



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	3181
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	3181
79-16(3) - Northerners Working Together (B. McLeod)	3181
80-16(3) - Environment and Natural Resources Highlights (Miltenberger).....	3182
81-16(3) - Corrections Northern Recruitment Training Program Graduation (Lafferty)	3183
82-16(3) - Government of the Northwest Territories Employability Working Group (B. McLeod).....	3184
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	3185
Summer Student Employment Program (Groenewegen).....	3185
Reconstruction of Highway No. 6 (Beaulieu)	3185
Above-Ground Swimming Pool in Wrigley (Menicoche).....	3186
Medical Treatment for Constituent (Ramsay)	3186
Support for Northern Air Carriers (Jacobson)	3186
Carbon Credit Programs that Support the North (Hawkins).....	3187
Folk on the Rocks Music Festival (Abernethy).....	3187
RFP Process and Guidelines (Bisaro)	3188
Northerners Working Together (Bromley)	3188
Respect for Sahtu Land Claim Agreement (Yakeleya)	3189
Effects of Climate Change on Community of Tsiigehtchic (Krutko).....	3189
Achievement of Wolfpack Bantam Hockey Team (B. McLeod).....	3190
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	3190
ORAL QUESTIONS	3192, 3202
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	3212
PETITIONS	3212
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	3212
NOTICES OF MOTION	3212
22-16(3) - Student Financial Assistance Scholarship Program (Bromley)	3212
23-16(3) - Referral to On-line Petitions Issue to the Rules and Procedures Committee (Hawkins)	3213
24-16(3) - Income Exemption for Newly Employed Housing Tenants (Yakeleya).....	3213
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	3213
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	3218

ORDERS OF THE DAY3218

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Tuesday, June 2, 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 1:37 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the House. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 79-16(3):
NORTHERNERS WORKING TOGETHER**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, following up on the Premier's sessional statement, the 16th Legislative Assembly has a vision that is characterized by the title Northerners Working Together. As legislators, we have stated that our goal, in part, is a vibrant and flourishing economy that will mean more choices for our people and more opportunities for our businesses.

Supporting the growth of the Northwest Territories economy is work that, in large part, falls on the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. This includes supporting the groundwork of that environment in which to advance resource and economic development and maximize opportunities for Northwest Territories residents.

Thanks to investment in our diamond industry and oil and gas potential, we have experienced an unprecedented level of economic growth and with it extraordinary opportunities for people and our businesses. In particular, through the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Office, we are supporting the government participation and the development of the Mackenzie Gas Project.

The socio-economic agreements that we have negotiated for the Mackenzie Gas Project, like those negotiated with each of the operating diamond mines, will ensure employment, training, procurement and value-added opportunities for Northwest Territories residents and aboriginal corporations.

To date, our socio-economic agreements have resulted in significant contributions to the evolution and growth of our Territory's business sector and are supporting the formation and joint partner

ventures that allow residents to be full participants in our region's economic activity.

We continue to solicit industry investment in the Northwest Territories and while we are working to establish the development climate of clarity, consistency and certainty required to attract exploration and investment, we are also working to protect and sustain the economic capacity that we have built. We want to preserve and maintain the potential that exists in our people, our businesses and our communities.

Last fall we introduced a new Support for Entrepreneurs for Economic Development, or SEED, Policy. It is a policy that focuses on the needs of our clients, works more effectively with banks and other partners and incorporates a streamlined and simple approach. We have increased our investment in this policy to a total of \$3.2 million this year, just one part of the \$23.5 million that will be directed to Northerners and northern businesses and organizations as grants and contributions in support of our economic agenda.

The Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation and our Community Futures organizations are also resources that we have funded to ensure the availability of capital for businesses here. Of course we cannot have a healthy business community without people. People empower our businesses and provide the market for goods and services that will create more businesses. We are continuing to invest in ways to attract and retain people to our Territory.

The collaborative approach that we have initiated with our Territory's diamond mines is one framework that has been put in place to develop the skills and capacities of Northwest Territories residents to meet the needs of our industry and attract even more new residents to the Northwest Territories.

We will also take advantage of opportunities presented by the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Vancouver next year to promote Canada's North and specifically the Northwest Territories. These initiatives and our Northern Marketing Campaign will ensure the message gets out that the Northwest Territories is a great place to visit, live, work, and invest.

