



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, February 12, 2009****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:34 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 17-16(3):
OUR STUDENTS, OUR NORTH, OUR SUCCESS

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for the first time, teachers from across the NWT will be gathering to learn and share together at the 'Our Students, Our North, Our Success' educator's conference in Yellowknife. This three-day event has been organized by the NWT Teachers' Association with assistance and support from all district education councils and authorities as well as schools across the NWT.

Northern educators are a very special group of people. Though schools within the Northwest Territories vary from region to region, in terms of size, grades taught, culture and languages spoken, educators deal with many of the same challenges and successes across the North, and this conference gives them the opportunity to discuss, share and learn together.

Major topic areas include a focus on K to 12 literacy, building children's confidence, the use of technology in the classroom, and strategies for working with children with FASD. A highlight of the conference will be a discussion panel titled "Our Students, Our North, Our Success," which will include representatives from the Canadian Teachers' Federation, the NWT Teachers' Association, Education, Culture and Employment and a few well-known and respected northern principals.

This event will only be three days long, but it is the hope that our educators and schools will experience the benefits long afterwards, in new perspectives to teaching or new approaches to dealing with differentiated instruction of all students.

This conference is a very large event, Mr. Speaker, with over 800 participants. The NWTTA has worked long and hard with many different partners to make this event possible, and I would particularly like to recognize the work that they have done to make this an exciting learning opportunity for the northern educators.

Mr. Speaker, this year, Education Week happens to fall on the same week as the conference and we are choosing to celebrate the role of teachers through a reception on the evening of Monday, February 16th. Mr. Speaker, I hope that you and all Members will be able to join me in celebrating the teachers that do so much in our communities. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity this morning, along with my colleagues from the Nunakput riding and the Sahtu, to have an update from Richard Nerysoo who just got back from Ottawa meeting with the federal Minister and Privy Council, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Chuck Strahl and the Minister of Natural Resources. They are pushed to try to get the Mackenzie Highway built up the Mackenzie Valley. Mr. Speaker, they are looking at a partnership with all the First Nations governments up and down the valley to build a road which we've been waiting for some time to see constructed.

In his discussions, it seemed like the federal Ministers were asking where the Government of the Northwest Territories is on this major project for the

Mackenzie Valley, of which we are talking about \$1.8 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we continue to work together with our partners, the aboriginal groups, the Mackenzie Valley Construction, to ensure that we have a system in place that we can move this major project forward. It's not going to be easy, but I think through the partnership arrangement that's been considered by the First Nation governments from the Deh Cho all the way to Nunakput, the Sahtu and the Gwich'in settlement areas, that we have to move this project forward.

Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that this capital investment happen right now with regard to the natural and fiscal restraints we are under, but more importantly putting people to work, investing in our infrastructure and making sure this capital project moves. Yes, it's a major project, but like any major project we do have to have the incentive to move forward, get the support from all our partners and, more importantly, convince the federal government that the Government of the Northwest Territories is onside with the coalition which consists of groups from up and down the valley to move the Mackenzie Valley Highway forward.

I think it's important that this government or this House show we support this major initiative by way of a capital project. I think we should have a debate in this House and I believe we will be later on next week.

I will be asking the Minister of Transportation about this issue with regard to the transportation infrastructure for the Northwest Territories and the Mackenzie Valley Highway.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ANIMAL RIGHTS LEGISLATION

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There have been several animal neglect and abuse instances in the NWT over the past year that have garnered much public attention and criticism. We need to be doing more to prevent incidents like this from occurring by developing a public awareness and education program and stronger animal rights legislation.

I want to be clear that I'm talking about pets, agricultural, and working animals here. I think the Wildlife Act has good protections written into it for wildlife and we don't want to affect hunting and trapping in the NWT, which I strongly support.

Several months ago the Animal Legal Defence Fund published a report which ranked provinces

and territories on the relative strength and comprehensiveness of their animal protection laws. The NWT ranked in the bottom tier. This poor ranking is due mainly to the fact that the NWT doesn't have a specific animal rights act. What we do have is the Dog Act, which is a start, but, as its name suggests, it only applies to dogs.

The report makes some suggestions as to how the NWT could improve their legislation, including a broader range of protections that apply to all animals, not just dogs; better definitions of standards of basic care; harsher penalties for repeat offenders; and provisions that allow a judge to prevent offenders from owning animals in the future, to list a few of the suggestions. To my mind this needs to be complemented by a program that profiles the responsibilities of a pet or working animal owner in the NWT.

There is much room for improvement here and a model that could be used is Manitoba, whose legislation ranked first in the Animal Legal Defence Fund report. Manitoba, like the NWT, highly values hunting and trapping; yet they have managed to draft progressive animal rights legislation of the highest standard.

The NWT is a place where animals play a fundamental role in people's lives. Incidence of pet ownership is high in the North, and dog mushing and other such activities are good for tourism and part of our cherished traditional heritage. The vast majority of people recognize the important relationship these animals play in our lives and treat them with the respect they deserve. However, from time to time an appalling violation of the terms of human decency will occur; typically one that could be prevented with the development of appropriate legislation and implementation of enforcement provisions.

With good education and the implementation of an animal rights act, we can ensure the proper and responsible treatment of our pets and working animals.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. ABERNETHY.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GNWT EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE BONUSES

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In pretty much every session since I was elected into the 16th Assembly I have asked questions on performance bonuses paid to deputy ministers, senior managers, and excluded employees within the GNWT. Every time I ask, I get generally the same response from the Premier that, yes, bonuses

are paid. In fact, around \$1.65 million is paid out annually, give or take a couple hundred thousand.

I've heard from the Premier and the Minister of Human Resources that bonuses are a necessity. I couldn't agree more. When bonuses are earned they should absolutely be provided. However, it's clear that pretty much every deputy minister and every senior manager who is eligible for bonuses receives them on an annual basis. Once a bonus becomes expected, they lose their effectiveness. They stop becoming about increasing results or output and become a part of an employee's base salary.

I know many of our deputy ministers and senior managers and I know that many of them work really, really hard, often above and beyond normal expectations. These individuals deserve bonuses. Unfortunately it's also clear that there are no official processes to determine when a bonus should be paid; no mechanism to determine and assess when somebody has taken that extra step.

Last year the federal government developed a rigorous assessment process for their performance pay. With their plan and process in place fewer than 20 percent of the senior executives received bonuses. Under the federal program senior managers are assessed based on performance targets and a 360 degree review which includes input from fellow senior managers, colleagues, Ministers and others.

We must ensure that staff are rewarded for outstanding performance; performance that is above and beyond expectation; for thinking outside of the box; for streamlining government through increased efficiencies and better use of resources, not paid bonuses because we always have and that staff receiving them expect it.

Last year I asked the Premier to review and implement a process similar to the federal government's to ensure that when bonuses are earned, they will be paid and when they aren't, they won't be paid. Processes like this will ensure that we remain competitive with the private sector by providing high-quality performers with financial incentives which encourage their continued commitment to the GNWT as opposed to jumping ship and seeking employment in the private sector. Unfortunately, I never received confirmation that this was done and it appears once again that virtually every eligible deputy minister and senior manager received performance bonuses for the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

At the appropriate time I will be asking the Premier some questions concerning bonuses in the NWT.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TROUT LAKE SCHOOL EXPANSION

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We continue to speak of supporting our children and ensuring that they receive high quality education beginning with the primary and elementary levels. Studies show that paying attention to young children's learning needs pays off. These children develop into more enthusiastic students and are more likely to succeed in higher education.

Learning starts in the home community. When the children begin school they need a healthy, safe, nurturing environment. They need the necessary space to play and work together in groups. Our children require a safe and enjoyable place to learn.

In my riding of Nahendeh, the community of Trout Lake has outgrown its school. The Charles Tetcho School is a one-room classroom built 20 years ago for a small population of 50. At that time there were very few children.

I am proud to say that Trout Lake is now a growing community. Now the students in the classroom have both primary and middle school age. The community needs a building where there can be some separation of grade levels to allow for different activities to be going on at once.

In order to satisfy the needs of children and youth in grades kindergarten to 9, Trout Lake needs two or more classrooms. I ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to recognize the needs of the students of the Charles Tetcho School and ensure that a budget for a new school is in the next capital plan. I will be asking the Minister questions during question period.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BOARD REFORM INITIATIVE

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to speak today about my constituency meeting that I had last night at N.J. Macpherson School, which is located in my riding. It was the most well-attended constituency meeting that I've had in my five years representing the Kam Lake riding. Twenty-seven constituents showed up to voice their concerns over how this government is being run.

There is an anger and anxiety amongst the public that I have not witnessed before. For the first time, some constituents even brought demonstration signs and placards with them to my meeting. They

are very unhappy with the way this government is operating. They are upset with the handling of the proposed changes to the supp health benefits, the Opportunities Fund and the loan to Discovery Air, sky-high power rates, and as if that wasn't enough, board reform is now front and centre and, it appears, being shoved down their throats.

I spoke yesterday about the GNWT's pathetic effort at consultation and engaging the public in a meaningful way. The government just does not seem like they want to listen to our people. Rather they seem intent on force feeding a plan on board reform that does nothing for anyone except make a Minister's job easier; less accountability and less oversight and more bureaucracy. The plan has not articulated what is wrong. The government line should be: if it's not broke, don't worry, we'll break it.

My constituents want the government to keep their hands off of education in our community.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. RAMSAY: They want health and social services and housing to be managed and run by professionals in that field. Parents want to have a say in electing school boards, not whoever the Minister's buddies happen to be that day.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REFLECTIONS ON CONSENSUS GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk about consensus government. I was reflecting on the comments of a former colleague, Mr. Dent, during a CBC interview this week. When extolling the virtues of consensus government he was raising the Regular Members' input into the budget process and how we see it before it's delivered and we should feel honoured to have such a privilege to be that involved. That is one that constantly gets brought up: Well, people in other jurisdictions don't even see the budget before it comes to the floor and you all do.

There are some really good things about consensus government versus the party system. When it comes to our legislative process it's pretty clearly defined and seemingly works quite well. So what is it that goes wrong with consensus government that allows initiatives like supplementary health benefits reform, board reform, revenue option, consultations, the ATCO proposal, the Deh Cho Bridge initiative, to get so far down the road and to absorb so much of our

resources only to find out that it is untenable and has no public support and causes the kind of acrimony and stress that we have had to experience recently as legislators?

I am no political scientist, Mr. Speaker, but consensus government fails at some point. You can say that we expect leadership to lead, but that doesn't mean doing things without support of the Regular Members. I understand the frustration of Cabinet Ministers and the Premier while we expect things to happen, but consensus and building consensus is a lot of work.

We all come here as Regular Members, equal and elected by the people we represent. That election qualifies us to fill any role in this government. So what is lost in the translation when then on bended knee Regular Members have to prod, beg, threaten, question the Executive Council to hear the voice of our people? Often in response to initiatives that they can't even convince us the merits of, never mind the public. Consensus government to really work does require that effort and leadership. Mr. Speaker, it reminds me that I would like to seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

Mr. Speaker, I don't have a solution to where we go on consensus government, but I must tell you I did have a mental image, while I was driving to work this morning when I was thinking about consensus government, of that little centaur on the Hercules cartoon named Newton who has the head and torso of a human and has the backside of an ass. Mr. Speaker, that is the hybrid that I kind of feel like we are trying to work with here. I won't lead to any speculation about which side we are. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR MANUFACTURING SECTOR

MR. HAWKINS: It is a tough one to follow up on, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about the importance of the northern manufacturing sector and what it does to the northern economy and how this government can help.

Manufacturing is a small but important growth sector in our economy which is a vital pillar to our North and the growth for the future. There are approximately 100 businesses and at least 400 people that are employed in our northern manufacturing. This includes lumber mills, doors, windows, water tanks, cabinets, and log homes. There are furniture, boats, homes and don't forget

about those canvas bags made in Fort McPherson. Even in Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Speaker, we have jewellery made by Hau Huynh at Arctic Jewellers and even publishing done down at CanArctic Graphics. So let us not forget about the other people such as artisans. They create crafts, tanned furs and make leather goods and don't forget about food.

So, Mr. Speaker, as you can see, the list really does go on. What is obvious here is whether you live in Yellowknife or Fort McPherson, manufacturing is not just important to the economy but it is important to Northerners as a whole. We should all find ways to take pride in our northern manufacturers who help our economy and produce products here in the North. However, in some cases we know not everyone knows about these amazing products, these innovative products that are created in our own backyard. These businesses sometimes are facing serious challenges relating to finding and retaining their employees, controlling their costs of the supplies including their power and utility costs. One way or another, most of these businesses are facing substantial marketing challenges. This government can lend that helping hand. That is all they are really looking for. There are more efficient ways that we could work to help connect them with their customers. We could use what I have called the "made in the NWT" promo campaign which I have suggested to past ITI Ministers.

Mr. Speaker, I raised this on several occasions. It wouldn't take much to design a logo and help develop a marketing campaign that could help support this, our manufacturing industry. Mr. Speaker, it wouldn't take much more than a simple tag and a certain small promo session. It wouldn't be complicated but sometimes if you give it to government, they will make it complicated. Mr. Speaker, we hear time and again how the United States talks about "buy America". Well where is "buy NWT"? Mr. Speaker, promoting northern business is not just a job that we need to do, it is a right we have to make sure we instil so Northerners understand what is important to their economy.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, we understand the error of free trade and how it imposes purchasing rules and requirements, but this is not about isolating those products and saying we can't buy. I want to talk about promoting them and fostering that growth. Mr. Speaker, a lot of people work very hard to promote their products. Where is this government standing behind them? Because promoting home grown manufacturing is

not about protectionism; it is about taking pride in what Northerners do. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INUVIALUIT REGIONAL CORPORATION SENIOR HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to bring up the... it is IRC Cup weekend in the Beaufort-Delta and it is the biggest tournament in the Northwest Territories for senior men's hockey, Mr. Speaker. Just to let you know, I heard it last week on the radio that Simpson said they were the biggest, but they are not. We are.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, to all the players and fans, I hope you have a safe drive in from the communities or a plane ride in. This weekend will be good to see everyone from all of the regions and spend time with our family and friends and to let the House know I will be a little bit late on Monday. Good luck, have fun and I hope to see everyone in Inuvik this weekend. Happy Valentine's Day to my wife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BOARD OF REFEREES

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, these days with our economy and commodity prices in the poor state that they are in, unemployment numbers are, unfortunately, increasing. As 2009 progresses, I expect we will see more people in the North lose their jobs. That will force more people to apply for unemployment insurance for the financial assistance they need and deserve. But things do not always work out the way they should, Mr. Speaker, and sometimes a worker's application for employment insurance is denied. In such a case, it is the right of the worker to appeal that decision to an employment insurance board of referees. Most provinces and territories have at least one board to hear appeals, but I was surprised to learn recently that the closest appeal board for the NWT is in either Alberta or the Yukon. These boards don't travel to the appellant's home for their hearings; the claimant must come to them.

