaker. After almost four years now, are we going to see some real progress in amending the very old-

fashioned and cumbersome formula financing deal that we now have with Ottawa, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 32-15(6): Federal Budget Wish List

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The work around formula financing has begun. There have been a number of technical meetings on what a new formula will look like. We understand that as part of this federal budget that will be launched, I guess you can say, on March 19th will include new arrangements for formula financing as well as equalization. So there is work in those areas and we're waiting to see some of the detail on that. Thank you.

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

Question 33-15(6): Human Resource Review At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask questions today to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it's in regards to the human resources management review that's being undertaken at the hospital in partnership with the management of the hospital as well as the employees there, and there was a process developed to work on that. I'd like to ask, on the eve of us leaving this session, if he could give an update as to where we are with that review? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 33-15(6): Human Resource Review At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the work is ongoing. I haven't been given an update as to whether that survey has been concluded. There were two sections of it as it went through. I'm not sure if we finished with that and are waiting for final stages and a report from the department. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 33-15(6): Human Resource Review At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we'll have to wait to get some more details and maybe the Minister will undertake to do that. I understand there is another review being done by the UNW with respect to working conditions and harassment issues or violence issues. I'd like to ask the Minister if he's aware of that and whether he can undertake to take a look at that and see what government can do to implement the findings there in partnership with UNW. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 33-15(6): Human Resource Review At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not aware of further work that's ongoing by

the UNW. Our focus has been through the cooperation we've had through this Assembly and the Social Programs committee, working at Stanton and through the department, as well as being assisted by Human Resources. So we're waiting for that final piece before we can proceed. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 33-15(6): Human Resource Review At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't think the Minister has detail of the information on this review, so may I ask the Minister to make a commitment to look at not only the human resources review that's being worked on at the hospital, but also the survey being undertaken by UNW. I'd just like to ask him to commit to looking at that and see what we can do to implement some of those findings. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 33-15(6): Human Resource Review At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the review that's ongoing at Stanton through our process is something that I'll look forward to seeing and seeing how we can rectify things there, if there are situations that need to be fixed, and make sure that all aspects of it get looked at with an eye to making things better. The issue of UNW, again, I'm unfamiliar with that report or process and I would be happy to see what they have if they're willing to share that with us. Thank you.

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

Question 34-12(6): Patient Services At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in my Member's statement about the sudden death of Mrs. Voudrach at the Stanton Territorial Hospital, my question is for the Honourable Floyd Roland, the Minister of Health and Social Services. I'd like to ask the Minister, when a death occurs in the operating room, does that cause an immediate investigation on the cause of death? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 34-12(6): Patient Services At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a process established when we have an unfortunate fatality in our facilities. In this case, the coroner becomes involved and we have to work through that process. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 34-12(6): Patient Services At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the protocol, if the coroner is involved, I am just wondering, how long does it usually take for the coroner to make his report? Can it be made public for the family that is involved right away? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 34-12(6): Patient Services At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as process is well established on how we work with the coroner's office, the coroner's office operates on its own and will do its work as has been done in the past. When they finish their report, it is made available to the public through a number of avenues. We would, as a department, look at recommendations that come out of that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 34-12(6): Patient Services At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister in regard to patients going out for surgeries, what is the protocol for the patient getting surgery? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 34-12(6): Patient Services At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, I am going to have to be very careful in responding to this, because we are aware of the situation that is before us and aware of the coroner doing his work. For the process that is established, we work with all of our health authorities and schedule their travel, whether it be to the Inuvik facility for minor surgery there if it can be performed or to the territorial facility if it needs to be dealt with at this end or, again, on the level of surgery that is required going to the Capital Health Authority in Alberta or other jurisdictions if required. We do have a process established where one physician works with another if a patient has to be transferred and work within that environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Final supplementary, Mr. Pokiak.

Supplementary To Question 34-12(6): Patient Services At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MR. POKIAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to ask the Minister, can his department contact Mr. Voudrach in terms of giving him as much information as the department can give so that at least he will have that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 34-12(6): Patient Services At Stanton Territorial Hospital

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as difficult as the situation is and the family has found themselves in, the process, again, is very well established. We will have to work through the coroner's office for information to flow when the coroner is done. Thank you.