Meanwhile, we are working to balance our government's efforts to promote sustainable opportunities in the energy, mines, and petroleum resource sectors with initiatives to diversify the economy through tourism, agriculture, commercial fishing, the traditional economy, manufacturing, and secondary industries. In the long run, promoting a diversified economy will provide for greater future stability in all kinds of economic cycles. To this end we are working to develop initiatives and approaches that add value to our business products and services and broaden the knowledge, skills and creativity of our residents.

More than any other investment, tourism holds the potential to advance and develop a myriad of jobs, business opportunities, and benefits in just about every corner of our Territory. Our programs and initiatives are helping industry operators invest in new products and market opportunities. We're enhancing and improving our system of NWT parks and information facilities, investing in the production of traditional arts and fine crafts, branding and promoting the products and creations of our artisan community, and seeking out unique and innovative ways to market the NWT as a tourism destination of choice, one that is in demand by international travelers, Canadians, and Northerners.

While the Northwest Territories' natural beauty is a magnet for tourists, it's a renewable resource in another sense too. Northern rivers and lakes have the potential to generate not just clean and reliable energy, but opportunities for partnership with aboriginal and community groups to develop this power and infrastructure that comes with it.

In support of the government's work to reduce the cost of living for Northwest Territories residents, we are working to change the way we produce and consume energy in the Northwest Territories. In the long term, these investments will make a critical difference in the cost of living and sustainability of our smaller communities and will reduce emissions.

We are also conducting a review of the Northwest Territories electricity system. The Electricity Review Team has now heard residents' views on electrical rates, regulation, and subsidy programs. This discussion will help us ensure that the electricity system reflects the values of our residents while providing the most reliable power at the most affordable price.

The team will release a public discussion report on what they heard from communities within the next month. A final report with recommendations from the review team will be released late summer. The Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee, working with all Members through the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, will develop a GNWT Response to Recommendations and Implementation Plan, to be released later this fall.

The Northwest Territories is blessed with a tremendous resource base. The Territory has been endowed with an abundance of natural mineral and petroleum resources, and at the same time its natural beauty is unparalleled. These are the Northwest Territories competitive advantages. As we work to advance the vision and goals of the 16th Assembly, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment is working to advance these attributes to maximize opportunities for our residents and reduce the cost of living in our Territory.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 80-16(3): ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES HIGHLIGHTS

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, as part of the 16th Legislative Assembly's vision and priorities, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is responsible for ensuring our environment will sustain present and future generations. The Government of the Northwest Territories has outlined a number of strategic initiatives to ensure residents of the NWT can continue to enjoy a prosperous and sustainable environment. The environment is of great importance to the people of the Northwest Territories. While residents are fortunate to have clean air and water and productive forest, land, and wildlife, pressures exist that must be monitored and mitigated. Climate change, for example, is a growing concern that can significantly disrupt our environment and affect the ability of Northerners to lead healthy and productive lives. Increased human activities, changes to the world economy, and increasing pressures on NWT resources are also affecting the NWT environment.

ENR continues to work with partners on protecting territorial waters. Through continued discussion with communities and aboriginal organizations, a draft NWT Water Management Strategy is being developed to define a comprehensive, collaborative approach for the NWT. Recognizing that land and water cannot be separated, ENR has created a land and water unit to integrate our effort in land use planning, protected areas, and water stewardship.

ENR continues to support residents, businesses, and communities to reduce energy consumption and implement alternative energy solutions. Conservation programs, direct consumer rebates, and enhanced support for the Arctic Energy Alliance has made the NWT one of the most progressive jurisdictions in Canada in this area. Our Energy Efficiency Incentive Program, for example, provided a total of 763 rebate cheques, creating

\$551,000 in energy savings and 1,800 tonnes of CO₂ reductions.

We are also taking action to develop wind energy resources in the NWT. Plans are underway to have four wind turbines installed and operational in Tuktoyaktuk by the summer of 2011. Twenty percent of Tuktoyaktuk's annual electricity needs could be met with a four-turbine configuration. The project will save 88,000 litres of diesel per year and will result in a reduction of 247 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions during each year of operation. Monitoring in Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok, and Sachs Harbour show that these communities are good candidates for subsequent wind turbine installations.

A Biomass Strategy will be prepared to guide increased use of biomass energy in the Northwest Territories. The strategy will, amongst other things, discuss the efficient use of firewood and wood pellets to heat homes and businesses. Over the summer months ENR will also investigate options around creating wood pellets and chips right here in the Northwest Territories, further reducing our reliance on imported oil.

ENR is preparing a draft NWT climate change adaptation paper to be released this summer. The adaptation plan proposes new actions to support communities and regions in their efforts to address problems caused by climate change. Consultation with communities and regions will be a key component of this plan.