The NWT is only one of two jurisdictions in Canada without its own employment insurance board. Consider the plight of a worker in Inuvik, for instance, who has had an employment insurance application denied. Although they have the right to

appeal that decision, it is highly unlikely that he or she would bother, knowing that they would have to travel to Edmonton for a hearing at their own expense. If they do launch an appeal, days of travel are required, again at large expense. This is for someone who has just lost their only source of income. The end result is an unfair situation for our residents at a very tough time in their life. Our workers deserve better, Mr. Speaker. They deserve the same access to an appeal as the rest of Canada. I know I am talking about a federal responsibility, but the NWT government, through the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, can request of the federal government that a board of referees be established for the NWT. The best part of that is that there is no cost to us, Mr. Speaker, because the employment insurance board costs are covered by the federal government. So I strongly encourage the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to look into this situation post-haste and then contact his federal counterpart to see if we can't get an NWT board of referees established as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will have some questions for the Minister of ECE during question period.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FOOD MAIL PROGRAM

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, in my language I said I will speak on behalf of my people in the Sahtu region. I want to raise a concern in my region. It is not in any other regions in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, this morning at about a little after seven, I heard on CBC, with Randy Henderson speaking to a representative from Sachs Harbour and Wrigley, about the Food Mail Program. It was very refreshing to hear people from the communities who talk right from the heart, right from their knowledge as to what it costs to live in these small northern communities that are serviced by the Food Mail Program in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, those two gentlemen who spoke with Mr. Henderson certainly could have spoke on behalf of many other residents in the Northwest Territories about the Food Mail Program.

The Food Mail Program is a program that is funded by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and is administrated by Canada Post. Canada Post sets the regulations in terms of what's available in terms of the Food Mail Program for the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, this program is so vitally important to the people in the Northwest Territories that the federal government established an evaluation process with three northern communities: one in the Kitikmeot region, one in

Nunavut and one in Northern Quebec some time ago. Yet, we have not heard the evaluation of this Food Mail Program.

I'm going to be asking the Minister or the Cabinet in terms of what type of support has this government done in terms of initiating discussions with the federal government to do some type of evaluation in the Northwest Territories or take those findings of those evaluations and apply it so that they can change the Food Mail Program so people in those small communities that have to pay even for a can of pie filling...I understand in my communities it costs close to \$8; potatoes are in the \$20 range. Those prices are very familiar to us in the communities. I'm going to ask the Minister or the Cabinet in terms of how to look at the Food Mail Program and how we can make a difference in those people's lives in the communities.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. We welcome everyone in the gallery today. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 108-16(3): FOOD MAIL PROGRAM

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister of Transportation, can the Minister of Transportation inform this House and the people in the communities as to his knowledge, his information as to the evaluation by the federal government on the Food Mail Program?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I can confirm that a review has been launched by the federal government to look at the program. That includes consultation with people in the Northwest Territories. A number of research contracts have been awarded by the federal government and we have provided some input in terms of recommendations. Our recommendations were more in the area of trying to make the program more flexible and allow more origin points for shipments and also to allow the aircraft carriers themselves to do some administration of the Food Mail Program. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I certainly welcome the good news from the Minister in terms of the evaluation involvement. When can this side of the House be involved in the process and privy to this information? Mr. Speaker, also to look at certain locations in the Northwest Territories, like Norman Wells in the Sahtu, to be a point of location for the Food Mail Program. My understanding right now is that Yellowknife and Inuvik are the points of location for this Food Mail Program. It would make a huge difference if Norman Wells would be considered strongly to be a point of location for distributing the Food Mail Program.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Our government and the Department of Transportation are not actually involved in the review. Our involvement has been more to the area of providing some recommendations as to how to improve the program. This is a federal program and is administered by the federal government. There has been actually no date indicated by Minister Strahl as to when this would wrap up. If there is an interest from the standing committee, we certainly can provide that information and let that be known to INAC that there is a request from the standing committee to have a presentation. We can certainly accommodate that if there's that desire. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, my understanding from the federal government and from my notes is that the evaluation that was being looked at by the federal government, it's taking a long time; actually years in terms of them coming forward with any type of strong recommendations. I think this government, through this Minister and the Cabinet, needs to sit down with the federal government in terms of stating our strong feelings towards this program and implementing some strong changes through the recommendations as to looking at some of the communities in the Northwest Territories.

Can this Minister, through his Cabinet colleagues, suggest that some of these locations such as Norman Wells be a point of distribution for the Food Mail Program? This would make a huge difference in my region in terms of the foods that are available through this program. Again, I urge the Minister that he would carry this strong message to the federal government.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member is quite right; this review has been a long time in the making. There have been several governments that we have gone through on the federal side to get to this point. As I indicated earlier, our involvement has been basically to provide some recommendations. However, we hear the Member and certainly hear his request to take a stronger role in terms of our involvement. We will request to sit down with Indian Affairs and have a

face-to-face meeting and try to get a better handle on how long this is going to take, what they're hearing up to now and put forward the recommendations that we think will improve the program. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I certainly would applaud the Minister for going the extra mile for the people in the Northwest Territories, especially with the Food Mail Program. Would the Minister commit to the House and the people that next time they have a meeting with Minister Strahl, or communicate with Minister Strahl through writing, would he bring this point up in terms of asking the Minister to put this on the agenda for his next visit to the Northwest Territories in terms of an item that needs to be discussed and to look at making some changes to the Food Mail Program?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We do have 17 communities in the Northwest Territories that participate in this program and it is important for those communities to ensure that we get good results. We will write a letter to the Minister, we will commit to a meeting with the federal officials of INAC to discuss this program, and we will certainly commit to providing that information to the Members. Thank you.

QUESTION 109-16(3):
EMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
BOARD OF REFEREES

MS. BISARO: I have a couple of questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment today. Easy questions, I hope. I'd like to know whether or not the Minister agrees with me that the NWT should have its own employment insurance board of referees, that it is a void and that that void should be filled.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, we certainly do provide...Not just us but the federal government does provide those kinds of services throughout the North, whether it be Service Canada offices...Yes, we need to provide all sorts of services that meet the clients throughout the Northwest Territories. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: So if the Minister feels that this service is something that needs to be provided, is he willing to take on this particular issue to bring it to the attention of the federal government and to correct this particular situation? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, certainly we need to identify those Service Canada offices throughout the North, where they are located, and work with them, and if they can expand their services throughout the North. At the same time, I'm willing to certainly deal with the federal government on those kinds of services throughout the North. It could be administered through our offices as well with the appeal services board. Certainly I make a commitment to the Member that I'll work with my federal counterparts on this particular issue.

MS. BISARO: Thank you to the Minister for his commitment. I want to emphasize that I'm not referencing Service Canada offices. The thing that is lacking, in my estimation, is that Employment Insurance Canada establishes boards of referees across the country for people to appeal employment insurance applications that are denied.

If the Minister is willing to take on this commitment, which I think he said he was, I'd like to know what kind of a time frame we'd be looking at. When might he be able to report back to the House on progress on this particular issue?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Certainly this has been brought to my attention today, so I'm certainly making a commitment to follow through with the federal government. Certainly as soon as I hear from the federal government, if there's a positive outcome I'll certainly be sharing that with the Member.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 110-16(3):
SUPPORT FOR MANUFACTURING SECTOR

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the last government I questioned the former Minister of ITI, Mr. Brendan Bell at the time, about creating an NWT manufacturing program with the logos. At the time he seemed interested in the idea and it seemed like an idea that the department could create quite simply. I'm going to have questions for the new Minister, our present-day Minister Bob McLeod of ITI. The fact is the manufacturing campaign could help build self-esteem and awareness within our industry amongst our regular, everyday people here in the North.

Would Minister McLeod be willing to look into something like this to create a logo program, as well as a campaign of awareness for northern manufacturing here in the NWT?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're quite experienced in the use of branding for Northwest Territories products and we do use it for NWT arts and crafts. We have very unique arts and crafts and have developed a branding logo that was put in place in 2007. Similarly we have logos for our genuine Mackenzie Valley furs. I think it only makes sense that we would do something similar for NWT manufacturing.

MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate the Minister's response and I thank him for getting into my second question before I get there, which is about the arts program. I think the arts logo is a successful program to help identify products and I would hope they would follow somewhat similar and certainly not make the guidelines overly complicated.

My question to the Minister then is, do you think guidelines could be developed and perhaps a campaign could be launched by the end of summer?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The branding logo for arts was introduced in September 2007. The criteria are not that onerous. They're for NWT artisans. It helps promote the uniqueness of NWT arts and protects them from copies. For the NWT manufacturing we do have an NWT manufacturing policy as part of the Business Incentive Program. The difficulty with that is to ensure that there are NWT manufacturers using NWT products and resources.

MR. HAWKINS: I think the arts campaign is very successful; the logo identification as well as the work gone into identifying the guidelines. But I would also like to hear if potentially the Minister could involve working with the NWT chamber, the local chambers in our communities to help elevate what business would like in the marketing campaign. The only reason I ask is I want to make sure the Minister and his officials will involve local manufacturers into making sure their objectives will be met going forward.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: That would be our normal practice. When we developed the branding logo for NWT arts and crafts we worked very closely with the NWT Arts Council and made a call for proposals. We will be quite prepared to work with the NWT Chamber of Commerce on a similar basis.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know these words don't get uttered too often in Yellowknife, but would the Minister be willing to come with me to my riding to visit some of my local

manufacturers in the next little while? I did highlight the jewellery by Hau Huynh and certainly I'm sure he's well aware of CanArctic. Would he be willing to make time to go visit and see on-the-ground manufacturing, at least here in Yellowknife? And I'm sure other Members would expect somewhat similar. Could he do that?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I'm always willing to visit constituencies as long as it doesn't involve a large amount of money.

---Laughter

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

QUESTION 111-16(3):
GNWT PROCUREMENT POLICY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a procurement question with respect to this government's policy. I have to create a bit of a scenario to premise this question on.

The Government of the Northwest Territories goes to public tender for a service and product. Three bids come in that are within a very small percentage of each other, which would indicate that would probably be the market value. Then we find out that the Government of the Northwest Territories only budgeted \$700,000 for \$1 million worth of product and work. So the Government of the Northwest Territories, the department, then goes back to the drawing board and realizes that they were wrong in their estimate and instead of talking to the person who was low bid on the first round, they go back to tender for exactly the same product and service again, and potentially the same people bid again.

This is a problem in our procurement system. I'm not really sure who should answer that question. But my question is, would it not be reasonable and fair to have a discussion with the person who was the low bid?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd have to get the details of what's going on there and work with the Member to what area and work with the appropriate department on that. We do have our policies in place when it comes to our procurement and manner of tenders and RFPs and so on. I'd have to work with the appropriate Minister and the Member.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Companies go to a lot of work and expense to bid on government contracts.

They're obviously happy when they see the results posted and they are low bid. Then to find out that the government has substantially under budgeted for the contract that they have bid on, only to go back out to tender again for exactly the same product and service puts the people who bid on that contract originally in a very untenable situation. What would the Premier suggest to improve our procurement policy to prevent that from happening?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I'm aware of a situation that is under review right now that we will have to look at. But the process would be, and we have in quite a number of cases found out, that when we've gone out for tender or RFP, that the numbers come in substantially higher than we'd budgeted. Departments then would have to decide if they go back to the drawing board and change the original request; either construction or equipment or material that's being requested or they go to negotiate with the low bid to see if they can work within that environment. Usually something does change before it goes back out, but I'm aware that this particular situation is under review.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: This is premised on a scenario that I have suggested and it is a real situation, but it comes to the larger issue of is it not inherently not fair to ask people to compete and then have their numbers known, have them be low bid, and then go back out to tender again for exactly the same thing. It puts people in a very untenable situation as bidders. I don't think it's really living up to a very high standard of procurement for this government. I would like to ask the Premier, could they make it a policy rather than doing that, to go back to the low bidder and have that discussion? To make it a matter of policy.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I believe with the procurement policies in place there is usually a requirement for change to happen. It is to go out so that scenario doesn't occur. As I understand, we are reviewing the situation and can inform the Member as to how things turn out.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this case I believe the only thing that is contemplated to be changed is the date by which the product needs to be delivered, which isn't a very significant change to the scope of the tender and the scope of the work, in my opinion. I guess I would just like to see this government try to see things through the eyes of the contractor and try to be as fair as possible.

The other little added note on this one is that when people do run into these situations they should be allowed to go to their MLAs and they should be able

to have their MLA bring this forward to the government and to the Minister and not fear any reprisal for doing so. I would trust that this is a principle that this Premier and this government would also concur with.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: In this particular case, although the Member has put out a scenario, we have to be careful in how I respond to this area. There is a review being done in a similar situation. The fact that the Members raise their issues here, there would be no reprisal from departments to anyone who would go to their Members for some help raising issues to our departments. We'll make sure that's the case.

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

QUESTION 112-16(3):
BOARD REFORM INITIATIVE

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke earlier in my Member's statement about a constituency meeting I had last night. We had 27 constituents show up at the meeting. The discussion centred around a few of the big issues that we've been talking about here in the House since we've been back. Most of the discussion, though, centred around board reform. I have a few questions for the lead Minister in charge of the Refocusing Government committee, Mr. Miltenberger, in regard to board reform. In fact, some boards may need some aspect of reform, however, I want to get an understanding from the Minister why the Government of the Northwest Territories feels that the regional model for these boards is necessary.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The lead Minister on Refocusing Government, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The regional service board model that the Tlicho Government has subscribed to and that we've worked with over the last decade or so with them on seems to have applicability in other regions. We started the process of board reform on that basis. We've proceeded to do the work and we're continuing to do the work, and we'll continue to pull together the information on this approach, on the feedback that we're receiving, on the information that we're gathering from the regions. Then we'll have a milestone date in April where we're going to look at how applicable that model is. The underlying issue of board reform has been subscribed to, from what I've heard, from everywhere I've been. There may be questions on the regional service board model, which is the purpose of the April 1st milestone date to allow us to

take a look at where we are and decide how we move forward from there.

MR. RAMSAY: When the government goes out to, and they call it consultation, the way I see it, there's no accountability for the Government of the Northwest Territories because they have nothing to back up their plans. They have no research, no data, no costs, no HR plans or anything of the like. I'd like to ask the Minister why it is the government's intent to cause such anxiety across our land every time they make an announcement. The board reform is the latest example. I'd like to ask the Minister why we are causing our residents so much anxiety and anger that they're feeling.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We embarked upon this arduous journey that we've laid out to 2010-2011. We recognized there was work to be done. We were moving forward with the concept and initial plan. We had a lot of work to do and we continue to have a lot of work to do. April gets us about a third of the way down the track in terms of 2010-2011. It's a milestone date. We've been engaging with the communities. We've been engaging with the boards and regions. We're doing the work to pull together the information as we go, recognizing that there are complexities here in the North Slave that are going to take probably even more time than there would in the rest of the Territory. We're doing it, we believe, in a measured way. In April, seven weeks hence, we're going to gather around and look at where we go with the whole issue of board reform as it was initially contemplated. How do we adjust? If we adjust, how do we adjust? What other steps do we need to take?

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister probably wouldn't want me mentioning the way this government's operating in the same light as a certain Prime Minister operates, but one of the things that's coming out here is the fact that I understand Mr. Miltenberger is the lead Minister, but the Minister of Health, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and the Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation have been eerily silent on the issue of board reform. That's causing people a great deal of concern. If they're not going to stand up and protect the institutions that are out there, who is going to?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This is a government-wide initiative. It is an initiative that was sanctioned by Cabinet. I was given the lead role on this. Cabinet has been involved and has been apprised every step of the way. We've agreed to the April 1st date. The Ministers haven't been eerily silent. I've been given the lead on this. The Ministers have spoken when the issue's been raised with them. But in terms of moving the process, I have been given that task and I've been

doing my best to carry that task forward. Once we get to April, we'll all be collectively regrouping.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't heard any one of those three Ministers make a public statement about board reform in the Northwest Territories. If they're that supportive of it and if their departments are that supportive of it they should make a public announcement.