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

Question 35-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions will be for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It is, yet again, about the Yellowknife school problem. Mr. Speaker, my question will be framed around lack of consistency, clarity and practice throughout the Northwest Territories where there is more than one school in that community. Is there any ECE legislative authority, policy or directive that is enforceable which points to a minimum capacity level that community schools must be at, and, if they are not, are they either amalgamated or closed?

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

Return To Question 35-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is no policy. We have never been in a situation before where we had so many vacancies as we do in this situation right now in Yellowknife. So we are responding to a unique circumstance. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 35-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Often, when people respond at the spur of the moment on unique circumstances, I think they make a lot of mistakes, Mr. Speaker. That speaks to the frustration of the parents. So speaking to that issue, will the Minister be answering all of those questions posed by the parents so we can get on and find a solution to this issue? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 35-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member may have noted my answers to Mr. Ramsay earlier today. This has not been going on for just a week, two weeks, a month, or even a year. It has been going on far longer than that. There have been a number of discussions with the goal of trying to resolve this with this situation. There has not been a collaborative solution yet, so I am trying to force some action with my recommendations with YK 1. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 35-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister avoiding my question, which is the fact that the parents posed all of these formal questions to the Minister. Will he be formally responding to them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 35-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have responded to a number of parents. I intend to respond to all parents who contact me. I call tell the Member that most of the parents with whom I have spoken one on one generally I have been able to answer their concerns and their questions. They have often come to a different point of view than when we started the conversation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 35-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I urge the Minister to find an alternative solution because he talks about all of this work he has done for over the last two to three, even almost four years by striking out a report and striking out a committee and getting a mediator for the committee. You can only drag one school board to the committee discussions if they came with the point of view that they were going to get a school or else they didn't want to participate. Why is the Minister not putting forward the shared solution so this community can move forward? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 35-15(6): Yellowknife School Facilities

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, it seems like the Member has adopted one point of view and that is the only way that things can move because that is the only proposal that I have heard. I still think that we have options that we can consider. I have suggested some in my letter. We have enough space in this community. I am prepared to, if necessary, make sure that we have a broader discussion among stakeholders. I hope that those stakeholders will then talk to the boards. Thank you.

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

Question 36-15(6): Maximizing Resource Development Employment Opportunities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure if my question is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment or the Minister of ITI. I would like to ask the question on the Mackenzie gas pipeline. We heard in the news that 2007 is going to be a

construction date. That is seven years away. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier how we will get our people in business or training into the workforce. There are diamond mines down south in the region. We have seven years to get our people here and some people may just get fed up and leave the country. Some people will have to possibly claim bankruptcy. What is he doing for the people in the Mackenzie Valley to take part in some the economic activity that is happening now, rather than waiting for seven years to get involved in the economy? Thank you.

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will refer that question to the Minister of ITI. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 36-15(6): Maximizing Resource Development Employment Opportunities

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know the Member is very well aware, coming from the Sahtu, regarding the concern in the region about the pipeline delays. The new date we are talking about is 2014, Mr. Speaker. It is a concern to all northerners. This project will be a pillar of our economy in the future, we believe. It will spur additional exploration and development in these regions. But the Member is right in that we need to ensure our people are ready to take the jobs that will come their way. We have always insisted this project must do a number of things, but, first and foremost, it must benefit northerners, Mr. Speaker. We have negotiated a \$21 million training fund in the socio-economic agreement. Mr. Speaker, we know those funds don't start to flow until the project is a go; so in the interim, I am working with the Minister of ECE. We have an Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership program that marries up industry, government and aboriginal organizations to roll out some training not just for pipeline construction, Mr. Speaker, that is in a few years, but we are more interested in developing a workforce that can take advantage of the 50 or 100-year industry we are creating around oil and gas exploration. So it is on us collectively as northerners to meet this challenge. Yes, we will work to put the programs in place to make sure northerners are the beneficiaries of these jobs. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 36-15(6): Maximizing Resource Development Employment Opportunities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I certainly would support the Minister in terms of the initiative that his department is doing. Mr. Speaker, people in the Sahtu, the Gwich'in, the Beaufort-Delta and other parts of the North here are seasonal workers. They are limited in terms of what they can do. They have huge payloads in terms of the work they have to do. What is the Minister doing in terms of how do we get these people, these companies here, involved in the type of work that is happening in the diamond mines? Where are the numbers that show that we are going to get these people

here? Seven years is a long time. Maybe it is called a seven-year itch.