ENR continues to work with its management partners to manage wildlife populations. An NWT Bison Management Strategy was completed and consultations with residents, aboriginal governments, and interested parties are underway. A revised NWT Action Plan for Boreal Caribou is complete and being sent to co-management boards for approval.

ENR also worked closely with land claim organizations and wildlife co-management boards to draft the Species at Risk legislation using a collaborative drafting process. The new Wildlife Act will be developed using the same collaborative working group process.

To better inform users and to help ensure the environment remains sustainable, the department has developed the first ever State of the Environment Report. This initiative will help keep residents and decision-makers informed on the state of our environment, biodiversity, and natural resources in our Territory. Later this afternoon I will be tabling a copy of the highlights of this document from this report.

Finally, the department is continuing to expand its waste reduction and recovery programs. A Paper Products Diversion Initiative has been initiated to

investigate and develop creative solutions for diverting paper products from community landfills.

In March 2009, a public awareness campaign was launched to encourage voluntary reduction of single use retail bags and, Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that the Beverage Container Program launched in 2005 has diverted almost 82 million beverage containers from our community landfills.

These initiatives and others undertaken by ENR help move us towards our mutually agreed upon goals of protecting our water using alternative energy sources, mitigating the impacts of climate change and ensuring the long-term sustainability of our environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 81-16(3):
CORRECTIONS NORTHERN RECRUITMENT
TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATION

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Speaker, I am very proud to announce the first graduation for our new Corrections Northern Recruitment Training Program. The event will be held on June 5th, at 2:00 p.m., at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre auditorium, and I invite all Members of the Legislative Assembly to attend.

This six-week program provides the basic skills Northerners need to be eligible for entry level jobs in our correctional facilities in Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Inuvik. It is a big part of our long-term Northern Recruitment Plan. We want to provide more opportunities to northern residents and encourage them to consider careers in our justice system. This maximizes opportunities and strengthens the role of communities in prevention and enforcement, especially in dealing with chronic offenders.

In total, 12 aboriginal and long-term residents of our Territory will graduate from the program. They have more than just basic knowledge of how to work in corrections; they truly understand what it's like to work in NWT communities. They're uniquely qualified to support the reintegration of our offenders back into their communities. This recruitment program ideally positions these Northerners for employment within the correctional service. We are immediately proceeding with staffing actions to fill existing vacant positions for corrections officers and youth officers. All graduates are eligible and certainly encouraged to apply. Successful candidates will be hired into jobs that will help with projects like the elder wilderness camp near Fort Good Hope, programs for girls at risk in Inuvik, our full-time adult male camp near Fort Smith, and our special Reintegration Program in the South Mackenzie region.

Mr. Speaker, this is an example of our department taking innovative steps to ensure our workforce reflects the people and communities we serve. We're strengthening awareness of our northern identity and uniqueness, and we're building partnerships with community leaders. I often meet with community leaders who have great ideas about how to improve reintegration services and want to see more local people working in our corrections system.

This program will continue to assist us in finding interested, qualified northern staff. Our recruitment approach is accessible, relevant and enhances our existing programming. It's truly made in the North for Northerners, and I look forward to meeting the new graduates at the ceremony. Please join me in congratulating them on their achievements. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 82-16(3):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES EMPLOYABILITY
WORKING GROUP

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to increasing the representation of people with disabilities in the public service.

The Government of the Northwest Territories Affirmative Action Policy identifies disabled persons as a target group eligible for affirmative action preference. The Standing Committee on Government Operations and Members of this Assembly have also welcomed the Department of Human Resources' plans to increase the participation of disabled persons within the Government of the Northwest Territories workforce.

With this in mind, The Department of Human Resources wants to improve our ability to recruit and retain individuals with disabilities. In order to achieve this goal, the department created the Government of the Northwest Territories Employability Working Group in July 2008. There are nine members of this group, composed of Human Resources staff members.

Since its inception, the working group has identified short and long-term priorities based on consultation with stakeholders and has undertaken a number of initiatives.

The working group facilitated the visit of a member from the Yukon's workplace diversity office to Yellowknife in March 2009. The purpose was to explore models from other jurisdictions. Discussions began with the Yukon territorial government. Mr. Jon Breen, manager of the

Yukon's diversity employment office, met with the working group to discuss the Yukon model.