I'd like to ask the Minister, after April 1st, how will the decision be made to either proceed or to park the board reform initiative and how will Regular Members be involved in that decision-making?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This is a Cabinet initiative. The Refocusing Government committee on which the Member sits is going to be tasked, our job is to bring it together to come up with our best recommendation, at which point Cabinet, P and P, will be reviewing where we stand, how we move forward. Board reform was seen as a priority of this Assembly. How do we sort that out and move forward on the 10 years' work? In April we will regroup and see where we go from there. We'll all collectively be involved over the last number of months. This has been a joint committee where we've had two Regular Members on it. We're going to continue that work until April, over the next seven weeks, and then that information will be put on the table and we'll look at that.

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

QUESTION 113-16(3):
TROUT LAKE SCHOOL EXPANSION

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to follow up on my Member's statement where Trout Lake is a growing community. They are having more and more children. I'm pleased to see that the children are staying in the community. Is the Department of Education, Culture and Employment aware of an identified need to expand the school in Trout Lake?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, certainly, I think we need to look at the school itself, the capacity that is full capacity or not. According to our records that we have in place, we do have 12 students enrolled on September 30, 2008. The school has a capacity of 33 students. So we do have quite a number of students that could still enter the school. At the

same time, Mr. Speaker, I did commit to the Member that I will be visiting Nahendeh. Part of that will be a touring of the schools in that particular region. I am looking forward to looking at this school as well. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Absolutely, I will be looking forward to touring the Nahendeh riding with the Minister. However, the case remains that it is still a one-room school. Even with 12 students, there are lots of distractions. That is a key message the community has sent to me.

Before, in anticipation of that meeting, perhaps, Mr. Speaker, the Minister can commit to send officials to talk with the community of Trout Lake to discuss their needs. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, certainly we can send our... We deal with the regions, whether they be superintendents or DEAs or DEC's. We do have staffing in the region. Within our departmental staff here, I will work closely with them and identify challenges at the community level. With respect to the one-room school that the Member is referring to, we certainly need to look at that and if we can move forward on how we can identify spaces in that area. Mahsi.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I would just like to ask the Minister as well, is he aware that there is a 15 or 20-year capital infrastructure refit schedule for the Trout Lake school? Mahsi.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, certainly, we do have 15 or 20-year plans for the schools in the Northwest Territories. Trout Lake will be one of the schools that fall under that as well. We need to look at the school where it is at. The school was built in 1993, so I guess he can say it is a fairly new school as well. We need to look at the overall structure of the building inside the space capacity and look at the 15-year plan as well. Mahsi.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just identified that, to make sure it is in the capital budget. I don't want to be missing the capital budget planning process, Mr. Speaker. Just to ensure that the Minister is aware and he will at least consider this as part of the capital planning process when it begins. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, before we get through the capital planning process, we need to identify the needs of the school and also the community. There needs to be an educational plan, as well, dealing with the capacity issue. I am more than willing to sit down with the Member and also the school board to deal with this particular

matter. We will be doing that once we tour the Nahendeh. We will have our staff go there as well. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

QUESTION 114-16(3):
ANIMAL RIGHTS LEGISLATION

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of people in the Northwest Territories have great respect for wildlife. However, there are the well-publicized incidents of animal cruelty and neglect. People are asking for something to be done about this. My question is to the Minister of Municipal Affairs. I was wondering if there is new animal rights legislation that is being adopted to prevent these issues from occurring. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with the Member; there has been some publicity given to this issue in the last while. At the moment they are considering amendments to the Dog Act to bring it in line. The Dog Act is old. It is from 1950 when dogs were a way of life here. That is being considered at the moment. We are hoping to get a public discussion paper out there to ask for opinions and what the public wants to see in this particular act or if this is an act that works for the Territories. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for the comments from the Minister. That is a start; a fairly modest start, I would say, compared to what the public is clearly asking for already. A number of people here would remember the incident with the starvation of horses just outside of Yellowknife. Obviously an Animal Rights Act is needed here. The Dog Act refers to the necessity for proof of intended neglect which, of course, is an oxymoron. Neglect infers that there was no intent to start with. The possibility of enforcement is impossible. Will at least the amendment propose to actually put some teeth in the enforcement aspect of that act? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the intent of getting us out there and having public discussions so we can see what is needed in the act to give it some teeth because, as I have said before, this is the act from the 1950s when dogs were a way of life and the way of travel for the Northwest Territories. That is the kind of input that we would welcome, is to get some good positive feedback as to what would give this act more teeth, as the Member refers to. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Actually, this is a half-cooked idea just tweaking the Dog Act. We need an animal rights act. Will the Minister commit to expanding that to the appropriate level of concern that is an animal rights act? I am assuming that the Minister is not comfortable with the Northwest Territories being firmly lodged in the bottom tier in the national rating on this issue. At the same time, perhaps the Minister could comment on whether he is comfortable with that or will try and do something about it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, no, I am not comfortable at being in the bottom tier. Nobody likes to be at the bottom tier. We are hoping to move our way up there. As I said before, in the history in the Northwest Territories, animals were used a little differently than they were down south, but it doesn't excuse anything. I will let the Member know that Justice is working with MACA at seeing how we can expand this particular issue. Again, we are looking for a lot of positive feedback from the public, because we already have people communicating with us, their desire to see stronger animal welfare legislation. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my colleague says, "Doggone! We have to get our act together here." And emphasis on the act. I appreciate the comments from the Minister and my last comment is, when can we expect that to come forward? I know there is lots of interest in seeing that come forward soon. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we are hoping to have the work started on it very soon. I couldn't give the Member a particular timeline, but I will confer with Justice and my department. As soon as I can come up with a timeline, I will communicate that with the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

QUESTION 115-16(3):
GNWT EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE BONUSES

MR. ABERNETHY: My questions today are for the Premier and are a follow-up to my Member's statement. Earlier in the week I put forward a written question asking for some specific detail on the bonuses paid for the 2007-08 fiscal year and those answers will be coming forward by March 2nd, so I won't ask specific questions on the numbers. Regardless, I am aware that bonuses were paid for 2007-08. In February I had asked the Premier if they would be willing or if they could put in some sort of processes and some procedures to ensure

that bonuses are paid for the exceptional rather than the standard. I was wondering if the Premier could tell me what criteria was used in determining who in the senior management and the deputy minister categories would be getting bonuses for the 2007-08 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The area of the merit pay or performance pay is one that has been raised a number of times by the Member and did reference, for example, the work the federal government was doing and if we could incorporate some of that work into the Northwest Territories. I have been working with the Department of Human Resources. The Minister of Human Resources is getting as much of the information together that we could use and try to find out if there are some comparisons here. We do have some numbers and I will share those with the Member in response to the written question. More importantly, the fact that the federal system changed the ratings of deputies, they created another level of deputy ministers, gave a substantial increase in pay and then changed their bonus system or at-risk payment as well. So they have two levels of combination at-risk pay and bonuses for their deputies ranging from 10 to 30 percent in one area and, as well, for bonuses, another 6 to 9 percent that the federal government works.

Here in the Northwest Territories we have one system. It's part of the contract we sign with our deputies and it goes from 0 to 15 percent with the Northwest Territories. We do have four different policies that affect deputy ministers, senior managers, excluded employees and, of course, the UNW. What we use on the executive manager side are four criteria and it is contributions to the achievement of corporate results, contribution achievement to ministerial results and Minister results, demonstration of some management practices and other contributions of an outstanding nature. So those make up the review that is done specifically, I would say, for the deputies that I did do the work on. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: I would like to thank the Premier for that. It is good to hear that there are some parameters and programs in place to help us determine who is going to get bonuses. I am curious, though. I am familiar with the excluded employee programs and procedures around bonuses, but with the senior management, more particularly the deputy heads, in assessing whether or not the individuals are going to get bonuses, what types of performance targets are put in place to determine who is going to be eligible for bonus and who isn't? How do you determine how much of

a bonus in that range you've identified from 3 to 15 percent that an individual is going to get? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the process is one of an assessment that is done. That assessment is sent to the secretariat of the Cabinet and reviewed at first level, and I review that as well. It is to see their stated achievements, and the achievements would be based on the previous report that was done and what they were trying to do, as well as highlighted achievement of corporate results being budget process, what the direction of government was given, the ministry results if we made a change in acts. So those are weighed against the direction that was given, how much work was supplied or done and ranking in that area. Now, I must say it was 0 to 15 percent, not 3 to 15, and not all deputies received merit pay this time around. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: I apologize for that. Zero to 15 percent sounds better than 3 to 15 percent. In the fiscal years 2003-04 to 2006-07, there are 14, 17, 19 and 23 deputy ministers or senior managers eligible for bonuses. In those same years, 14, 16, 19 and 21 got bonuses. So for the most part, we have been paying all of our deputy ministers and senior managers bonuses. You are saying this year that not all of them got it. Can you give me a rough idea of how many received senior manager or deputy minister bonuses and how many didn't? No, that is probably coming in the other thing, but I am wondering if he knows off the top of his head. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: We have 16 deputy minister-level contracts and 75 percent of those received merit pay. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 116-16(3):
MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, in my statement, I made reference to the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation and they recently had a trip to Ottawa in which they are trying to convince the federal government that there is a possibility of a project to complete the Mackenzie Valley Highway up the Mackenzie Valley from Wrigley all the way up to Tuktoyaktuk. Mr. Speaker, that issue has been around for some time. We tried to put it in the light of the pipeline application in which the pipeline companies did not want anything to do with it. But I believe that, through this partnership that has been established through the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation, they are trying to bring it forward by way of a P3 project and they will construct it, build it

and move forward. I would like to ask the Minister of Transportation exactly what is the relation between the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation and the Department of Transportation to moving this project ahead.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we don't have a partnership with the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation. We have reviewed their information and have acknowledged the work that they have done. We don't really have a formal partnership. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, we are pushing a lot of projects in the North in regard to hydro for diamond mines. We are pushing the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline, but when it comes to this highway, it seems like there is very little by way of investment in the budgets. I would like to ask the Minister how much money has the government put into looking at the engineering design of such a proposal. Has any work and expenditures been put forward on this project?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: It would take some considerable work to put everything that we have done historically on this section of road. In the time that I have been here in the 14th, 15th, 16th Assembly, we will have put in 39 bridges on the Mackenzie Highway, along with a lot of big work, a lot of improvements of the structure of the highway. We have also compiled a lot of information in terms of baseline. We put together a number of strategies. I think I can count four off the top of my head that included the Mackenzie Valley Highway. We have taken many, many trips to Ottawa. In fact, we have raised it with three different Ministers and the Prime Minister since January. The Premier has had discussions over this issue and has raised it at almost every venue that he has attended. To get an actual figure on how much work has been done would take some time and we certainly could put that together but we would have to take the time needed to compile it. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, one of the issues that came from our meeting this morning with Mr. Nerysoo is that the federal government's impression of the Government of the Northwest Territories for support of this project is that we are not supporting this project. I would like to ask the Minister exactly, in regard to the meetings, he talked about and the investment of such a project. I think that in order for it to proceed, we do have to be seen to be not only mentioning it at our meetings or show it either on the floor of the House by way of motion but, more importantly, people will really see you are invested in this project by the capital

investment that is going into this project. What are the plans from this government to make a capital investment in regard to the Mackenzie Valley Highway by way of an engineering design or working with the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation to move this project forward?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I would be hard pressed to be convinced that the federal government doesn't know that this is a priority item. As I indicated, we have raised it twice in the short period that we have been into this new year. We have raised it as a sovereignty issue. We raised it as a possible P3 project. We looked at it through devolution and resource revenue sharing. We looked at it through partnership opportunity. We looked at it and presented it as an economic stimulus project. We will continue to look at ways we can bring this forward. I am sure the federal government is completely aware how important this project is to the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we may be asking for too many asks from the federal government, so I would like to ask the Minister, are you willing to come forward with a stand-alone proposal for the Mackenzie Highway extension from Wrigley to Tuktoyaktuk working with the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation, approach the federal government on one solicited proposal on this mega project? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I think we have done that about three times or four times. We plan to update our information on our highway initiatives and we will certainly take the Member's advice. It is something that we had looked at doing, put an independent proposal on the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Once we have compiled the additional information that we are permitted to do, we are looking at an economic analysis that would lend to our business case. We are also doing some more environmental scoping and also some additional baseline studies. We will add that to our package and continue to strengthen our business case and present that to the federal government once more to demonstrate that this is an important project for us, as the Member has raised, for his riding and for all the communities across the North and the Mackenzie Valley. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 117-16(3):
ATCO PROPOSAL TO MERGE WITH
NWT POWER CORPORATION

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I want to raise some questions to the Minister of NTPC in terms of the ATCO unsolicited proposal. I certainly hope that when we have some time to review this proposal, once the due diligence is done with it, that we have some pretty good direction as to how we proceed with it. I want to ask the Minister if he is aware of the Yukon experiences where ATCO did a joint venture with the Yukon Power Corp in terms of their partnerships. I had some questions about the power rates in the Yukon and whether that was a good deal in terms of power rates increasing in the Yukon.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, we are aware of the relationship that is in the Yukon that exists today. As we do our review on the proposal, we will be getting all the necessary information that we need. I have also requested time with committee to have a discussion on this, and wait to do that. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, we certainly look forward to when the time comes when we have some electrifying debates with the Minister regarding the ATCO proposal. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister how he's going to engage the communities and regions with the possibility -- just the possibility -- of the potential merger of ATCO and NTPC. How would the communities and regions be engaged in this process?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the process we're involved in right now at this stage is to review the proposal to get the information together. The report will come back to myself and then I'll sit down with Cabinet to decide if we do fully engage in this and sit down with Members at that time as well. This is not meant to go out to all the communities for their discussion. The GNWT is the sole shareholder. We have much experience, whether it is from department, for example, the Territorial Power Support Program, the Power Corporation itself as well as the other power operations in the Northwest Territories. There is a lot of information that we'll need to go through first before we make any decisions on how to proceed. Once we have that, as I said already, before we even get to that stage I'm hoping to get some time with committee to go through this. Following that, we'll be keeping everybody up to speed as to how things have gone. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, certainly the Regular Members on this side will look forward to that discussion with the Premier.

In terms of timeline, is this something that we're looking at -- I supposedly make that presumption -- within the life of this government in terms of this potential proposal? We're not too sure if it will go or not, and I guess after the Regular Members have been involved in discussion, I guess maybe my question is then is it something within the framework of possibility of having some discussions with communities and the regions in terms of this meeting or is it just going to stay within the Assembly here with the Members and have some further discussion? My understanding, from what I'm hearing from the Premier, is that it's not being entertained at this time to look at the regions or go into the communities and regions.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of things that are going on right now from the government side, from the Members' side. For example, the lead Minister on the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee tabled in this House a number of discussion papers, one on energy rates regulation and the Power Support Program. Looking at that, that's seeking input from the people across the Territories. We've also heard clearly from Members...In our last June sitting many of the Members asked about power generation distribution, the structure of the Power Corporation, and there was a motion requesting a review of the Power Corporation, which is another thing that we are doing as well. We've heard from the people of the Northwest Territories about the cost of living, the high rates in our communities, so we're acting on that.