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

Further Return To Question 36-15(6): Maximizing Resource Development Employment Opportunities

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the foundation has to be a good, basic education. I think Members in the House I know are proud to see that our graduation numbers are coming up. That will stand us in good stead. But from there, we know that we have to focus on post-secondary education. We have to focus on developing trades and making sure more people, boys and girls, are interested in entering these fields, because there will be a number of jobs in this new economy that we are creating throughout the Northwest Territories. We are still very optimistic that this project is a go, but that doesn't mean that there isn't other ongoing oil and gas exploration. We need to continue to send the right messages to industry that there is certainty here. We recognize that there are some challenges around this federal regulatory regime. We need to force and insist that the federal government make improvements to that. But, Mr. Speaker, the North is a good place to do business. We can work with our people to ensure they get the benefits of these jobs, but we will work diligently over the next coming years to roll out the required training programs to make sure that in areas where there are high unemployment numbers, sometimes 30 and 40 percent, we have more than just seasonal employment. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 36-15(6): Maximizing Resource Development Employment Opportunities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is certainly right that the North is a good place to do business. Can the Minister provide to me the numbers in terms of employment for people in my region, the Beaufort-Delta and the Gwich'in, the number of businesses that are used in Diavik and BHP? What are the numbers? Show me the numbers so that we can increase those numbers. We certainly want to work with these diamond companies. We certainly want it fair in terms of working with the different companies to improve our skills in terms of preparing for the pipeline. Can the Minister show me these numbers? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 36-15(6): Maximizing Resource Development Employment Opportunities

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I think we can do that. I know in his region, because we are working to sit down in the Sahtu to talk about some cooperation and the signing of an MOU, that part of the work was an accounting of the businesses that were able and eligible to do work. I know that, because of the pipeline, regional businesses have stepped up and made sure they have been accounted for and are in a position to take advantage of work that can come their way. I think this information is available. We can put it together. We can pull this together, and I can share that with the Member. I agree; as was responded to earlier, I think last week in the

House, as it relates to the diamond mines, we have asked and encouraged the diamond mines to go farther in the field and to look throughout the Northwest Territories to do business with operations and people in other regions over and above the North Slave, Mr. Speaker. They have agreed to start attending trade fairs and trade shows throughout the Territories. We are going to accompany them. I think there are still a large number of opportunities in that respect. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 36-15(6): Maximizing Resource Development Employment Opportunities

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, sometime in April, the Sahtu will have a career fair that is happening. I believe some of the diamond mines will be there. Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Minister in terms of between now and 2014 or 2011, can the Minister work with the communities up in the Deh Cho and the Sahtu, Gwich'in and Beaufort-Delta in terms of providing opportunities for these people, the people in the Northwest Territories, to work in Ekati, BHP and Diavik and stop the influx of workers coming from the South to work in those mines? I see planeloads of people coming in and flying to those mines. It should be northern people. Northern people should be the primary beneficiaries of these workers. It should be northern people that we should be helping. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 36-15(6): Maximizing Resource Development Employment Opportunities

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I couldn't agree with the Member more. The challenge has been laid out before us. We have to find ways to get more of our people employed in all industries, including the diamond mines. We have had a number of discussions with committee. The mining companies, De Beers, BHP, and Rio Tinto, have come in front of us to talk about this and talk about the efforts that they are making. I really do believe that they are making some good effort. Let's face it; it makes good business sense to hire northerners who are closer to home than it does to go scouring the country and flying workers to and from the corners of this country, Mr. Speaker. So they have an incentive and a vested interest in making this work, as do we. It is about collaborating and coordinating our efforts and we are prepared and expect that we should be doing that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Time for oral questions has expired. Before we go to the next item on the Order Paper, the Chair is going to call a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, we will return to orders of the day. Written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 3-15(6): Traditional Economies

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

1. Can the Minister outline the different GNWT programs that support traditional economies?
2. Can the Minister outline the shares of these programs accessed by residents and organizations of the Sahtu region?
3. Can the Minister provide the percentage of sales realized by trappers from the Sahtu region through the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program (total of over \$800,000 for 9,000 NWT pelts sold since January)?