Mr. Breen also delivered sensitivity training workshops to the Department of Human Resources staff and senior management. Disability related issues with recruitment, accommodations and co-worker acceptance were covered in these workshops. As a result, the working group is currently exploring the possibility of further sensitivity training for Government of Northwest Territories staff.

The working group has already developed partnerships with various stakeholders and has met with the following groups:

- The Northwest Territories Council of Persons with Disabilities;
- Yellowknife Association for Community Living;
- Canadian Mental Health Association (Northwest Territories Branch);
- Hard of Hearing Association;
- Taicho Employment Program, part of the Northwest Territories Council of Persons with Disabilities.

Mr. Speaker, the working group also has a designated representative participating on the Disability Steering Committee Partnership. To move things ahead for the Government of Northwest Territories, the working group is examining a number of next steps including setting similar goals to those of the Yukon, and the gathering of baseline data. Sensitivity training and awareness have also been identified as priorities. Longer-term priorities include the development of a recruitment strategy and developing our partnerships further in order to ensure appropriate supports are available for employees with disabilities. Partnerships with non-government organizations will be the key to moving this initiative forward.

The Government of the Northwest Territories Employability Working Group is also considering the establishment of a new Northwest Territories Advisory Committee on Disabilities with territorial representatives to explore avenues aimed at increasing the representation of employees in the public service who have disabilities. Members of the committee would be appointed by the deputy minister of Human Resources, upon recommendation of the Deputy Minister Human Resources Committee.

The Northwest Territories Advisory Committee on Disabilities would provide advice and make recommendations to the Deputy Minister Human Resources Committee on initiatives that will enhance employment for persons with disabilities within the Government of the Northwest Territories public service. It would work to strengthen relationships with government, non-government

and unions in the areas of human resources management and employment.

Finally, the soon to be released human resources document "20/20: A Brilliant North - The NWT Public Service Strategic Plan for the Northwest Territories" will be recommending the creation of a diversity position in the Department of Human Resources which will provide support to the advisory committee.

Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is an inclusive workplace and it is open for business, and I would like to thank the Members for their ongoing support of this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Colleagues, before I proceed further on the orders of the day I would like to draw your attention to the public gallery and the presence of a former Member of the House, former Minister, former Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent, is in the House.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my colleague Ms. Bisaro yesterday, rose in the House to talk about our Summer Student Employment Program. Mr. Speaker, I think this is an extremely important undertaking of this government to provide opportunities for our students to come back to the Northwest Territories to work for the summer. We talk about our wonderful Student Financial Assistance Program and, yes, that is there, but, Mr. Speaker, if they can supplement the cost of their higher education by working for this government during the summer, it is very important.

Mr. Speaker, I was surprised the other day to open a local newspaper and see an advertisement from the Government of Saskatchewan recruiting students in a northern newspaper to come and work for the Government of Saskatchewan. Obviously, they know that there must be some merit in introducing students from other jurisdictions to their province, and they're probably thinking ahead, and thinking that if they came there to work for the summer and quite liked the place, they might stand a chance of attracting them back at some future time in their life after their education is completed.

Mr. Speaker, I think that any students that we can give jobs to for the summer is very good value for money. We get the work done by these young,

energetic employees; we support them in the pursuit of their higher education goals; they develop connections and relationships in the workplace environment that may lead to future employment prospects for them; and we realize some return of service for SFA investment and earlier education investment.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that every returning student who is an indigenous Northerner should be treated as a priority hire by this government.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will have questions for the Minister of Human Resources about the hiring policy and I hope, as well, Ms. Bisaro's questions yesterday about the potential for students being hired on the basis of family connections is something that's going to be looked into, because I don't want our government to do anything that could potentially discourage our students from feeling like this is their home. This is where they will belong and they will be treated fairly by this government when seeking employment. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAY NO. 6

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to talk about the road between Fort Resolution and Pine Point. The monies are in the foreseeable future but we don't know exactly where we are going to be going, so I would like to address the Minister on that issue. The Minister of Transportation is putting infrastructure dollars into the reconstruction of Highway No. 6.

Mr. Speaker, the allocation of capital is sufficient to complete about 50 percent of the highway between what used to be Pine Point and Fort Resolution to the chipseal stage. The department is completing work in the most dangerous part of the highway again. I consider that to be an appropriate response by the government.