This proposal has come separate from that work and we're reviewing that. As I said, I hope to have something by the end of April and then get back to Cabinet and Members as to what we've found. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: I am certainly well aware of and appreciate when we had our discussion on the document on energy in the Northwest Territories. That was one of our suggestions. I'm certainly glad that the Cabinet and the Premier, the Minister, has heard us and the direction where we want to go. My contentious issue is to deal with in terms of the Regular Members' involvement on this proposal. I certainly want to be very clear in terms of this proposal if it's a go or no-go, that we have some close discussions in terms of where do we go from here if the proposal is a no-go or a go with the ATCO Group. I guess that's what I want to ask. I

want to ask the Minister if he would, again, clarify for the Members that this process will happen.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, as I had mentioned, once I receive a report back, meet with Cabinet and then go to Members, at that point we'll be making a decision as to how we proceed and the manner in which we would proceed. There's a fair bit of work yet to be done before we get to that stage, but, yes, I intend to go to committee and the Members of this Assembly. As we've heard, the cost of electricity, the way we generate electricity and all of that is a growing concern, and has been for quite a number of years, and we do need to do something for the best interests of the residents we serve. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

QUESTION 118-16(3):
BOARD REFORM INITIATIVE

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance, the lead for board reform. Does this Minister recognize the anxiety that his current approach and communication is causing, particularly in Yellowknife and other tax-based communities where there's a decades-long record of effective and on-budget performance in the areas of concern? Does he recognize this angst and anxiety that he's causing? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I'm clearly aware that when we talk of change of this nature that it causes concern in many corners or some corners. I've read the e-mails and the newspapers so, yes, I know that, particularly in Yellowknife, the issue with the school boards has struck a nerve. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Recognizing what we've already put our public through, would the Minister agree that there is an opportunity here to get ahead of the planned schedule, the April 1st, and then re-evaluate by acknowledging ahead of time that, in fact, this model and the communications that we've had are not appropriate here and in perhaps some other locations, tax-based communities? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we've recognized from the outset that there's a two-track process that we're engaged in here; that there are unique complexities and challenges specifically in the North Slave and Yellowknife area, and that whatever is finally decided on, this region, in all probability, will take more time than the other regions. We're committed to doing the work over

the next seven weeks to fill in as many of the blanks as we can and have that discussion among Cabinet and Regular Members about board reform and how do we move forward with that 16th Legislative Assembly initiative.

MR. BROMLEY: Will the Minister take this opportunity to communicate now rather than waiting until April 1st and putting the public through unnecessary angst? Will the Minister commit to communicating very soon, say within a week, or preferably by Friday -- that's tomorrow -- that in fact this model doesn't fit this area and we need to go back to the drawing board and come up with a lot of information and so on before moving forward? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I just want to restate our commitment and recognition that this is a two-track process and that the complexities in Yellowknife are probably going to require unique solutions when we look at board reform. I've been saying that right from the start. We've recognized and we've picked a milestone date in April, and the folks are working hard, and will continue to work hard, to get all that information together. Then we'll be able to look at it in a careful, measured way and map out how do we move forward on this particular initiative. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate that the Minister has been totally consistent on this but, given that, it's clear that that's not sufficient. That public angst and anxiety continues to build to extreme and unacceptable levels. Will the Minister commit to diffusing that situation by coming out with something further and more meaningful? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the commitment that I've made repeatedly in this House is I would hope would provide comfort. We recognize that this is a complex situation, that in Yellowknife there are some unique challenges to be sorted out, and that we're going to collectively decide after April where we go from here. That date is an opportunity to bring all the work together from across the North and look at the 16th Assembly priority and see how we move forward from there. It's seven weeks away and the decision then will be made about next steps. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

QUESTION 119-16(3):
FORT MCPHERSON MENTAL HEALTH WORKER

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, after her comments in the House yesterday, the Minister of Health mentioned that she committed \$75,000 to Fort McPherson for a mental health position with the hamlet and the band in Fort McPherson. After the comments in the House, I checked back in my community. I got my EA to check around the community and talk to my political leaders, and no one is aware of this \$75,000 that's been committed to Fort McPherson. I'd like to ask the Minister, could you clarify your statement you made in the House yesterday about \$75,000 for the community of Fort McPherson for the mental health position?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to thank the Member for giving me an opportunity to clarify what I was advising the Member. Mr. Speaker, the Member for Mackenzie Delta and myself, as the Minister, have been working very hard for the last 16 months to resolve a situation in Fort McPherson whereby a contract that the Beaufort-Delta authority has had with To'oodih Healing Society for a mental health and wellness position has basically broken down. The person that used to work for the Healing Society has left the position as she felt that she couldn't meet all of the training requirements that were necessary for that position.

I agree with the Member that the community of Fort McPherson is entitled to and they do need to have someone who could provide this service. In fact, they want to have more flexibility to provide the service. When I was in Inuvik two weeks ago I talked to the chair of the authority and the CEO about that the option, and what I would like for them to consider is to transfer that money to the community government of Fort McPherson, if they wish to have this money, so that they could hire their own person. That would allow the community to provide the services in a way they would like to do it. I have a letter in front of me that I'm going to sign to send to the authority to confirm this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The time for oral questions has expired; however, I will allow the Member a supplementary question. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, in regard to the Minister's comments, I'd just like to clarify for her that the individual that was in the office, as far as I'm concerned, was overqualified. She did not have a master's degree in psychology and that was the problem with the Inuvik Health Board, is that because of their definition of certification we had

this problem. I'd like to ask the Minister, in order to avoid this problem happening in the future, is there anything that the Department of Health and Social Services can do to find a system where small communities can deliver programs and services where there are none, with reclassification of those positions and funded directly from headquarters?

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, that is something that I had directed the department to look at and that was supposed to have been done prior to some of the changes that we proposed to make under mental health and addictions programming. It did not work out. It's back on the drawing board and it will be part of the Minister's action plan that I will be bringing forward to the Standing Committee on Social Programs. I am committed and I am working to look at and redesign the Mental Health and Addictions and Wellness Program in a way that there will be...There is a need for those with master's and whatever qualifications that we need to have, but we need to address the fact that there's not enough flexibility in our Mental Health and Wellness Addictions Program delivery where we need to have room there for the community to have a say, for the community to talk about how they would like to be involved in the healing and wellness programming. We want to be able to accommodate on-the-land programming, youth programming, elders programming, all sorts of programs.

There is so much more work to be done here and I'm opening that up and will come with a proposal for further discussion with the Members on the other side, with the Standing Committee on Social Programs, as well as the ministerial and Regular Member joint committee on small communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 9, written questions. Item 10, replies to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, replies to the budget address, day six of seven. Item 13, petitions. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. The Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 9-16(3):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO FEBRUARY 16, 2009

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday, February 16, 2009, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns

on February 12, 2009, it shall be adjourned until Monday, February 16, 2009.

And further, that any time prior to February 16, 2009, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and 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 the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

---Unanimous consent granted

Motions

MOTION 9-16(3):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO FEBRUARY 16, 2009
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on February 12, 2009, it shall be adjourned until Monday, February 16, 2009;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to February 16, 2009, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and 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 the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy; Committee Report 2-16(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on Matters Referred to the Committee; Tabled Document 11-16(3), NWT Main Estimates 2009-2010; Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Historical Resources Act; Bill 3, International Interest in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act; Bill 4, Public Library Act; Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act; and Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I call Committee of the Whole to order. In consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 7-16(3), Committee Report 2-16(3), Tabled Document 11-16(3), and Bills 1, 3, 4, 5 and 7. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the committee wishes to continue with the consideration of the budget for the Department of Health and Social Services in the detail. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay. With that, we will take a short break and then begin with the Department of Health and Social Services.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'll call the Committee of the Whole back to order. As we stated earlier, we are back to the Department of Health and Social Services summary, page 8-11. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if she'll be bringing in any witnesses.

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, please. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in.

Ms. Lee, could you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is acting deputy minister Mr. Dana Heide and to my right is director of finance Mr. Derek Elkin. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Like I stated, when I left off, we were on page 8-11, active positions, health and social services authorities, agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Directorate.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Operations expenditure summary, directorate, activity summary, \$5.997 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Activity summary, active positions, directorate, activity summary, page 8-15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, if I could get a breakdown, I see there's a shift in positions. I see technically there is a net difference of plus one, but I would like to know if there is any significant change in this. What are the pluses and minuses of any positions other than that single one growth and what area of growth? If I could also get a breakdown of aboriginal versus non-aboriginal positions and the numbers between the gender numbers, which would be male and female. If I could get that breakdown as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have one additional position under directorate. That is the enhancing emergency services policy position. There are three positions transferred from activity 200 and one deletion which is a transfer to activity 500. I am going to have to ask Mr. Elkin to explain that. There are three new positions as a result of internal reorganization. There were some reorganizations that happened in the department in the last fiscal year, then there are five deleted positions from internal reorganization and the net of that is one. So there are seven new additions, including transfer, and six deletions, so seven minus six is one. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Was Mr. Elkin going to add something? Mr. Elkin.

MR. ELKIN: Thank you. There is one position, as the Minister mentioned, for the policy officer related

to the ground ambulance legislation development. We did have a restructuring of the department in April of 2008 where we moved some positions between activities, so they are being reflected here in the main estimates. The net effect is only plus one.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We are on page 8-15, active positions, directorate, activity summary. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Moving on to page 8-16, program delivery support, page 8-17, operations expenditure summary, program delivery support, activity summary, \$32.264 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Hello?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I did want to ask a question relative to page 8-16 and 8-17. I think that's where we are. The Minister mentioned in her opening remarks that the Diabetes Strategy is going to be piloted in this next budget year. I wonder if I could ask the Minister which two communities are going to pilot the Diabetes Strategy.

(CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I indicated, I will be bringing forward more details of that strategy that is being completed. The two communities are not determined yet, but we are looking at one large community and one small community. We know that the growth of diabetes is very clear; there is a very clear trend that it's moving from south to north. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you for that answer. I'll wait for the briefing, hopefully.

Under program delivery details on page 8-17, health and social services authorities, agency administration from 2009-2010 there's no increase in those dollars. Could I get an explanation of what this \$12.5 million is for? I'm sure the costs are going to increase so how does the Minister account for the fact that the funding to these authorities is not going to increase? I'll leave it at that.

HON. SANDY LEE: The overall block funding transfer to all of the authorities amounts to about \$260 million out of the \$313 million that the department is asking for under this budget. This portion here, \$12.438 million, is strictly the

administration, the CEO and all of the administrators in the authorities. The program funding comes from different programs, whether it be hospital services or the THAF funding. There are different pockets of money that our authorities received under this programming.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next on the list I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The one question I wanted to ask the Minister, and maybe register with the department officials here, is in terms of program delivery support. I know they are working very hard with our health boards in terms of having proper care in home care, home care for seniors, and persons with disabilities and community health nursing issues with our region. I would ask the Minister in terms of registering. It may not be the appropriate time, but in terms of looking at some shelters in our region and looking at the regional facility like other communities have. I know the indications from the Sahtu region was that a lot of the studies showed that people wanted to have their own people stay in their homes. If that's the case and that's still the case today, then I would ask that the Minister consider beefing up the training and resources for people to look after the elders in their own homes equivalent to almost with the other regions that have 24-hour facilities for the elders. Would she be able to look at that and see that's an issue that she needs to work with our health boards in the Sahtu?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That is the direction the department has been working towards and that I will be continuing to do. In my opening statement I had indicated that we are partnering with the Dene Nation and Aurora College to train more people to work as home support workers and residential aid workers because we understand that there are needs for that. IRC is making a proposal to train licensed practical nurses. That's under works. I also understand that the Dene Nation received separate funding to work on palliative care. There is lots of work being done to enhance community support in our communities so that we can, as much as possible, allow not only our elders and seniors but those who can live independently with assisted support.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Minister has listed out some programs that could seem very beneficial to the people of the Northwest Territories. I wanted to speak specifically for the people in the Sahtu region in terms of where in the Sahtu and other communities that do not have a regional elders' facility. In the Sahtu there is no regional elders facility. I'm afraid that somewhere with this type of planning, this type of going-forward initiatives, that

the region that's most in need of support for elderly care in their communities would be the Sahtu. I'm hoping that through the discussions with the Dene Nation, other partners and agencies that the Minister has indicated that this emphasis is put on the Sahtu. If you look at other regions, they have regional elders facilities in their regions that would attract certainly members from that community to go there, because that's the place that is needed for them there.

That's one issue I have with this budget going forward, is making sure that the small communities such as I have in the Sahtu are given more emphasis on some of the services that are being taken for granted in other regions; that special care be taken by this Minister and this department.

In terms of program delivery, I look forward to the Minister, through her department, bringing forward some type of new initiatives on how to attract health profession workers in delivering alternative health methods in our communities. Right now we're following one style of health care as the western model of health care. We seem to be locked in it and saying that this is the only way we can administrate, through prevention, treatment of the medical model in the Northwest Territories. I think Mr. Krutko has spoken about this earlier this week about looking at alternative health preventive medicine that should be looked at by this department here. So far I have not heard any type of indication as to the Minister saying we could look at different ways to prevent and treat our clients in the Northwest Territories. So far we're stuck on the western model. They do have a reason. I do appreciate this model, but it's not the only one we need to subscribe to. There must be other ways to look at our health care in terms of prevention, treatment, cures.

I want to ask this Minister if she's willing to take a stand on how to take care of other issues that may seem more beneficial. Right now it seems to be that when we go to our health centres or our health station in Colville Lake, they seem to only administer drugs and pills. I think there are other ways that could be used but are not being supported by the health care in the Northwest Territories. There is a time and place for these medications, but I think sometimes they're the easy way out to let people know that this is the only cure.

I'm thinking that through this process here, I hope that the Minister does bring some new initiatives in terms of how to bring other alternative health medicines into the Northwest Territories health care. That's a big request to ask, but I think that's a start. I think the chiropractors, for example, in the Northwest Territories should be under our health care system. They have lots of great benefits in terms of helping people, but we don't seem to be

supporting that type of method of treatment or prevention.

As Mr. Krutko alluded to earlier in terms of traditional practices in social services or health care, we still don't have enough emphasis put on practicing the communities' traditional healing methods. It's sort of what we preferred or do it on their own.

I know the Minister has made some great progress in the Aboriginal Wellness Program at Stanton Hospital with members of the elders across the Northwest Territories, and I applaud the department for doing that and starting it and setting it up and going forward. But I think it needs to be encouraged with our health boards in terms of having some dedicated dollars to look at methods of prevention or treatment in our health care system. These types of things I look forward to the Minister bringing forward in her budget. I'm not sure if that's something that could be done through this process right now, but I'm looking forward to a discussion with her, through the various committees of this House and through discussions with the health boards, to see if this type of discussion can happen to clear the way for alternative healing and methods for our people in the small communities.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think there are two issues that the Member is raising. One has to do with capital planning and the second thing has to do with aboriginal wellness and traditional practices in delivering health care.