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Written questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My written question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

In 2003, the Aurora Research Institute convened a workshop on social and cultural issues in the Northwest Territories. Participants included representatives from all the regions in the Northwest Territories, including both governments and community groups. Some southern Canadian-based researchers who had experience in the social and cultural research in the NWT were invited, as were members of the three Canadian research funding agencies. The research addressed the following questions: How does research conducted in the Northwest Territories meet the needs of NWT residents? How can northerners participate in and include research in the communities? How can northern capacity for conducting social and cultural issues be enhanced and how can northern and southern researchers work together respectively and productively?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I am going to rule that question out of order as a written question. It's not a question that requires a lot of in depth detail.

---Ruled Out of Order

Written questions. Returns to written questions. Replies to opening address. Petitions. Reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 11: REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Committee Report 1-15(6): Report On The Review Of The Human Rights Commission 2005-2006 Report

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to report on the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight's Report of the Review of the Human Rights Commission 2005-2006 Annual Report.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight met on February 14, 2007, to review the 2005-2006 Annual Report of the NWT Human Rights Commission. The committee would like to thank Ms. Mary Pat Short, chair of the Human Rights Commission, and Ms. Thérèse Boullard, director of human rights, for appearing before us.

The 2005-2006 annual report does not include any recommendations, however, the committee would like to take the opportunity to comment on other issues that were discussed during our public meeting.

The 2005-2006 annual report was the second report of the Human Rights Commission since its establishment on July 1, 2004.

The committee was pleased to hear of the progress the commission has made in raising awareness about human rights through its website, public service announcements and community meetings. In particular, we would like to congratulate the commission for the success of their public service announcements in partnership with the Yukon Human Rights Commission, one of which won an award at the Houston International Film Festival.

We acknowledge the commission's efforts to bring education and awareness workshops on human rights and the NWT Human Rights Act to all regions of the Northwest Territories. The committee supports visits to smaller communities, as they will give commission members a chance to increase their understanding of traditional approaches to human rights and to ensure residents of smaller communities are aware of their rights under the act.

The committee was pleased to hear that the commission met with elders from the Deh Cho region and suggests further work with elders from other communities will assist in building valuable bridges.

We encourage the commission to continue expanding its efforts to make the public aware of human rights issues and underline the importance of making it as easy as possible to obtain information and to make complaints in all official languages.

In last year's report, the commission made two recommendations for amendments to the Human Rights Act, one regarding systemic remedies, the other regarding discrimination on the basis of unrelated criminal convictions. In its response, the government provides reasons why it considers both recommendations inadvisable. The committee was interested in hearing the commission's opinion on the GNWT's reply. Due to the timing of the tabling of the GNWT response and the 2005-2006 annual report, it was not possible for the commission to evaluate the reply before appearing for the public hearing with the committee.

The commission indicated that their members will discuss the response soon and that they would be happy to share the outcome with Members. We are looking forward to a follow-up and further discussions with representatives of the Human Rights Commission.

Conclusion

The committee commends the commission's work and achievements to date and looks forward to monitoring the continued evolution of human rights in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight's committee report on the review of the Human Rights Commission 2005-2006 Annual Report.

Motion To Receive And Adopt Committee Report 1-15(6), Carried

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that Committee Report 1-15(6) be received and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Committee Report 1-15(6) has been received and adopted.

Reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Committee Report 2-15(6): Report On Referred Matters

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to report on the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures. This is our report on referred matters.

Background

On October 26, 2006, the Speaker referred two issues to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures.

The first issue related to the amount of time available for Members' statements by a Member speaking in more than one official language.

The second referred issue was the addition of a section entitled "Acknowledgements" to the daily order of business in the Assembly.

Process And Review Of Current Canadian Practices

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures held an initial meeting on December 4, 2006, to review background information and parliamentary practices in other Canadian jurisdictions.

The committee agreed on the need to address these issues and provided direction to staff to prepare changes to the rules and a motion for the House, implementing the proposed rule changes.

The proposed rule changes and a draft motion were reviewed and approved by the committee at a meeting held on February 14, 2007, and presented to Caucus for their input at the February 20, 2007, meeting.

Findings

Extending Time Available For Members' Statements

A review of the practices in other Canadian jurisdictions revealed that the current time allotted to Members for Members' statements is, along with Nunavut, the most generous in Canada. It was noted that every Member, including the Ministers, is afforded the opportunity to make a statement if they wish. Most other Canadian jurisdictions limit the number of Members who may make a statement each day, or put a set limit on the time period available for Members' statements.