Mr. Speaker, my contention is the government must complete the reconstruction of Highway No. 6 to 100 percent. The government must put additional money into the infrastructure plan at this coming budget year in order to complete the highway 100 percent. The community of Fort Resolution has in the past very little infrastructure from the government and there is very little infrastructure money in the capital plan for the next five years. More infrastructure money would finish the highway 100 percent, making the people of Fort Resolution feel like the government is concerned about their safety and their cost.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very unstable highway, especially at night and during bad weather. In addition, vehicles take a real pounding on that

highway and vehicles don't last as long as they would driving on other highways compared to this highway making it necessary to replace vehicles long before their due time.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will have questions for the Minister of Transportation on Highway No. 6. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ABOVE-GROUND SWIMMING POOL
IN WRIGLEY

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to speak to you about a concern of my constituents from Wrigley. As you know, Wrigley is situated on the Mackenzie River below the entrance of the Wrigley River. The Mackenzie is very swift flowing. For safety reasons, parents can't let their children swim in the river and it is also too far a distance from the community to be monitored. Wrigley needs an above-ground swimming pool. The GNWT recognizes the importance of sports and recreation and the lack of activities for youth especially in our smaller communities.

Recreational facilities such as an above-ground swimming pool can improve the overall health of the community. Everyone in the community can enjoy the swimming pool for swimming lessons, competitions and/or leisure. Wrigley does not have the ability to finance a pool with their capital formula dollars as there are more pressing needs in the community.

The GNWT has programs for building above-ground pools in small communities that goes back 30 years, Mr. Speaker. Just recently, Tulita received a pool from such a program. I urge the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to consider providing Wrigley with an above-ground pool. This will greatly support a more active and healthy lifestyle for youth and residents of the community. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR CONSTITUENT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to discuss a very sad situation that has come to light about the length of time it has taken for a woman to receive appropriate medical care. The trouble began in December of last year where this individual was experiencing severe migraine headaches. Initially her family doctor thought it was her blood pressure that was the issue. However, she ended up in the emergency ward at Stanton on two separate occasions with severe head pain, where emergency room doctors told her that she

needed to receive a CAT scan as soon as possible. A new family doctor was found, medication prescribed and a CAT scan booked in Edmonton. The CAT scan in Edmonton revealed a brain tumour that obviously needed to be surgically removed. If not removed quickly, that tumour potentially could cause complete blindness.

Diagnosis of a brain tumour and a prospect of blindness and brain surgery, as you can imagine, Mr. Speaker, is a very difficult situation for anyone to be put under. The emotional, physical and mental toll it takes on a person is severe. Not only does the individual live with the suffering, her family and loved ones live with watching their mother and wife suffer every day. It has a devastating impact on the family unit.

Mr. Speaker, as if this situation was not bad enough, the woman was scheduled to go to Edmonton on May 21st to have surgery to remove the tumour. Her daughter took unpaid leave to escort her. Her husband took time away from his business at his own expense to be by her side. Another CAT scan was done on the 21st and surgery was to happen on the 22nd after the CAT scan. She was advised that the hospital in Edmonton had nothing in their computer regarding surgery. She was told it had been postponed until June.

Mr. Speaker, I find it hard to believe that we would subject a woman with a brain tumour, and her family, to the unfathomable position of preparing and being in Edmonton for surgery that doesn't happen. How is it possible that this can even happen, Mr. Speaker? Why does it take upwards of five months from the discovery of the tumour to have it removed? This should never ever have been allowed to happen, especially to an individual who is already in a fragile emotional, physical and mental state.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SUPPORT FOR NORTHERN AIR CARRIERS

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently in the North there is seen an introduction of yet another airline carrier from the south flying into Yellowknife. Many people call this the milk run, but considering how this impacts the northern part of the Territory, I hardly call it that.

The air carriers with two northern presidents serve more communities than only Yellowknife. They serve the entire North and they do it northern style, Mr. Speaker. I recognize that this government balance competition and services all over the North,

but when the two northern air carriers face increasing competition with southern-based carriers, services to the entire North are affected.

This government, at the minimum, must monitor and enforce the directives they already have in place so all the government employee and funded organizations use northern-based air carriers. Subcontractors are often excluded from these policies, creating loopholes allowing millions of dollars to leave the North. Subcontractors all over the North working on GNWT projects are using southern-based air carriers to bring in their workers.

Secondly, this government must review the policies and procedures or projects they have in place and/or developing; for example, various upgrades to the airline transportation industry. It has not been requested by northern-based air carriers and will allow a result of increased seasonal competition.