With respect to capital planning, the House made a decision that we will separate the main estimate budget from the capital planning budget, and we will be obviously coming back to the House with a capital plan in the next capital plan business cycle in the September budget session; or October.

With respect to the Sahtu, from what I see, the Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority being new, they're very new but they're very vibrant. They've spent lots of time in the last couple of years building up their human resource capacity. They have done a very good job recruiting and retaining doctors for a size that small. I have met with them a couple of months ago where they have a plan on their human resources and what sort of human resource capacity they want to have in every community, in their region.

Obviously the Sahtu authority is experiencing similar challenges as every other authority. They are trying to live within our economic circumstances. But it is a very well-prepared and capable board. I will undertake to ask the Sahtu authority to give us their capital requirements, including seniors complexes in the Sahtu. I understand that we don't have one. We have a

wellness centre that runs day programming in Deline, but I think we do need to do a long-term plan that would allow Sahtu elders and people who need assistance to live in that area. The region has to decide where and how and what kind of shape that will be.

The second question with respect to the Aboriginal Wellness Program, I could advise the Member that I met with the elders that are overseeing the Aboriginal Wellness Program in Stanton. They are looking at how to bring some of the traditional practices into our health care delivery system. For now they were mostly interested in talking to me about improving food and other services in Stanton, because they really felt for elders and aboriginal people who come to be cared for at the hospital, those are pretty much the basic things that they want to look at. They're doing a lot of work and I've encouraged them and I told them that I am looking forward to what they are working on and what recommendations they will make.

I just want to also lastly add that we do have a pilot project in Fort Simpson. It's the second year of a three-year project. We're spending \$800,000 and it's in partnership with the Dene Nation to look at the aboriginal way of healing and health care delivery system. We are looking to see what we can learn from that and how they can apply to other areas. There are lots of aboriginal governments, especially IRC, who are very successful at obtaining federal funds to do some really interesting work. I just want to assure the Member, who I know is very interested in this area, we worked together in the Standing Committee on Social Programs on this issue and I am still committed to making some difference in that area.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under this section, under program delivery detail, it highlights the chief medical health officer. I just had a question as to credentials going forward. It's not reflective of the current person that was just appointed, but it was brought to my attention recently that to become the NWT chief medical health officer you don't require any other qualification other than being a doctor at present. In comparison, other places across Canada require a master's degree in public health and/or some community health medicine like a post-graduate in community health medicine.

The issue really is moving towards a higher standard of qualifications. Because the present person...I don't know if this person has this or not, but are we moving in that direction? Is the Minister supportive of our present candidate in the chief medical health position? Are they working with that

person to gain those types of qualification? Because being the top doctor of the land is a specialized area and people depend on the leadership in this role. I'd like to hear from the Minister on that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can assure you that the current, newly appointed chief medical health officer is qualified and has the credentials to undertake that position. She is from the Northwest Territories. She is from Aklavik. She is one of the very few aboriginal doctors in the country. She is Gwich'in, I believe.

---Applause

She is committed to working to advocate for healthier living and she is very enthusiastic. She understands, and I understand also, that we need to support her. Dr. Andre Corriveau has been part of this discussion. He has committed to work with us. He has chosen to move to a different area from having practiced here for a long time, but he still loves the North and he's committed to making sure that work continues. We have made sure that there is a good transition process in place so that Dr. Orlaw will continue to be supported. I do support this appointment.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It wasn't coined in any phrase as criticism to the present person and it should not be defined; no one should assume that was the definition of my question in any manner. My question is really more based around the context of are we going to work towards raising the standard. If you look across Canada, whatever terminology they use for the chief medical officers, they use various terminologies, but it comes down to the same types of things. A post-graduate degree in community health or a master's degree in public health are critical elements to that type of position anywhere else.

Of course, this doctor's qualified. That's not the issue. The doctor's qualified by being a doctor. That's right now, as I understand it, what's required in this position. So it's not a question of can they do the job at this time. But I'm just recognizing that other regions, and pretty much virtually all regions across Canada, have a little bit of a higher standard. I'm asking what the department is doing to work with this candidate to obtain these types of credentials, such as more skills in the area of public health or in community medicine. We shouldn't be worrying about how low the bar is. We should always be having targets not just for today, but for tomorrow and down the road; trying to work for bigger and better.

My question is not a criticism. It's a question of are we working towards that type of credential and are we working with the present candidate in this position towards those types of positions.

HON. SANDY LEE: She is qualified to be in this position. She is a practising doctor. She is currently undertaking her master's program. She is three-quarters of the way done in getting her master's in public health. I see this position as somebody who speaks with confidence and expresses energy and enthusiasm to the public about how to take care of their health. When there are some important public concerns, health concerns, that they will speak with authority and give comfort to the people that we have an institution and body that is looking after the public health. I am satisfied that she has what it takes to do this job. Obviously, for any person walking into this kind of position...Dr. Andre Corriveau left huge shoes to fill for anybody stepping into that position. I am committed and the department is committed to support Dr. Orlaw to be successful in this position, but she has all of the qualifications and credentials to begin this appointment. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman, again, it is not about is this candidate qualified. I think that goes without saying. She is a doctor and one of the requirements to be in this position is to be a doctor. That is not the issue whatsoever. The issue is moving forward on the credentials of this type of position to ensure that whoever gets this position going forward has a master's degree in public health. I am elated to hear that, I think the Minister said that she is three-quarters of the way through her master's degree in public health. That is great. That is well and good. That also speaks to what would be considered regular or normal credentials throughout the rest of Canada in this type of position. Community health medicine is another area that is considered to be an equal in the context. I am only talking about the actual position, not the person whatsoever. I certainly don't mean to imply, if anyone is trying to read between my words, that it is anything else. It is not. It is strictly about the type of position and are we moving towards demanding more out of this position going forward in the future. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I would appreciate it if we would stick to the discussion about the position rather than bringing in a particular incumbent. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think I really have any more to add. There is no lowering of standards in any way. I think I have answered the question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. I am not positive if you answered the question that was posed but, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Neither am I. So I will try this way. Going forward in the future, is there any chance the Department of Health will look at re-evaluating the NWT chief medical officer position in requiring that part of their responsibilities to get qualified for this type of position is they need to have a background in public health, which would be a master's degree in public health or a post-graduate degree in community health medicine? Is that something that the Minister could look at going forward in this position? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: My understanding is that that is not a requirement. It is a requirement...There are various backgrounds, education and practical experience that one could bring to this position. I don't know what else to say. We have somebody who is qualified to do this job. We will support her to be a success. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. I think that was a clear no. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: The issue I am raising here is across Canada. The credentials I have noted are considered a typical standard for this type of position. We do not require, at this time, that standard, although this is a recognizable standard throughout Canada and, again, in that type of position. I am wondering if the Minister sees that as something worth noting in going forward that, in the NWT chief medical officer type of position, they should require that type of thing other than just be a regular doctor. Believe me, doctors are not regular when I say it that way. Could the Minister look at that perspective and in a comparable way to the rest of positions that are filled throughout Canada? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I think that question has been asked several times, but I will give the Minister one more chance to answer it. Hopefully we can move on. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I understand what the Member is asking. Will the public health medical officer be required to have a master's in public health or community health? What I am saying is that is not required. Doctor Corriveau didn't have a master's, for example. I don't want to talk about individuals, but what I am saying is this position is a certain position. We need to hire somebody who could do the job. We have hired somebody who could do the job -- I think that is the important part -- and somebody who has the credentials required. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. I understand that to mean the department is not going to reassess the qualifications required for this job and try and align it with other jurisdictions. You are happy with what you have now. Thank you. We will be moving on. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you for that. Mr. Chairman, for myself, I am going to come at it from an opposite angle. I think in most cases we have some great programs out there, but I think in the case of the Mental Health Alcohol and Drug Program we had great plans for that program. Now we are going to see mental health and alcohol and drug workers in all the communities, that they are going to be able to take over what the NGOs were providing before when they were government employees. We went through the whole thing of reclassifying these positions, bringing them under the government employment list where they see government benefits and bring in their salary levels with similar type positions. In the case of those positions, we also set up a system where they had to have a certain type of degree, in which most of the individuals that were providing the programs in our communities, alcohol and drug workers, who worked there for 20 or 25 years, basically provided the service, which most of them were alcohol and drug centres and whatnot in the past. The problem I see is that we have two classes of constituents where we have urban type of medical services -- Yellowknife, Inuvik, Fort Smith and Hay River -- but then you have the rural challenges that we are facing where we cannot find people to go into those communities with those types of qualifications. I talk about program delivery support services and systems. I think you have to come to the reality that the systems that we have, it doesn't work for all, that you have to allow for some programs to be devaluated so that we can look at the qualifications and classifications for those particular positions. Because, from my view, regardless if you have someone who may not, who totally qualifies as a mental health worker who does not have a master's degree in psychology or whatnot, does not mean that the people can deal with the issues of mental health in communities.

Most of our mental health issues in our communities are related to the grief and despair that a lot of people in our communities live with in regards to the loss of loved ones, the violence, the abuse that most people have faced in regards to residential school. I think that those types of issues have to be dealt with in regard to more family healing, trying to calm, versus an individual. I think this program that we have in our communities...The same thing with the nursing programs and whatnot that we have by way of our communities. We have people trained in Yellowknife. They go back to their communities. They say, sorry, we will train you and

get you certified in the Northwest Territories, but you are not really a nurse. You are just a bottom nurse, but you can't work in your home communities because of that classification of the training that individuals take.

In regard to these types of situations, I know I raised the issue yesterday and here again today in the House regarding the mental health position in Fort McPherson, but we are also having challenges in Tsiigehtchic and some of the other smaller communities to track the nurses and whatnot in those communities. I would like to ask the Minister, are you considering looking at a re-evaluation or reassessment of the delivery system that we have to have people...I don't want to say declassify them or under classify them, but find a system that works for small communities that we may not need the type of mental health positions you may have in the larger centres which maybe can get along with someone who basically has more of a healing background versus social and psychological background. I would like to know if that is something that you can consider looking at in light of the challenges we are facing in our small communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I would like to just bring up the fact that some of these things come...Really, we have specific headings like community programs that would be more appropriate for this. I will let the Minister respond, but please keep that in mind. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do agree with the Member in that we need to build some flexibility so that we have communities who have more say and control over how we deliver our Mental Health and Addictions Program. We spend about \$7 million a year providing these services and I want to state that there is room there for those with master's and specialized training in a more formal setting, but we should not have a situation where we do not have flexibility to build in other types of healing and counselling programs that communities are desperately asking for.

I am committed to revisiting our Mental Health and Addictions Program and see what changes could be built in. I don't think that is in any way saying that we are somehow downgrading standards. I think that is a very dangerous situation. Job descriptions and qualifications are written by some people with certain perspectives. One perspective is not always right. We need to be able to bring in all kinds of educational background, practical experience, underground experience, understanding of what the communities are, what the people's needs are, and we need to have them all working together so these problems are not one way either.

I am really interested and excited about the possibility of revisiting our Mental Health and Addictions Program. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, I will be blunt. The health care system in the Northwest Territories has taken a major shift. The shift of health care in the Northwest Territories is now becoming a large urban, regional-based health care by way of dementia centres, care facilities, hospitals. You name it, they have it. But when it comes to the small communities who basically are striving just to get the basics, there is no consideration for those small communities. You give us all the excuses in the world why you can't deliver health care in small communities, but yet you can find the money to build dementia centres, build \$1.5 million there ongoing and yet you can't even find a nurse for a small community. For me, that is a total cop-out by way of the government, who basically administers health care service for a few in light of the program services for people that basically are just trying to ask for the basics. Yet you don't give us the basics because you are saying, sorry, recruitment or retention, we can't find people to go into your communities because all the nurses, doctors and people that are specialized in those areas want to stay in those larger urban centres.

This problem was not a problem a number of years ago where we were part of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. After division, this problem is definitely out there. Because we continue to put a lot of capital investment into those larger centres, it is taking away those dollars that could have been spent to improve on the recruitment and retention and providing the health care systems, the long-term care facilities and those types of facilities for our communities so that those people don't have to leave our communities for health services and that they can be diagnosed and administered at the local health care clinic or local nursing station. The way the system is being set up, all we are doing is referring people from our communities to a larger centre and then to southern Canada because that is where the facilities are. Because we made that shift, it is now about time the government took a 130-degree turn here and look at the community challenges we face and deal with those issues separately from the issues in regard to running these larger facilities.

Are there any plans in regard to reviewing the care, the facilities we have in the Northwest Territories and also not give me the argument, sorry, Tsiigehtchic only has 170 people, we are not going to put two nurses in there because somebody in Inuvik is afraid you might have to leave the community. I would like to know what the Minister is going to do to restructure that system. So now you are delivering services to 33 communities, not five or six.

HON. SANDY LEE: I think it is important to note that there are lots of small communities in the Territories with nurses and other professionals who work in those, especially in terms of mental health and addictions. Out of \$7 million we spend, we have 80 people working in the system and only about a quarter of them are required to have formal education. Now, I know we have particular situations in Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic that have been really long and outstanding. Beaufort-Delta Authority has less flexibility than other authorities to accommodate some of the requests that I have been trying to get through. The Member has been getting through, so we need to work through that.

I have said about at least 10 times I think in the last week, or maybe more times in the many sessions before this. I have said that to the Member in private and in public. I am committed to looking at the mental health addictions delivery system as well as our community capacity in small communities. I have told the Member and I am saying again that the way to do it is revisit the ISDM model, because the ISDM model specifies specifically that if you have a certain number of people in your certain community, this is the staffing you get. I am saying I am going to revisit that. We need to come up with the ISDM-plus, where we don't just look at population, but we look at unique situations of communities. We are looking at Wrigley and Tsiigehtchic particularly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. Moving on, we have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The primary delivery support is very key in terms of my questions to the Minister in terms of the Colville Lake health stage in terms of the service that they receive. I want to ask the Minister, in working with the Sahtu Regional Health Authority in terms of improving the health delivery programs in Colville Lake through the community, I know there were issues there with the health centre in terms of the training. There is some progress in terms of training our two workers there in terms of the delivery of aspirins to higher degrees of pills, but it still needs more support.

Also with the social services with the community itself in terms of long-term care planning and helping with the elders in that community. In terms of the program delivery support in Colville Lake, is the department working with the health boards in providing them with the adequate support and funding to move the status of the health station into a health centre in Colville Lake? For a number of years since I have been an MLA, it has been an ongoing issue in Colville Lake. Their mental wellness worker comes from Fort Good Hope. A couple of other services come from Norman Wells

into Colville Lake. I have talked to the workers. God bless their hearts who work in Colville Lake, in terms of the inadequate facility there. They can only do so much and they are certainly in need for upgrading that facility. This is where it is truly key, Mr. Chairman, in terms of what the Minister's response is to me. How do we start defusing some of the questions that I have been questioning the Minister on in terms of the equality of certain standards of our health stations, health centres in the Northwest Territories? This issue must be one that will be coming up over and over again. I will ask the Minister, what is she going to say here that would give some level of comfort to the people of Colville Lake?

HON. SANDY LEE: I think we are talking about two things here, the programming at the Colville Lake health station as well as perhaps the physical infrastructure there. I have to say I am not aware of...I haven't looked at this issue lately. I know that the Member raised this a couple of times, I think, last summer. I am willing to look at what we have in Colville Lake again in terms of infrastructure and the programming there.