The committee recognizes the right of any Member to use any of the official languages of the Northwest Territories in the Assembly. The Member for Montwi made a solid case for the need for increased time to make a Member's statement when speaking more than one official language. Mr. Lafferty pointed out that it was difficult to express complex ideas in two languages within the time allotted and to do justice to the statement in either language.

It was determined that an extra thirty extra seconds of time, thus allowing a Member speaking in more than one official language three minutes to complete a statement, would be sufficient. Further discussion determined that for the Speaker to be able to manage appropriate time allocations, he would require advance notice of a Member desiring to give a Member's statement in more than one official language. In addition, to ensure the rule change was used for the purpose it was intended, a Member making a statement in more than one language must speak for at least thirty seconds in a second language.

"Acknowledgements" Added To The Order Paper

There are provisions in some Canadian jurisdictions, notably New Brunswick, that allow "messages of condolence," with prior approval of the Speaker. As well, some jurisdictions provide an item entitled "congratulatory messages." The Yukon has an item on their Order Paper entitled "tributes" that allows for the recognition of special days and accomplishments in the lives of Yukoners.

The committee discussed the need for an item called "acknowledgements" on the daily order paper. It was agreed that Members need a way to recognize the significant accomplishments and milestones in the lives of northerners. It was determined that thirty seconds would be sufficient time. The committee was also of the opinion that any recognition must be directed at a Member's own constituents and that advance notice of the content and focus of the acknowledgement be provided to the Speaker. The use of "acknowledgements" would be allowed at the sole discretion of the Speaker.

The committee decided to focus "acknowledgements" on the Member's own constituents in order to avoid duplication. Should a Member wish to acknowledge a northerner who is not a constituent in the Assembly, opportunity already exists by way of a Member's statement.

In order to ensure that the process is managed properly and reflects the decorum of the House, guidelines were developed to assist the Speaker in administering this item.

These guidelines will allow acknowledgements for the recognition of:

- a) birthdays at the age of 80 and every five years thereafter;
- b) anniversaries at 50 years and every five years thereafter;
- c) death of constituent;
- d) graduations; and
- e) significant accomplishments or awards.

Mr. Speaker, committee makes two recommendations.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended to allow people speaking in more than one official language three minutes to conclude their Member's statement.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended to include an item on the daily Order Paper entitled "acknowledgements" and that appropriate guidelines be developed to assist the Speaker and all Members.

Conclusion

The committee wishes to express its appreciation to all Members for their thoughtful insights and feedback. The committee is confident these changes will better serve the needs of all Members and this institution.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the Report of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures on Referred Matters.

Motion To Receive And Adopt Committee Report 2-15(6), Carried

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Committee Report 2-15(6) be received and adopted. Merci beaucoup, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Committee Report 2-15(6) has been received and adopted.

Reports of standing and special committees. Reports of committees of the review of bills. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 4-15(6): NWT Coroner's Service 2005 Annual Report

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories Coroner's Service 2005 Annual Report.

Tabled Document 5-15(6): Energy For The Future: An Energy Plan For The Northwest Territories

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the document entitled Energy for the Future: An Energy Plan for the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. McLeod.

Tabled Document 6-15(6): NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy 2007-2011: A Strategy To Control Greenhouse Gas Emissions In The NWT

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy 2007-2011: A Strategy to Control Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the NWT.

Tabled Document 7-15(6): NWT Youth Forum 2007

Mr. Speaker, I also wish to table a document entitled NWT Youth Forum 2007. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Krutko.

Tabled Document 8-15(6): Workers' Advisor Office, Northwest Territories And Nunavut 2006 Annual Report

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table a document entitled Workers' Advisor Office, Northwest Territories and Nunavut 2006 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Liquor Commission, Mr. Roland.

Tabled Document 9-15(6): NWT Liquor Commission And NWT Liquor Licensing Board 2005-2006 Annual Report

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled NWT Liquor Commission and NWT Liquor Licensing Board 2005-2006 Annual Report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for the public service, Mr. Dent.

Tabled Document 10-15(6): GNWT Public Service 2006 Annual Report

HON. CHARLES DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled GNWT Public Service 2006 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 11-15(6): Science Meets Traditional Knowledge: Water And Climate In The Sahtu (Great Bear Lake) Region, Northwest Territories

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table this document entitled Science Meets Traditional Knowledge, Water and Climate in the Sahtu.