Lastly, the government must strengthen and support programs such as the BIP, demonstrating support through actions, not just words, to air carriers who are truly committed to the North. Carriers who employ Northerners who contribute to the northern economy and the flights beyond the northern air carrier's destinations should incorporate northern air carriers as much as possible. What adds insult to injury is the northern carriers have stuck by the North through lean times and we are asked to give some of their already limited space at the airports. Even though these matters are a federal responsibility, the government could take additional steps to work with other governments and agencies to impose conditions on the air carriers in the Territory.

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

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CARBON CREDIT PROGRAMS THAT SUPPORT THE NORTH

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As many people know, in this era of global warming and an increased personal responsibility for the environment, many people are now purchasing carbon offset credits to offset their personal lifestyle activities that create greenhouse gas emissions. These people in their own way want to be carbon neutral. For example, when a person travels on a jet, the use of the fuel generates carbon-based emissions. A person can neutralize or offset these emissions by purchasing credits through a specially designated or regulated agency. This agency allocates the purchased funds to support renewable and energy efficient programs. As an example, these funds support the establishment of wind

farms in India and Madagascar and micro-hydro plants in Indonesia. The goal in purchasing offsets is to prevent the equal amount of greenhouse gas emissions from entering the atmosphere. The agency sponsors projects which contribute positively to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

These projects are evidently closely monitored. The most carefully scrutinized offsetting projects with the highest standards are called gold standard. People can access credits, Mr. Speaker, through the Arctic Energy Alliance and they can use their portal called the Carbon Neutral North. This will allow a person to direct their contribution to developing countries on specific projects.

The only concern I have and the concern that many others have is supporting global projects that are not within our country of Canada. Mr. Speaker, this is a concern of many. I think that when people want to make an environmentally conscious effort to reduce their carbon footprint on their own, we should be encouraging them to purchase carbon offset credits that go to projects here in the North.

There is nothing stopping this government from creating a program that could do such a thing here in the North. If anything, we would become more attractive for those trying to do their part to put their efforts and money behind northern activities and support local projects when we talk about things like hydro development in the North.

It is time for us to move forward in developing a gold standard northern project here for a reality for our citizens to contribute to. I would like to know from the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources as to what he can do on this initiative to create such a leadership role on this project in Canada.

It is only our imagination that's stopping us from following through on this. We can lead Canada by creating a gold standard project here in the North that people can contribute to help offset carbon emissions.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FOLK ON THE ROCKS MUSIC FESTIVAL

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the week of July 19th to 21st Folk on the Rocks will be hosting their annual summer music festival. This year's theme: Endless Summer.

For 29 years Folk on the Rocks has been bringing music to the shores of Long Lake. The festival is one of the NWT's premier musical events and is known as a culturally diverse event which includes a 50-50 split between northern and southern performers.

The festival has also supported northern performers and has been a great opportunity for these northern performers to play alongside and collaborate with established southern performers. This exposure is incredibly valuable for the northern performers and helps them enhance their current skills.

Folk on the Rocks should be very proud of their contribution to the northern music scene. They've made a real difference to the lives of many northern performers. This year the line-up is spectacular, both from a northern and southern point of view. Some of the northern artists participating in Folk on the Rocks this year include: the Behchoko Youth Drummers; Dana Sipos, who recently released her debut album; Digawolf, who has recently been recording his third album in follow up to his wildly popular Forest Fire album; Giant Con, a new band on the Yellowknife scene with a fan base growing daily; Godson, the NWT's premier rapper; and the master of bass and chapman stick, and a storyteller of the highest quality, Mr. Pat Braden.

These northern artists will have an opportunity to collaborate with a number of highly accomplished performers from outside of the Northwest Territories. These include, but are not limited to: the multi-talented Royal Wood; Kobo Town, who are a traditional calypso band; Swank, a punk and rock and roll band; country artist Dennis Allen; Dragon Fli Empire; Forest City Lovers; Kaiva; Old Man Luedecke, who I actually think is quite awesome; Red Power Squad; T. Nile, and, lastly, the multi-Juno award winner Sam Roberts. It's going to be a great show and I encourage everybody in Yellowknife to attend over the weekend, come out and enjoy the performances. You won't be disappointed.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RFP PROCESS AND GUIDELINES

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to highlight some concerns about the GNWT process in regards to requests for proposals, or RFPs. Recently an RFP was let for the design-build of the multi-use facility and records centre in Inuvik. This RFP was scheduled to close late afternoon on Friday, March 20th, but less than 24 hours prior to that deadline the project proponents were advised of a two-week extension. It is an action that hardly seems fair. By that time any well-prepared applicants would have been close to finishing their proposal, would have already invested much time and money in that effort.