I have to say that I am committed to the ISDM model as well as mental health and addictions programming. I do agree, and I am telling the Member for Sahtu also that I am committed to reviewing that. I have to say, though, that we are not going to be able to have everything in every community in all of the Territories. Just the way that there are lots of programs that we are delivering and in Yellowknife that we need to visit and see if we could continue to deliver those services or is it better that we get some services from other jurisdictions. We need to look at the entire system and the Minister's action plan is looking at that. We need to make sure that there's no duplication in our service delivery.

I am committed to strengthening services that we provide in small communities but it would be misleading for me to say that Colville Lake will have the same services as Yellowknife, for example. I think we do need to make sure that we raise the bar for the smaller communities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: I thank the Minister for her answers. Certainly the people of Colville Lake have certainly heard it loud and clear that they are not to expect the same type of services like they have in Yellowknife. That's a fair given, but they do deserve quality health care in their community by properly training those hard workers who work at the health station. That at least, in this day and age, in that health station there should be some proper

facilities, supplies, materials. That has been noted and our health board should be supported.

Colville Lake still operates on a slop-pail system in this day and age. Why isn't something done in terms of that type of facility? That's where I get very passionate, Mr. Chair, of the equality of some of our health centres. When I start seeing the number of dollars, and the Minister is correct, that there is time for some infrastructure discussions at different times, but that's been noted in our small communities that some of our infrastructure has not had the attention as to other issues here that we see in the books that infrastructure has been committed to. Members have noted that around the table, so I don't want to get into that, but that's what people in Colville Lake are looking forward to and our health board is looking to fight for.

That's where it's very important in terms of the program delivery. I know the Minister is going to consider this. She has given me some very good answers in terms of the questions I've raised with her in terms of a new regional wellness centre in the Sahtu. She's told me and I've said that's fair enough. I want to register at this time here some of the wishes and needs in the Sahtu, but specifically some of the programs we have in the community. I'm very encouraged to hear the Minister talk about reviewing some of the programs that are already on the books that would fit our community. Mainly our population in the small communities, a high number of culturally aboriginal people, except the community of Norman Wells where there are lots of Imperial Oil workers and other government workers. Even that centre of Norman Wells is busting at the seams in terms of programs. I just want to register with the Minister that I think it's very important that we start making some changes and having some serious discussions so that we can see that we'll make a difference. I talk for a lot of the small communities, Colville Lake.

We should start looking at some of the quality of the programs being delivered in other centres. I'm not going to go into that any further, Mr. Chairman. I think she knows well things don't change and these type of discussions will happen again in the future. I think we should look at these small communities like Colville Lake that do not have centres or even health stations. We should really think about those community members. If we don't say anything, no one's going to speak for them. That's where I feel passion for the elders and for people who have suffered, who've been misdiagnosed either for the eyes or any kind of health sickness. We should really look at that and say we've got to do something more. There are lots of communities who are in that field, so I think we need to pay attention to those communities and bring up that standard of health care through program delivery as in this budget here.

I know the infrastructure plan would happen later on. I want to register that. I go back and live with those issues and I live with my people and I know what it's like day in and day out. We certainly would like to have some services in our regions. Especially in those communities that don't even have a health centre, they have health stations. We need to, again, remind the Minister of the priorities of the people. She's got to do a balancing act and sometimes the balancing aspect for us in our communities do not see it as being very fair. That's what I get very passionate about, about this issue here. Mr. Chair, I think I want to leave it at that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. We are straying rather widely and soundly into the health services program very specifically. Again, I'll ask Members to look ahead and see where their questions would be most appropriate so we don't duplicate ourselves and use up a lot of time needlessly. We've got a job to do here. Minister's remarks?

HON. SANDY LEE: I've listened carefully to the Member. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. We're on page 8-17, program delivery support, operations expenditure summary, \$32.264 million. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: In regard to the permanent care division, I'd like to talk about the Joe Greenland Centre in regard to the care facility. It is a level 3, level 4 facility and under long-term care plan of our communities. I think that this government has to realize that we do have an aging population and we would like to have a program in our communities where these people can remain in the communities, remain in their regions and not have to leave their home communities, their families and whatnot. I'd like to ask the Minister what plans there are in regard to either replacing the Joe Greenland Centre or basically enhancing that program so that we can continue to develop it. You mentioned yesterday that it is an aging facility in regard to long-term care. I'd like to make sure that that facility is going to continue to remain in the community of Aklavik and that it does provide employment for the residents of Aklavik who live in that community. I'd like to know what the status is on that and exactly what the plans are for that facility.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I see that comes up, actually, under health services, specifically under elders' care. I wonder if you'd be happy bringing it up at that time. That's coming up fairly shortly here. Just so we can flip the page here. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, I asked a question to the Minister and I'd like an answer.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Very well, Mr. Krutko. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: The Member has asked these questions a number of times and I have stated, and will state again, that I agree with the Member that the Joe Greenland Centre needs to be replaced. It is very old. It can't be fixed to develop or deliver a program that it should. I believe there should be an assisted living facility in Aklavik for seniors and I will work to put that into the capital planning process. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, under the program delivery details, there's \$12 million for health authorities. I've raised this before in regard to the amount of supplementaries that have been spent in the authorities, especially in the Beaufort-Delta and the Stanton Health Authority. I added up the amount of supplementary expenditures over and above this budget amount and the budget for health authorities. They've spent something like \$21 million in the Inuvik health board just on supplementary appropriation over and above their already expenditures. Realizing that this is what has been happening, and with \$12.4 million under this budget item, what is this department doing to ensure that we have accountability, transparency, and we don't allow this practice to continue to go forever and a day? It's been going on for six years and nothing seems to be done about it.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority had experienced deficits over the years and we've had to put cash into that. This year, so far, their projected deficit is about \$700,000. They had undertaken a...Sorry; they're projecting a deficit of \$91,000 at the end of the year. They have hired a new finance person with an auditing and financial background which they did not have before, so I think there is additional capacity there. We have had to support them in hospital services; hospital services, doctors' services. Those are costs beyond the control of either Stanton or Beaufort-Delta so I believe that we are making good progress there.

Another thing that the government has undertaken in the last fiscal year is that FMB has asked all of the health authorities to submit variance reports every three months, which was never done before. I don't know if that has helped, but I like to think that it has. I think when you have to report your variance reports every three months, everybody has to be diligent, and I believe that they have been. It's a constant, ongoing challenge but we are making progress. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the Beaufort-Delta leaders meeting last week, I thought the Minister of Finance made reference that there

was a \$6 million deficit that's been run at the Inuvik health board. I'd like clarification. On the one hand you're saying it's \$91,000, but I heard the Minister of Finance mention at the Beaufort leaders meeting it was \$6 million. So what is it?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I think the Member is talking about something that's going to come to the House outside of this budget.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, can the Minister refer the question to the Minister of Finance in regard to what was meant by the \$6 million deficit. If you're saying it's only \$91,000 in the budget but yet there's something coming forward, can I get clarification from that or refer the question to the Minister of Finance?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I'm going to rule that out of order as that's not part of this departmental budget estimate. It's outside of this. We'll move on. Any further questions? Page 8-17. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I noted that under the capital item in regard to health care administration services, in regard to the community health centres, out of that budget item, we are paying for health centres. I'll use Tsiigehtchic, for instance, where I actually have a physical building on the ground, we're heating it, we're basically paying to keep the lights on, but yet we don't have nurses in it. I'd like to know exactly how many centres are we paying for that are presently not being utilized in light of not having nurses there. We had the situation in Tsiigehtchic in regard to the health centre there where we had an incident where an individual couldn't get to the health centre and no one had the keys to the health centre, yet there was a possibility that could have assisted in that individual saving their life. Because of that situation, the community is very upset. You have a health centre there and you've got money budgeted for it, but nothing is being done to fill those health centres and make them functional. We're spending money on it, so why aren't we utilizing those facilities by having people there?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Once again, I'll note the major heading under health services program entitled NWT health centres. But I will allow the Minister to respond. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The facility in Tsiigehtchic is used. It's not staffed by a nurse, as we know, but we have a community health rep there; we have a homecare support worker who works in and out of there, and I don't know who else but we do do work in that facility. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. Moving ahead. We're on program delivery support, page 8-17, operations expenditure summary, \$32.264 million. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Page 8-18. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. In the opening remarks for the Department of Health, the Minister talked about how immunization is recognized as one of the most cost-effective public health interventions and then went further to talk about the human papilloma virus, or HPV. She indicated that the federal government has provided a \$388,000 vaccine trust to the NWT. In the budget on this page in the main estimates for 2009-10, it shows \$373,000 now. I've had a lot of constituents talk to me about this, the HPV. Some are quite happy about it, some are confused by it and some are actually opposed to it. I'm curious, in moving forward with this...I believe -- and correct me if I'm wrong -- that it's going to be delivered in the schools. It's not mandatory by any stretch of the imagination. It's going to be optional; parents will be able to choose whether their daughters will actually get this. Can we just get that confirmed for the record?

Also, the \$388,000 vaccine trust, is that new money or is that money that you guys had to find within your budget? If it's new money, is it part of our federal transfer or is it an additional sum of money that was provided outside of our federal transfers? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For this year, it's completely 100 percent funded by the federal government. This was the last year we had to draw. If we didn't draw we would have missed the opportunity altogether, because the federal government, when they announced it, put in the trust and gave us a deadline. In going forward, because this is going to be a multi-year program, we will have to invest some money into that to continue.

On the question about the consent, yes, the programs are going to be delivered through the schools by our public health professionals. The parents would have to give a consent to it. No one will be required to do it if they don't want to do it. Our staff will be providing the necessary information to help the parents make the right choices. I understand there is no unanimity about the merits of this situation, but at the same time there were parents who were asking for it and the federal

government had provided funding for it. There were some parents who were paying their own money to vaccinate their children and the vaccination is quite expensive. We decided that on balance it was better to have it available, and it's up to the parents whether they want to participate in the program or not. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm happy to hear all that. Moving forward, we've got to find the money. Is there going to be an assessment process prior to making any decisions on moving forward? Whether or not it is adding value to the Territory, should we be finding our own money for it? Is there any chance that we're going to be able to get some additional federal money to carry this forward in the future or are we absolutely going to have to pay for this ourselves? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So far there is no indication that the federal government will invest more money into this. We will be reviewing this and will be coming back in the next budget cycle to ask for the next phase of this, and I'm sure we will have ample opportunity to look at how the program went and where we go from here. Thank you. In principle, by approving this project, we are agreeing to go with this project, but it doesn't say we can't evaluate it as we go through. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister Lee. Anything further on page 8-18, program delivery support, grants and contributions, activity summary? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chairman, the telehealth coordinators in the operation of that service by Health, I want to let the Minister know that it's been very successful. I have witnessed it myself personally. I have seen people who have used it and are not quite sure if it was there. I had asked the Minister how we get the information out to our communities and it's done in their own aboriginal languages, I understand. So I want to say this has been one of the successes of this program, because they had some good feedback from people I know that use this program. I just wanted to let the Minister know this is a good program and I am glad to see it and continue to see it in the Northwest Territories in this fashion here.

Probably like any other program, there is always room for improvement, but I hope to see some type of evaluation in areas that could be expanded in terms of this type of service. I want to say to the Minister and the House I congratulate the people on the other line who have been very patient and understanding in terms of this service to people who I know who have used it.

My one comment I have is through the Arctic Health Research Network. I am very surprised that there are no dollars committed to '09-10, especially with the research that you are developing with aboriginal people in various areas of wellness or services and engage aboriginal people in terms of how they view health or services in the communities. That's what I am making the assumption about. This organization could be one that could help with issues that I have heard from Mr. Krutko in how we start engaging different forms of support for communities using the strengths of our culture and our beliefs in terms of wellness in our communities.

So, Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Minister if there is any type of other areas her department is looking at in her engagement with the federal government in terms of this organization receiving a new mandate or some additional dollars that would take on some of the concerns and issues that she's heard over the last couple of days regarding aboriginal health specifically.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With respect to the Arctic Health Research Network, it should be pointed out that this is not the extent, the \$10,000 not being in next year or last year, from 2007-08, should not indicate that they are not getting funding from the government. They have a number of very significant multi-million projects they are working on. They get funded from a number of organizations, government and otherwise; International Polar Year and all kinds of Arctic research work. I could undertake to have them tell us some of the projects they are working on as well as some of the funding sources, if they are willing to share it with us. But it is a very vibrant, active research network and we work closely. In fact, I am meeting with them tomorrow because they want to talk about some other funding ideas. We support them, we partner and we write letters in support of them and they have some really interesting and exciting projects on the way. So this \$10,000 is not part of what they need. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. With regards to the professional development, recruitment and retention, \$1.6 million, I noticed that the amounts have gone down over the years, yet we still have recruitment challenges especially in our smaller communities. I know for a fact -- I'll use Tsiigehtchic again -- there was a nurse there for three months. I know the nurse is willing to stay in the community longer, but she requested an extension of her stay but in regards to recruitment,

the HR system we are working with now working with Human Resources, that because she didn't get an answer, basically she was offered another position in the Yukon and she took the position in the Yukon. I would just like to know with the amount of money we are spending in this area and now working with HR, you'd think if anything you would be able to speed up or bring down some of those barriers where people are waiting to be recruited, but because we waited so long we lose them to other jurisdictions. I would just like to know what improvements are there by way of the \$1.6 million being expended in this area and the amount of challenges we are still facing by recruiting for small communities.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is year two of the reductions that the Department of Health and Social Services has to undertake, along with all the other departments, as part of some of their reduction measures. In total, for two years we spent about \$7.5 million in this area. We are proposing to reduce it by \$1.5 million. Still there will be funding available to do a number of training programs that are available to our nurses especially: Advance Nursing Mentoring Program, Community Health Nurse Development Program, Graduate Nurse Placement Program, Professional Development Initiatives, Southern Education Bursary, Nurse Practitioner Leave Bursary and others. So these programs will still be active. It's reduced somewhat and my understanding at the time when we were talking about these reductions are that these programs are not always fully subscribed. So we just are reducing it by about 20 percent. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: I noticed on the previous page, there's \$6.394 million. Yet on this page, you've got...Where is the remaining \$4 million for that program?

HON. SANDY LEE: The \$1.631 million is the contribution we make to the authorities. The rest of the money is administered through Human Resources. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: In regard to the situation I raised earlier in Tsiigehtchic where you had a person identified who was there for three months wanting to extend her stay but because she didn't get anything back from the department...What are we doing to speed up or improve the process in providing contract services to nurses that want to extend their stay or find ways to recruit people to communities where we're having challenges and finding those people who are willing to sign long-term contracts, instead of having to go through every time you want a referral, you have to go

through a process of getting hired or it has to be reviewed by a committee. So what are you doing to improve that in small communities?