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

ITEM 14: NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion 3-15(6): Amendment To The Rules And Procedures Of The Legislative Assembly

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, March 16, 2007, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Rule 36 (3) and (4) be deleted in their entirety and the following be substituted:

- 36(3) Statements made under Rule 36(1):
- (a) in the case of a Member speaking in one official language, shall not exceed two and one half minutes;
 - (b) in the case of a Member speaking in more than one official language, shall not exceed three minutes, and that the Member shall speak at least thirty seconds in the second official language;
 - (c) shall be confined to one matter; and
 - (d) shall be limited to one statement per day by any Member.
- (4) A Member wishing to make a Member's statement in more than one official language must notify the Speaker, in writing, at least one hour prior to making his or her statement.
- (5) A Minister may make a statement in accordance with Rule 36(1) but the statement must not relate to his or her responsibility as a Minister.

And further that the following rule entitled Acknowledgements be added immediately after Rule 36.1:

- 36.2(1) Under the item Acknowledgements, the Member may make a statement recognizing a significant milestone or accomplishment of a constituent.
- (2) Acknowledgements made under Rule 36.2(1)
- (a) shall not exceed thirty seconds;
 - (b) shall be limited to one acknowledgement per day by any Member;
 - (c) shall be provided in writing to the Speaker at least one hour prior to the commencement of the sitting day;
 - (d) shall be allowed at the sole discretion of the Speaker; and
 - (e) shall be confined to the Member's own constituents.

And further that Rule 27(1), (2) and (3) be amended by adding the item entitled Acknowledgements to the orders of the day, to immediately follow the item entitled Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

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

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 2-15(6), which I gave notice of yesterday.

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

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 2-15(6): Extended Adjournment Of The House To May 9, 2007, Carried

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on March 15, 2007, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, May 9, 2007;

AND FURTHER that anytime prior to May 9, 2007, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at a time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

Mr. Speaker, I also have an amendment to the motion.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Yakeleya.

Motion To Amend Motion 2-15(6), Carried

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment to the Motion 2-15(6).

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Motion 2-15(6) be amended by striking out the date "March 15, 2007," and replacing it with "March 14, 2007."

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The motion is in order. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the amendment.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

---Applause

To the amended motion. To the motion, as amended.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

---Applause

Motions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

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

MR. SPEAKER: 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 deal with the motion, Mr. Braden.

Motion 3-15(6): Amendment To The Rules And Procedures Of The Legislative Assembly, Carried

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Official Languages Act gives Members of the Legislative Assembly the right to use any of the official languages of the Northwest Territories in its debates;

AND WHEREAS this Assembly is committed to the preservation, development and enhancement of its official languages;

AND WHEREAS there is currently no order of the day that allows Members to acknowledge significant milestones and accomplishments in the lives of their constituents;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Rule 36(3) and (4) be deleted in their entirety and the following be substituted:

36(3) Statements made under Rule 36(1):

- (e) in the case of a Member speaking in one official language, shall not exceed two and one half minutes;
- (f) in the case of a Member speaking in more than one official language, shall not exceed three minutes, and that the Member shall speak at least thirty seconds in the second official language;
- (g) shall be confined to one matter; and
- (h) shall be limited to one statement per day by any Member.

(4) A Member wishing to make a Member's statement in more than one official language must notify the Speaker, in writing, at least one hour prior to making his or her statement.

(5) A Minister may make a statement in accordance with Rule 36(1) but the statement must not relate to his or her responsibility as a Minister.

And further that the following rule entitled Acknowledgements be added immediately after Rule 36.1:

36.2(1) Under the item Acknowledgements, the Member may make a statement recognizing a significant milestone or accomplishment of a constituent.

(2) Acknowledgements made under Rule 36.2(1)

- (f) shall not exceed thirty seconds;

- (g) shall be limited to one acknowledgement per day by any Member;
- (h) shall be provided in writing to the Speaker at least one hour prior to the commencement of the sitting day;
- (i) shall be allowed at the sole discretion of the Speaker; and
- (j) shall be confined to the Member's own constituents.

And further that Rule 27(1), (2) and (3) be amended by adding the item entitled Acknowledgements to the orders of the day, to immediately follow the item entitled Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried.

Motions. First reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with the first reading of Bill 7, Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to give first reading to Bill 7. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with first reading, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 7: Safer Communities And Neighbourhoods Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 7, Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 7 has had first reading.

First reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Krutko.

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 6, Workers' Compensation Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 6. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with first reading, Mr. Krutko.

Bill 6: Workers' Compensation Act

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Boot Lake, that Bill 6, Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 6 has had first reading.

First reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with the first reading, Mr. Roland.

Bill 5: An Act To Amend The Child And Family Services Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 5 has had first reading.

First reading of bills. The honourable Member responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 4, Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Member is seeking unanimous consent for first reading of Bill 4. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with first reading, Mr. Krutko.

Bill 4: Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation Act

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 4, Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 4 has had first reading.

First reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 3. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with the first reading of Bill 3, Mr. Bell.

Bill 3: An Act To Amend The Legal Services Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

---Carried

Bill 3 has had first reading.

First reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Condominium Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 2. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with the first reading of Bill 2, Mr. Bell.

Bill 2: An Act To Amend The Condominium Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Condominium Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 2 has had first reading.

First reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed to first reading of Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 1. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with first reading, Mr. Bell.

Bill 1: An Act To Amend The Partnership Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 1, An Act

to Amend the Partnership 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 1 has had first reading. First reading of bills. Second reading of bills. Honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 7, Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 7. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with second reading, Mr. Bell.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 7: Safer Communities And Neighbourhoods Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 7, Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill provides a process for the review of complaints about, and court applications in respect of, the use of property where an illegal activity is carried out that adversely affects the people in the community or neighbourhood where the property is located. The bill also provides a process for requiring the removal of building fortifications that are a threat to public safety. Finally, Mr. Speaker, consequential amendments are made to the Residential Tenancies Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Motion is on the floor. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 7 has had second reading and will be referred to a standing committee.

Second reading of bills. Honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board, Mr. Krutko.

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 6.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 6. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with second reading of Bill 6, Mr. Krutko.

Bill 6: Workers' Compensation Act

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Boot Lake, that Bill 6, Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill repeals and replaces the existing Workers' Compensation Act and makes consequential amendments to other acts in order to clarify and extend entitlement to compensation when a worker suffers a personal injury, disease or fatality arising out of and during the course of employment.

To highlight the importance of workers safety in the new act, the name of the Workers' Compensation Board is changed to the Workers' Safe and Compensation Commission and the accident fund is renamed as the safety fund.

The levels of compensation payable to workers for various forms of disability have been rationalized and increased. In exceptional cases, the commission will have the power to grant extended compensation. Vocational training and rehabilitation are given increased emphasis.

The range of compensation available to workers has been expanded. The entitlement of spouses and persons in a conjugal relationship to compensation has also been widened to include a larger group of persons and a higher level of pensions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 6 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

---Applause

Second reading of bills. Honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is seeking consent to proceed with second proceeding of Bill 5. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with second reading, Mr. Roland.

Bill 5: An Act To Amend The Child And Family Services Act

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and colleagues. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Child and Family Services Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Child and Family Services Act to provide that an application for a court order must be filed within four days after a child is apprehended under the act, and a hearing must be held

within nine days after the application is filed. If the court determines there are reasonable grounds for the apprehension, the court shall make an order confirming or continuing the apprehension.

In cases where an apprehension is made on the grounds that a child needs protection by reason of a refusal of medical care or treatment, the court may make an interim order continuing the apprehension until the determination of the court application for a declaration that the child needs protection and for an order authorizing the medical care or treatment.

For all other applications, a court order confirming an apprehension expires unless, within 45 days after the apprehension, a further application is made to the court for a declaration that the child is in need of protection and for a further court order for the protection of the child.

The bill makes changes in terminology to distinguish the new apprehension orders from child protection orders which are made in proceedings under the current act.

The bill also makes minor adjustments in the act to correct errors or clarify provisions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 5 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

Second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation, Mr. Krutko.

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 4, Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Member is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 4. Are there nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with second reading, Mr. Krutko.

Bill 4: Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation Act

HON. DAVID KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 4, Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes the Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation and provides that the corporation owns the common shares of the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, and has the same board of directors, chairperson, vice-chairperson and president as the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. The objects of the Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation relate generally to the generation, supply and sale of electricity in the Northwest Territories, with one object pertaining specifically to the Twin Gorges hydroelectric generating facility on the Taltson River.