The government's own documents and communications to me about RFPs admit that it is unusual to issue an addendum or a change to an RFP within five days prior to closing date. Also in response to my enquiries about this particular

extension, the government states, and I have to agree, that the extension was done within allowable parameters.

Yes, there are no guidelines and policies to prevent such an extension from taking place. The department has the right to do this. It's not prohibited by regulation or policy. But I question this gap or lack of policy. There should be guidelines in place; guidelines which are communicated to all RFP proponents in advance, to provide fairness and full transparency to our RFP process.

After checking into Public Works and Services RFP documents, I can find no reference to extensions of an RFP deadline or any stated reasons for such an extension.

We need to make the RFP process as clear and open as possible for everyone. RFP documents need to include information on possible extensions, to include the policies and guidelines that relate to the why and the when of any changes. This process needs to be kept unbiased and neutral. We need to make sure that all parties know the rules of the guidelines up front, at the start of any process. Any special arrangements that must be made should be made at the start of the project, not once the project is underway.

In conclusion, a reconsideration of the RFP process and our current practice in regards to changes to RFPs is needed and I will have questions for the Minister of Public Works and Services later on.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERNERS WORKING TOGETHER

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Premier explained how he has involved himself in closed door discussions on our future constitutional development with an exclusive gathering of people mysteriously funded. I'd like to offer my view towards involving all the people of the NWT in an open, inclusive, public, and transparent process to develop new and effective governance for all the people of the NWT.

First, the process has to be carried out not at a remote wilderness retreat, but across the NWT in a way that values public participation. There should be special efforts to involve the diverse peoples of the NWT with the involvement of youth and elders. I don't think there were any representatives of aboriginal governments at the table at Blachford Lake. It is essential that the effort be based upon recognition of the special status and rights of aboriginal peoples of the NWT.

I believe the people who gathered at Blachford Lake were almost entirely men; just as too many of our forums are. Our democratic process must consider and recognize the value of gender balance

and how the promotion of equal participation by women and men can be promoted in our future government structures.

The vision of a politically, socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable future must guide our formation of new government. The NWT is still a largely natural area where its residents have an unparalleled opportunity to develop and implement ecologically sustainable communities with the opportunity for every citizen to strive for their full potential. We must focus on identifying a path that we can follow together, recognizing and accommodating our individual and cultural uniqueness, but subscribing to a group effort toward common goals.

Finally, new discussions to further our political maturity must recognize and draw on the previous work done by the Western Constitutional Forum, the Bourque Commission, and similar bodies. A lot of time, money, and good faith of people who participated in previous processes have already gone into this work. Let's begin by recognizing the value and teachings in this work and use this as a basis to bring our people together for fruitful discussions. Echoing Minister McLeod: Let's get Northerners working together.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
RESPECT FOR SAHTU
LAND CLAIM AGREEMENT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement came into effect in June of 1994. Although in many ways my constituents celebrate this major achievement, we still have reasons to be angry.

We celebrate the fact that much of the land in the area is clearly owned in law by the Dene and the Metis. We celebrate the fact that ours is the first land claim in Canadian history where two aboriginal peoples, the Dene and the Metis, came together in one land claim.

However, we get angry about how the Government of Canada and industry don't get it. They don't understand our rights. Maybe they just don't care. They just don't understand that we are the landowners. They need to respect our rights, plain and simple.

Our people have successfully claimed legal ownership to a lot of the land in the Sahtu Settlement Area and our rights cannot be ignored. Yet, too often when industry and the federal government undertake activities on our land, they ignore their duty to consult. They need to consult with our people and the Sahtu leadership on what they are planning to do and they need to give our

people the time to understand the impact of the activities. This is the Law of Canada, as several recent decisions in the Supreme Court of Canada have said.

I have suggested that in addition to the duty to consult, there is an obligation to consult. This is a demonstration to respect. It shows respect for our people. It recognizes that we exist. It also acknowledges that we have rights. This moral obligation to consult extends to all the lands of the Sahtu region, whether they are on Sahtu settlement area lands or not.