HON. SANDY LEE: The challenge we've had with Tsiigehtchic is that in order to have a permanent nurse there, we have to have two because the union requirements and other employment practice rules require that you can't have one person working in one station because that person will never get any break, and it's expected that person will probably get a call at night and such. So we would require about a \$500,000 investment to have a permanent nurse in Tsiigehtchic. I am continually talking with Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority to see a way to do this. It is more difficult for the Beaufort-Delta to do this than other authorities. They have been experiencing more financial difficulties, but I have had this discussion again with the Gwich'in leaders, and the accommodation in housing seems to be one of the issues, as well, to bring two people into there. So it's an ongoing work and it's an ongoing challenge and I am committed to see what we can do to make that happen. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Again, I mean, it sounds like another roadblock that the community of Tsiigehtchic has to fill. Now you want two nurses in there. If we can get half a nurse and see a doctor twice a month, we'll be happy. We have locums where we are paying \$850 a day to get them into different communities or even here in Yellowknife at Stanton Hospital. Yet, you can't get nurses into communities. To me, I think there is something wrong with that picture. So I would like to know how many locums are still being used in recruitment and retention and yet we can't fill these positions in communities.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I could commit to the Member that we can work on having a nurse in Tsiigehtchic at least half of the year. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Which half?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Is that really a serious question? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Chairman, I have a question with regard to the explanation of the primary community services, primary care, grants and contributions. It states that some of this \$522,000 is for Rick Hansen 'Man in Motion'. My understanding is that's not really a territorial organization or...Yes, organization, I guess; foundation I think it is as well. So why is it that we are providing funding to an organization such as Man in Motion? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think the Rick Hansen Foundation is a national organization and he was here I think last spring, I believe, and met with the Premier and lots of Members who were here. It's one that I think the Council of Persons with Disabilities and others who appreciate his work and his foundation's work have asked for funding. Out of the \$522,000 listed there, we are providing \$183,000 to the NWT Seniors' Society; \$212,000 to the Council of Persons with Disabilities; \$62,000 to CNIB; and \$20,000 to the Rick Hansen Foundation. The rest, \$45,000, goes into smaller pockets. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thank you for the explanation. Can I get some explanation of what this \$20,000 for the Man in Motion Rick Hansen Foundation is going to be used for? Again, I have difficulties that we are funding a national organization. There are all kinds of national organizations who do things in the Territories, but it's not my understanding that we fund them. I am wondering why the funding is going directly to this national organization and is not being flowed through a territorial organization, say the Council of Persons with Disabilities. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: My information is that the money goes to the foundation but projects are on the ground in the NWT, but we don't have any more information than that. So I will undertake to get back to the Member as to exactly how we are spending that money and to confirm that it's being spent here. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that and for the commitment. I guess I would just state that I have a difficulty with the philosophy of this particular grant. I certainly appreciate that territorial residents are probably going to get the benefit of this money, but the optics of this particular grant and contribution is really troubling me. It leads me to consider that...I believe we have way too many grants and contributions in many areas of the budget; this is just one example. I think the department should consider if we are going to be making grants, that they are only made to grants that are a territorial organization. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I agree with that principle and I will undertake to do that.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I'd like to rephrase my six-month question to the Minister. It's good you are saying it's going to be half a year, but six months...Right now, the community is isolated between breakup and freeze-up and there are certain times of the year when they are isolated totally from being able to drive out

of that community. In most cases, we have a nurse there between October and December and then you'll have a nurse back there in April, May, June during breakup and freeze-up. So is that the six months you are talking about that is presently in place or are you talking about two weeks in and two weeks off? When is the six months that you said they were going to have nurses in Tsiigehtchic?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, the Member knows he and I had many, many discussions on how to address this issue. I do want to address this issue, but this is the first time I have heard the Member say maybe we could do six months. That's the kind of flexibility that I've never...I am just saying I heard the Member wanting to consider all options, because so far my conversations have been that either we have two nurses stationed there or no other option. I am just saying to the Member that I will look at...It would be doable for me to see how we can enhance services there including what the Minister of Justice suggested in enhancing policing services in Tsiigehtchic, because it would be so much easier for us and doable for us to enhance nursing services in Tsiigehtchic if we could have somebody, we could create another PY in McPherson and have them travel more often to Tsiigehtchic. Maybe it could be two weeks in, two weeks out or maybe it could be three days out of five days a week. I just want the Member to agree to have all options, because it seems to be so much more difficult to have two nurses' positions in a community of Tsiigehtchic. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: That's exactly the problem we are having is we can't...We can talk about the issue but it doesn't really seem to solve the problem with the community where they have a health centre, you have different care services. We are hoping to improve on the policing side. The six-month thing is...The ideal thing is to have full operating health services through the health centre in Tsiigehtchic. Again, you mentioned the six months thing. For the community it's better than what they are receiving right now. It's important that we do have a recruitment and retention system that allows for those communities. If they can find somebody who is willing to stay in the community for a long period of time and even if it has to be the chartered community, if they can go out of their way to recruit, retain, identify somebody that they would like to bring in, will the government consider working with those organizations to maintain these people in those communities?

The thing with the health care system is that you have to have people that the clients or residents have faith in and have comfort in to be able to work with them and also familiarize themselves, instead

of having this continual cycle where people come in for two weeks, they go out, another person comes in for two weeks and it doesn't have an effect, especially for a lot of the elderly people in our communities.

I would just like to ask the Minister again, six months is an attempt to get there, but the ideal situation is to have these people recruited and filled for long periods of time where we can have some stability with regard to the nursing services in the smaller communities. Is there a way that we can maybe work with the organizations?

I know that you mentioned that with the Gwich'in Tribal Council with regard to the nursing staff in the communities, the Gwich'in Tribal Council said if you want a house, we'll build you a house. If that's the case, maybe the Gwich'in should run their own health care systems, pull away from the Beaufort-Delta health board, recruit, retain and administer their own health services and take their portion of the money which would probably do a better job than what we're doing now.

For myself, six months is a start, but it's not going to solve the problem. We do have a system in place to recruit people. The whole idea is to ensure that we are able to have that long-term commitment in place where we don't have people there for a short time, they go, someone else comes in. So again, I would like to ask the Minister if we could try for a little bit more than six months, say eight months, which probably could serve the community during those times of the month between October and December and during December break-up and freeze-up. If you have road access during the summer months where you have the ferry system in place, you can do that. So again, I would like to ask if there is any way or get some assurance that...I know you have to put that in writing, but at least I can give something to the community. Give them some comfort that we are trying to find ways that...You were there at the public meeting that I was at and the community is frustrated that this issue has been going on as long as it has. Again I put the blame smack dab on the Beaufort-Delta Divisional Board of Health in regard to the way they treat small communities.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do believe the Member and I see eye to eye on the need to enhance services in Tsiigehtchic. I am encouraged that the Member is willing to consider proposals that would enhance nursing services there. If the Member would let me give proposals that would enhance nursing services in Tsiigehtchic more than what it has now, it may not be where he wants to be at the end of the day, but we have to start somewhere and if the Member is willing to consider those, I am willing to give him a proposal

on how we could enhance nursing coverage in Tsiigehtchic. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Just a question in regard to grants and contributions program delivery support. It says that health and social services authorities and agencies administering...It talks about eligible NWT residents in the Territorial Health Insurance Program. Is that the people with NWT health insurance budget, because there was a question about the number of health care cards that are out there and are we paying for...So is that when we talk about insured services? Are those the individuals with health care cards or people with status cards or Metis Blue Cross cards or does that include those health cards that are floating around everywhere else?

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Again, that comes up on the next page I believe but, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, this is on the grants to our health authorities for administrative support. The health insurance office in Inuvik is actually not part of the regional authorities; it is part of headquarters. They are our regional office. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Krutko, anything further? That's it. I don't have anyone else on the list for this page. We have page 8-18, program delivery support, grants and contributions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): We are into 8-19, program delivery support, grants and contributions, continued.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. Moving to 8-20, program delivery support, active positions, information item.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Agreed. Thank you, committee. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I would just like some information. It talks about community allocations; it talks about regions and area officers, 16 positions. It talks about the Beaufort-Delta, what are those 16 positions in the Beaufort-Delta.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, that is the health insurance office in Inuvik. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Anything further, Mr. Krutko? Moving on. That is page 8-20, program delivery support, active positions. Agreed? Sorry, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just on that issue, are there plans within the department to move some of those positions into other regional authorities such as the Beau-del and to the Sahtu on some of those things that could be managed by the Sahtu Health Board rather than have it up in the Beau-del?

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, Health and Social Services has about -- I am guessing here -- 1,400 employees; 130 of them are at headquarters and 16 are in Inuvik, but the rest of 1,200 are in the regions. So we are a most decentralized government system. Sahtu has, in all of our health care workers and social workers, everybody, they are scattered and working all over the place, but this one is just talking about the headquarters admin staff, but we have staff everywhere in the Territories and there is no plan to move the insurance office from Inuvik to anywhere else, because I think they need to kind of stay together to do their work. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Certainly there are regional offices in different locations. I am just asking the Minister, in terms of plans, in terms of us in the Sahtu establishing a health board and having it up and running and that sometimes I think you have to get the government here...Sometimes it makes sense to move some of these offices into the regional offices, ones that would make a difference in our region. Some will still have that tie to the Inuvik Regional Health Board. I know that because our health centre in Tulita still says Inuvik Regional Health Board. How many years have we had the Sahtu Health Board? I want to ask that question and the Minister has clearly indicated that there are no plans in discussion and maybe another time we could have that discussion. That is the essence of my discussion; seeing if there is something up in Beau-del that could be moved to the Sahtu region in terms of allocation.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. There is no real question, but does Minister Lee want to respond?

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand the Member's question. I think Sahtu authority has big plans for the area and it has plans to grow. I think it is a new authority, but it is a vibrant authority and it has plans to grow. As they move forward I think you will see that Sahtu authority taking on and growing more and more and

it doesn't necessarily come from taking some jobs or positions from Beau-del. They will grow or shrink as a separate authority as the jobs are required to do. I know Sahtu would like to have a lot more positions in their area than they do now and as is the situation with all the other authorities, but I think you will see Sahtu authorities grow in services and persons and capacity every year. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: I just want to thank the Minister for her vision of the Sahtu in terms of our health board and I hope that we start seeing some differences in terms of what the Minister has indicated in terms of the ability to sustain ourselves and grow into a vibrant health board in the future. I am just making a comment here. There are some other questions I have, so I will make a comment that I hope her dream comes true.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya, there is no question. We are on page 8-20, which is an information item. Program delivery support, active positions. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Moving on to page 8-23, activity summary, health services programs. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, under the health services programs and certainly under the centre area specifically, I would like to know of any updates that the Minister can provide regarding the downtown clinic and, of course, the Dementia Centre, finding out where they are on schedule dates of openings and things like that. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Hawkins. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As far as I know and the latest information I have as late as last week is that the Territorial Dementia Centre is on time and on budget. It projects to open in November of 2009 or finish construction in 2009 and start staffing. The downtown consolidated clinic is on time and on budget as well. I think right now they are designing the space for the area and there should be more public announcements on how that is going to look. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thanks for that answer. What does on time mean in the context of when will the downtown clinic open or I should say it this way: when it is scheduled to open? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I believe the tender went out to design the space last fall. They should be doing renovation work this spring and summer. The consolidated clinic is supposed to open in the spring of 2010. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Next on my list is Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, my questions are in regards to the NWT health centres. It talks about the first contact care through the system of health care centres located throughout the Northwest Territories. Again it comes back to the question of a lot of money that we spend on these centres but yet we are not fully recruiting or staffing up these facilities. I would like to ask the Minister, does she know how many of these health centres are not fully functional by way of having nurses and that in those health centres throughout the Northwest Territories?

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, all of our health centres, stations and health cabinets have health and social services staff working in them. In any given time there are vacancies, and not all facilities have doctors or nurses but they all provide some level of service. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: I don't think the Minister got the question. How many of them have functional centres by way of nurses and doctors in those health centres? Tsiigehtchic does not have a nurse in the health centre. You have a health centre, yes, but how many of them have professional people providing health care services in those communities and not just saying that, well, you have the community health nurse. That is different than actually having a nurse or a doctor in that community. We are spending a lot of money in the area of medevacs in our communities. In Tsiigehtchic alone, 151 cases cost \$105,000. Is that because they don't have a nurse that they have to leave the community which is a medical medevac cost? In regards to the community, you have some...

For me, it is just a question of the cost that this government is spending in those different areas. I would like to ask again. I know Wrigley is in the same boat as Tsiigehtchic. Colville Lake is in the same boat, so are the smaller communities that don't have those services, but in here you make the statement that this program is to provide a system of health care centres located throughout the Northwest Territories to be the first contact for those residents. I would like to know how many of them are fully staffed like any other health centre in the Territories and not give us a list of the ones that aren't.

HON. SANDY LEE: The statement is simply saying that our residents come through primary care services as a first contact. The first contact could be with a doctor, a nurse, or hopefully not

with the doctor because you pay them a lot more than other health care professionals. A nurse or a community health rep or whoever is in that front line service.

I understand the Member's question. I don't have a profile of what each health centre or health station or hospital has. I would have to undertake to get that for the Member. Also, Mr. Chairman, I don't think we could say that where there is no nurse, you get more medevacs, because a case can be made that when there is a nurse there are more medevacs too. Sometimes a new nurse going into a small community would rather choose to send people for further diagnoses and treatment than if there was no nurse there. We know of anecdotal situations where that does happen. You get a new doctor into a facility; sometimes they refer more cases. I am simply saying that we can't say that a lack of a nurse or doctor...it is just not a straightforward calculation. But I would be happy to undertake to provide the Member with the human resource staffing we have in each of the facilities. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chairman, the Minister knows from her trip to Tsiigehtchic that without a nurse in the community, there is no service. People are having to physically find their own way to Inuvik to deal with the medical attention. Those people are not even part of this survey. To tell me that, well, because you don't have a nurse in the community means there are less medevacs or less people going to the hospital. If anything, there are more people going to the Inuvik Hospital on their own paying out of their own pocket to get the services they require. You have heard it yourself in the meeting in Tsiigehtchic. Even the former chief told you himself the incident he had where he fell off the roof and basically had to pay his own way down to Inuvik. He was hurt and whatnot, and yet he made his way to the hospital in Inuvik. He called Fort McPherson. Nobody came. He called to see if there was a shuttle. He had to pay his own way to Inuvik by taxi, which was \$300. For you to say that, because you don't have a nurse in the community, that means there are less medevacs. If anything, you'd think that without having services there, you won't have that. With that, I would just like to ask the Minister, just on what you stated, are there actually analyses that state what you said to be true?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, just for the record, I did not say that if there is no nurse, there is less medical travel or medevacs or if there is a nurse there is more. I am saying there is not necessarily a direct correlation.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I understand -- and I don't know how many times I could say this -- the Member's concern about lack of permanent nurses

in Tsiigehtchic. It doesn't mean that Tsiigehtchic is not getting health care service. I understand the Member feels it is inadequate. I am not going to debate that, but Tsiigehtchic does get nursing coverage. They do not have a permanent nurse there. I understand that. But Beaufort-Delta sends a nurse to the community. They get nursing coverage I believe two or three days a week. I understand the Member is saying it is not adequate, but it is not correct to say that Tsiigehtchic does not have health care services because they do have a homecare support worker. They have a community health rep and they do have a visiting nurse. I am not saying that there is no need for more there, but it is not correct to say they don't have a health care service. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. I would just like to remind committee members that comments and questions are supposed to be directed through the Chair. Also, we are here to discuss the main estimates. If we could keep our comments specific to the document and the page that we are working on and keep it focussed on the main estimates, that would be great. Back to Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Can the Minister give us a breakdown in regards to the NWT health centres for \$27.456 million so we could see where those expenditures are made? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: We have only a breakdown for the authorities.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Chair, in regards to the funding that does go to the health authorities, the reason they get the money is to provide permanent care in regards to health care facilities throughout the Northwest Territories. The money that they get is not for their little caddy but it is for communities to run health centres. You should have a breakdown of what they're doing with that money that they get to basically operate and maintain health centres in our communities. Do you have a breakdown of that? If not, maybe get your department to pull that together.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I believe we provided the Member with that last September. I will be happy to provide that again.