Consequential amendments will be made to the Financial Administration Act, Northwest Territories Power Corporation Act, Public Service Act Public Utilities Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 4 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

Second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The Member is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 3. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with second reading, Mr. Bell.

Bill 3: An Act To Amend The Legal Services Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Legal Services Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Legal Services Act to provide that a lawyer employed by the Legal Services Board does not breach requirements relating to conflicts of interest by reason only of advising or representing a person involved in a dispute with a second person who is advised or represented by a second lawyer employed by the board. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 3 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee. Second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Condominium Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 2. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with second reading of Bill 2, Mr. Bell.

Bill 2: An Act To Amend The Condominium Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Condominium Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Condominium Act. Provisions are added to regulate the development of condominiums and the sale of units, and to permit the development of condominiums in phases and the amalgamation of condominiums. The developer and condominium corporation are required to disclose relevant information to owners, purchasers, mortgagees and tenants, and parties are afforded protections where material changes are made in respect of the condominium. Provisions are added to facilitate the transfer of control from the developer to the purchasers of a new condominium development, and to extend protections for tenants on the conversion of rental accommodations to a condominium. Annual general meetings must be convened within fixed periods and with certain mandatory agenda items. The process for making condominium corporation bylaws, including those that provide for sanctions, is clarified, and the requirements for making changes to the declaration and plan, or for terminating a condominium, have been simplified. Affected persons are given a right to apply to the Supreme Court to object to a bylaw or a change to the declaration of plan. The voting rights of owners, and mortgagees in certain cases, are specified. New requirements are added relating to the rental of units and protections are afforded to tenants, owners and the condominium corporations. Requirements for the establishment and use of the common expenses funds are expanded, and a new obligation is placed on condominium corporations to establish a capital reserve fund and develop a comprehensive plan to repair or replace depreciating property. A requirement that a reserve fund study be conducted over five years is added. The condominium corporation is required to obtain insurance with respect to the common elements, and a number of minor changes are made to the act. The regulation-making powers are expanded to address requirements set out in this bill, and transitional provisions are included to deal with the applications of the amendments after they are brought into force. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 2 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

Second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Bell.

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 1. Are there any

nays? There are no nays. You may proceed with second reading, Mr. Bell.

Bill 1: An Act To Amend The Partnership Act

HON. BRENDAN BELL: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Partnership Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Partnership Act to allow for, and to establish rules and procedures governing, the registration in the Northwest Territories of limited liability partnerships formed in the Northwest Territories, or formed in another jurisdiction but carrying on business in the NWT. In addition, the bill includes amendments to update or clarify the language of various provisions of the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Motion is on the floor. Motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 1 has had second reading and is referred to a standing committee.

Second reading of bills. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters. Report of Committee of the Whole. 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 Wednesday, May 9, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

16. Motions

- Motion 1-15(6): Territorial Power Subsidy Program

17. First Reading of Bills

18. Second Reading of Bills

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Colleagues, before we adjourn today, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Pages who have served us over the last five weeks...

---Applause

...and wish them continued success in their academic endeavours. We have had students from the following schools and communities: Sir John Franklin and William McDonald schools in Yellowknife;

---Applause

...and from the communities of Fort Resolution, Hay River, Whati and Inuvik.

---Applause

Our thanks to the Pages, their chaperons and the Page Program organizers.

Members, I know that when you leave this House today, you are all heading into a very busy spring. Although the House will not meet again until early in May, the work of government, committees and representing your constituents continues.

Committees are travelling throughout the Territories in April to consult with the people of the North on a number of important issues. I encourage all northerners to take part in their consultations and public meetings whenever possible. Your input is a vital component to the work we do here, and these consultations are your opportunity to make a contribution.

Also, Members, a reminder that the territorial Youth Parliament will be meeting in this House during the week of April 30th to May 4th. This is a wonderful opportunity for the youth of our territory to obtain first-hand experience and knowledge of the workings of government. As I stated last week, the theme of the 2007 Youth Parliament will focus on enhancing the role of women and politics. In continuing with this theme of women as leaders, our Legislature will also host, during that same week, a meeting of the Commonwealth women parliamentarians. It will be an exciting week for our Legislature, allowing our young men and women -- our future leaders -- an opportunity to meet and learn from the experienced parliamentarians.

Until we meet again in May, I wish all Members safe travels and good health.

Accordingly, I adjourn this House until May 9, 2007, at 1:30 p.m.

---Applause

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 16:27 p.m.