Mr. Chairman, we do have health authorities in the Territories and they are block funded. The authorities do have the flexibility on how they move their money around to provide the services. Also, the Member knows, and I'll repeat this again, and the Member knows this from having been here, on their ISDM model, a community of Tsiigehtchic does not necessarily get a nurse. I have said to the Member that as a new Minister I am willing to revisit

that. I've said this I think at least 12 times in the last week. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you for that, Mr. Chair. In regard to your ISDM model, I think that you definitely have to admit that it just does not work for small communities. I think that to make the comment that while health care service is not guaranteed, if anything, all we have to do is provide the service. By providing a service, sending a health nurse in once a month or a mental health worker into the community once a month and a doctor, if you're lucky, once a month, is not health care services. I mean, you pull that off here in Yellowknife, basically you'll have a riot on your hands. Yet, you expect people in small communities to have to put up with that. I would like to ask the Minister how soon will the review be done in regard to the ISDM so that we can allow some flexibility for small communities.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I've written to the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Programs last week asking for a time with the standing committee to have a briefing on the Minister's action plan. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Next on my list is Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chair, I'm wondering if the Stanton Territorial Hospital emergency has bumped up its security. That was raised last year as a concern and I think the long-term is for the primary care clinic, which I think is to be ready a year and a half or so from now, will relieve some of the pressure on the emergency ward. But I'm wondering if, in the meantime, we've bumped up security there to meet the serious concern expressed by both the staff and the community. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand that security measures have been bumped up since some of the incidents that happened last year and the issues were brought to their attention. Part of the renovation takes into consideration the security issues. I believe the renovations are underway; it's not finished yet, but in the interim, security measures have been taken. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Mr. Krutko. I mean, sorry, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Understandable error, Mr. Chair.

---Laughter

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Is there, in fact, a monitoring system in place to document the security instances and make sure we're making progress in that area after the renovations are complete? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do not have that information with me. I will inquire as to whether they do monitor and see if there is any report on that and we will provide it to the Member if there is.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Also on Stanton Territorial Hospital there have been a lot of issues about the food at the hospital and I think we've even heard about it recently. It's been ongoing and I understand...I believe we had a briefing from the Minister and the public administrator and it seemed like, at that time, it was about to be actioned. I'm wondering if we can have an update on where we're at with that. That's again raised by the public constituents and so on who feel that good food is an important element to good health and, certainly, recovery. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, we did have that meeting and the previous public administrator did engage Sodexo Canada to express concerns about the services being rendered there in both their food as well as housekeeping. Sodexo has acknowledged and agreed to work with Stanton to improve the situation. They have changed reporting relationships with Sodexo. They have assigned somebody else to be in touch with Stanton. They have agreed to some of the auditing measures so that there's a lot more frequent reports about what steps they are taking. There were some real clear messages expressed that things had to improve. My reports from Stanton are that things have improved and it will continue to be monitored. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Chair, I'm wondering, as well, about the cleanliness situation at Stanton Territorial Hospital. Another issue that's been raised repeatedly, and again, I believe, was fairly dire when I last talked to the previous public administrator. Can we get an update on that situation as well? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, my information is that Stanton, with the agreement with Sodexo, has implemented a number of auditing tools about...I guess that's what they do to audit the work of the contractor. That includes cleanliness. I understand that in their latest audit, performed in January, that the Stanton authority is saying that their cleanliness has improved and that other areas are improving as

well. I'd be interested in hearing any further reports. From all indications they will continue to ask Sodexo that they keep to the standards. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My final question is with regard to the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority. Are they operating within budget and have they been in recent years? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, Stanton is still...Oh, is it Yellowknife? Are we talking Yellowknife Health and Social Services? They are pretty well. They had balanced their budget or a little bit on surplus. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next on the list I have Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have a number of questions in this area. The first question I have is I'd like to ask the Minister what work, if any, has the department done in the area of the proposed board reform initiative that the government has planned and how that would impact the authorities and the programs and services that the Department of Health carries out for our residents. I'm wondering what work the department has done themselves. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I, as a Minister, even though I'm not a former member of Refocusing Government, I participate in that meeting in that all the Cabinet Ministers are invited to be at all of the Strategic Initiative Committee meetings. The senior management, the deputy ministers of the Department of Health as well as all of the other departments are part of the working group that analyzes, reviews and provides input in this work process. The consultation document that went out is a result of collaboration and group work from all of the DMs and Ministers and officials in the government. The Department of Health and Social Services is involved in working and we worked together on the board reform proposal.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So what I am hearing the Minister say is that the department itself has not done any research analysis, haven't collected any data or done any work that would prepare itself. I am talking about the programs and services specific to health and social services that are going to be impacted one way or another by board reform. The Minister seems to say that the senior level bureaucrats are steering this and I would like to know if the Department of Health and Social Services is a willing participant in the board reform initiative that is currently underway. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, with all due respect, I have to disagree with what the Member said about somehow the department is not involved or senior officials are leading this, or that doesn't make any sense, Mr. Chairman. I thought what I said is that we are...I, as a Cabinet Minister, am part of this group that are reviewing this process. We are doing consultation; we have provided documents for the public to see. I have attended public meetings along with Minister Miltenberger in Fort Simpson. I have met with the Catholic School Board trustees; I have met with the Beaufort-Delta leadership. This is very much an engagement and consultation process. Now, I think from what I heard, I completely reject the Member's question, with all due respect, because the Member is saying that the department is somehow going separate ways or officials are going separate ways. We are completely engaged in this process in terms of providing our input, analyzing the situation, looking at the proposal and working together. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. For question and answer period, if we could get away from the he said, she said, we said, I said, so that we can stick to the matter at hand. Health services program. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My belief is that the department should have its own opinion on board reform. It should be doing some of its own work on board reform and I guess just to put it succinctly for the Minister, does the Minister support the current government's move to go to a regional service delivery model, which would include health and social services, which is her mandate? Does she agree with that move? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I am part of the Cabinet. This is a Cabinet proposal to look at this board reform initiative, as Minister Miltenberger has indicated many times. The final decision has not been made about where we go from here. The milestone date is April 1. The department has done work to see how this will work or what needs to be looked at, how the programs will be delivered, what things to consider. We are part of the process, so I just think that any...I think it is a group exercise as a Cabinet and all of the departments are participating in this exercise to provide our input. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: What I am looking for is a yes or no answer to a question. Does the Minister and her department subscribe to what is currently at play on the board reform initiative? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I as a Minister and the department are actively involved as we work through this process. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Being actively involved and agreeing with something are two completely different things. I am asking the Minister, does she as Minister of Health and Social Services, which provides services to residents across this Territory, agree with the board reform initiative? Yes or no.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I will just rule that question out of order because I think it has already been asked and that we should stick to the topic at hand, health services programs. If you are asking if the health and social services will be affected by that decision, then I can see that question being asked. But again, if you want to rephrase that question and keep away from the personalities of do you agree or disagree, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Perhaps I'll ask the deputy minister if the department agrees with the board reform initiative. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, the question whether the department or the Minister agree or not is the wrong question and it is not a normal practice for the Member to ask questions directly to the officials. I would answer that this is a major initiative on the part of the government. The government is going out to the public with our consultation paper. All of the Ministers involved have been meeting with anyone who wants to meet with us and their leaders, and we are listening to the people about what they have to say about this proposal. I believe that is what the government has to do. Government is listening and there has not been a decision made. I think that the line of question is premature. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. RAMSAY: As it relates to costs associated with the proposed board reform initiative, has the department done any costing in regard to human resource requirements or needs as it pertains to the model that is being suggested by the government? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, the work is being done as necessary as we move through this process. As Minister Miltenberger has indicated, and the Member knows, we are gathering information, the documents are out, we are consulting with the people, we are talking with all of the aboriginal governments and we are doing analysis as required, as we move through this stage. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Just to clarify the question, has the government done analysis to see what the cost implication of that decision is? Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I did not hear an answer. I don't want to ask the

same question again. I am going to have to try to rephrase it.

There definitely is going to be a cost associated to the current authorities and to the department in regard to the human resource component on this board reform initiative. Has the department done any costing or financial analysis on what it is going to cost to go to a regional service delivery model? Have they done any work themselves? I am not talking about Mr. Miltenberger; I am talking about the Department of Health. I am not talking about Cabinet. I am talking about you, Minister. Has your department done any work itself? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I don't think the cost implications necessarily suggest that there will be more cost or, I have to say, I am saying it again, that the Member keeps saying that I am not answering his question, and I am. What I am saying is that the department and the Minister, we are part of the Refocusing Government Committee and we are doing analysis, financial or otherwise, as required at each stage. But we have not gone... We are not at a place where we have to have detailed information, but we are certainly doing analysis as to what this means and in terms of the general picture. We are active participants. We are part of the government. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Next on the list I have Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Chairman, the NWT hospitals under the budget line items, I would like to ask the Minister in terms of the clientele. I know several years ago that the clientele for the hospitals in the Northwest Territories, specifically Stanton, I am not too sure the numbers up in Inuvik, but for Stanton the clientele was at 65 percent of aboriginal patients being in there with 5 percent of programs or services specifically for aboriginal patients. Now, it has been a couple of years.

Now the Member is the Minister of Health, so is that something through her reports that this is improving, the Aboriginal Wellness Program? I know they've talked about the food and I heard it the other day, Mr. Chairman, that you really need to look at the food issue in terms of serving the people from the land and their diet. I want to ask the Minister, will we receive a progress report on some of the specific issues with regard to aboriginal programs and services at the Stanton Hospital? If there is 65 percent – it may have changed now – of patients in the hospital, then surely there should be 65 percent of foods served on aboriginal diets. I guess that's what I am looking at in terms of a progress report from the Minister.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Health, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. That work is being done mostly by the Aboriginal Wellness Program. It took a little bit to get going. In meeting with the elders and the staff involved, I think they were feeling that they had to consider so many things at the same time. I think they are streamlining what they want to work on and I will ask them to...I have already asked them to provide me with a report or some kind of action plan as to what they want to work on first. I would be happy to share that with the Member when I do get them. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: I look forward to sitting down with the Minister and going through some type of report on this program.

Under 8-23, it has medical equipment under \$50,000. I want to ask the Minister if there is any type of discussion or requests from other agencies in terms of defibrillators in small communities that have sport centres where a lot of people play hockey. A lot of people have events that require other team members coming to the communities. There's lots of hockey played in our region here in terms of tournaments. Is there any type of...I could be totally wrong on this discussion with the other departments to look at first responders in incidents that happen in community events. I know two right now in my region that the first responders weren't too sure as to what to do. One had a stroke the next day, when he found out, and one went into convulsions. There are other issues here that need to be looked at. So in terms of planning forward, is the Minister, under this budget line item, will she consider the type of proposal or discussion in terms of having defibrillators, for example, at sporting events, cultural events, with a responder to be available? I know that's a big request, something to think about, but I think it should be given some merit. I am not sure if it's possible or it falls under this budget line item for under \$50,000 for medical equipment. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. SANDY LEE: I can advise the Member that every community now has defibrillators. That was just finished last year and the good thing about the defibrillators is that they are easy to use. It should be very accessible.

In terms of what each community has in terms of responding to community events or a large gathering of crowds, I don't have detailed information on exactly what the communities have. I would assume that most communities have those. If the Member could provide me with those two communities and information about those two incidents, I would be happy to inquire about that and get back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: I certainly look forward to having some discussions with the Minister outside this House in terms of the particular things I mentioned.

My last question to the Minister in terms of first contact with health centres, I know through some of the issues that we have come up with in the Sahtu and other communities is a first response emergency debriefing team. I know the health authorities are doing their best to have debriefing teams in the region. Certainly we had some support from the department here at headquarters to have some debriefing teams in our region on critical emergency traumatic incidents; however, those are very welcome but they are short lived because they had to go back to the jobs in their communities. Is it possible that through first contact in terms of the budget line items here, that a debriefing team be set up in the Sahtu region with the funding that's required here in the budget for the Sahtu region? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: That is part of the work that we provide under our Health and Social Services...We don't have a specific line item for that, but that's certainly the services we provide and the authorities do do that on an as-needed basis.

We, as a system in the NWT, are pretty good at responding to tragedies or some crises. I am aware that under some circumstances in Sahtu, we have offered to send a crisis management team to come in and the community have turned it down in some situations. I am aware of that. So it's really hard to organize a team ready in that not all circumstances are the same. You need to be able to respond to the specific situation with specific group of people with a specific set of skills and background that are necessary to respond to that incident. That is part of our routine work, so to speak. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: For clarification, the reason why I am asking under this budget line item on the health centres is that when the request is made, and certainly we appreciate it, however, because of the cultural beliefs or whatever, the request is being not taken by our region. That's why we are asking if we could do it within our own region, with our people, in our own way with the support of headquarters certainly. But right now, because of some of the crises, I understand from my region. That's why when they offered, we said it's okay, we need to have someone come in and speak our language with the old people that are affected. There is no disrespect to the department, but I am saying we have to work within our own culture, within our own language, in our own way how we handle these types of situations. Sometimes an outside person is brought in, sometimes they're not too sure how things are going and sometimes we have to teach them also. There is no disrespect to professionals

who are coming in. We are saying that we want to have our own emergency debriefing team from our own communities, members who have been trained in drug and alcohol, family violence, sexual abuse, all these traumatic things that have happened in terms of our people. So that's what I am asking. I am not too sure if the Minister at this time could answer it, but I hope she can work with our health boards in establishing a debriefing team for emergency services that we can rely on ourselves. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I understand that and when I said some of the people in Sahtu rejected or declined the emergency response team, those were teams made up of local people. I am not talking about sending outsiders; I'm talking about sometimes we do need to respect communities the way they want to deal with some situations. All I'm saying to the Member is that we have, as a regular practice that we do when there are crises, emergencies, we do try to provide services in any way we can, and, of course, you have to listen to what the local people are asking for. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Next on the list is Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report no progress. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Can I have clarification of that? Was that progress or...Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I move we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I will now rise and report progress.

I'd like to thank the witnesses. With that, Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses out.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 11-16(3), NWT Main Estimates 2009-2010, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

---Carried

Item 23, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, Item 24, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Monday, February 16, 2009, 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. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to the Budget Address (Day 7 of 7)
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy
- Tabled Document 11-16(3), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2009-2010
- Committee Report 2-16(3), Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on Matters Referred to the Committee
- Committee Report 3-16(3), Report on the Use of Laptop Computers and Blackberry Devices in the Legislative Assembly
- Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Historical Resources Act
- Bill 3, International Interest in Mobile Aircraft Equipment Act
- Bill 4, Public Library Act
- Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act
- Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act

22. Report of Committee of the Whole

23. Third Reading of Bills

24. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, February 16, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:04 p.m.