We can only trust the federal government if they demonstrate respect for the Sahtu people as historical landowners. We were on this land long before the Government of Canada came into being, long before any oil and gas companies. Encana did some work on our land this past winter where our rights were ignored. We were not consulted. The federal government seemed to think that no consultation was necessary because the activities were allowed under an old permit, four years old. The leaders of the Sahtu say that this is no way of thinking. If you want to access our right, show us respect and we will understand.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON
COMMUNITY OF TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk about the effects of climate change and the effects on our communities; especially the community of Tsiigehtchic, who have seen, over the last couple of years, some major erosion by way of ground movement. The church in Tsiigehtchic, which is usually a poster of the community, and more importantly the threat to its local gravesite. Now the residents of Tsiigehtchic are stating that their homes are now being threatened by movement of the ground. Tsiigehtchic sits on a hill and now we are seeing the ground starting to move. Also a lot of the construction of our houses were built on permafrost.

With the global warming and the effects that we're seeing by way of erosion and ground movement is a direct implication of climate change. I noted the Minister of Environment in his highlights stated that there is a draft NWT Climate Change Adaption Plan they are hoping to release in the near future to address problems concerning climate change. It's too late. It's already here. We're already seeing the effects in our communities. We are seeing the effects on our highways. More importantly, our communities are now being threatened.

In an in-depth report which was done on the impacts of climate change, the estimate is \$400 million in regards to the effects it will have on the public infrastructure throughout the Northwest Territories, Yukon, and Nunavut. I think as a government we have to realize that we are already seeing the effects, especially in the community of Tsiigehtchic where people are now asking the Housing Corporation for assistance to possibly move their homes away from the banks, away from where the areas are being eroded, but, more importantly, to deliver programs and services within this government which can assist people when this threat is occurring.

I think it's important that government not only looks at putting out a plan, but make clear changes to the programs and services that we do deliver such as the program which was delivered a number of years ago because of the threats of public infrastructure in Inuvik in regard to pilings. I think we have to start looking at those type of programs and services regarding programs delivered by the department, Housing Corporation, or other programs and services to combat this problem, which is real, which is affecting communities and residents of the Northwest Territories.

With that I will be asking the Minister of Housing questions on this matter later.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOLFPACK
BANTAM HOCKEY TEAM

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, today I want to share with Members the successes of a young group of talented athletes: the Yellowknife Bantam Wolfpack hockey team.

---Applause

These young 13 and 14-year-old athletes have accomplished some very significant results for sport in the North, results that we should all be proud of. During this past season the team captured an amazing six tournament titles and in doing so, they captured two consecutive Alberta tournaments during the Christmas break. They won the Northern Bantam AA Challenge hosted by Whitehorse and the A Team Lloydminster Invitational Tournament.

Locally these boys also won the midget tournament, playing against athletes up to four years older than themselves, and they finished second in the men's Easter tournament, and along the way defeated the honourable Premier's team. I am sure Premier Roland can confirm to the speed and skills of these boys.

The determination of this team to be the best and play the best was displayed when the team hosted

the Arctic Showdown, which included top teams from Saskatchewan, Alberta, and British Columbia. In this tournament the team went undefeated in the round robin and defeated Canada's number one and most historical hockey school, Notre Dame.

---Applause

Unfortunately, the team lost to the Hounds in the most exciting final game. Last week the team competed in a major California tournament. Parents of the opposing San Diego team were so impressed they sent along compliments. I'd like to read an excerpt from one of the compliments received.

"I have watched my son play many teams over the past seven years. Some very classy and some not very classy teams. However, the Yellowknife team was the classiest team I have ever seen. They had class on and off the ice. Their kindness was refreshing and heart-warming."

The Wolfpack team has an amazing record of nearly 50 wins and only three losses in regulation time. However, it is the dedication, team play, and sportsmanship that these young men have brought to the game that I am so proud to share. As one Yellowknife fan was quoted as saying in the local newspaper, "every Bantam Wolfpack player is my hero."

I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The Wolfpack team captured the hearts of many and succeeded through a dedication to improve and a desire to succeed. They have been great ambassadors for the North. Later, at the appropriate time, I will be recognizing many of the members of the Wolfpack team in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It is with great privilege to recognize the corrections grads I spoke of earlier. I'd like to highlight their names, because I think it's important to highlight: Nicole Bonnetrouge, Gregory Bradford, Nora Doig, Ivan Gloden, Michael Henry, Nathan Kogiak, Alan Kopec, Laura McLeod, Kyle Pond, Matthew Simms, Linda Thiel, Steven Underhay, and Gordon Villeneuve. Welcome.

I'd also like to recognize a special guest that's here with us, Ms. Chantal Alarie. She's the national coordinator for the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie. Also, our staff from ECE, Benoit Boutin, senior advisor French language

services. Ms. Alarie is here in YK as part of the planning activity for the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie to be hosted in Yellowknife in June 2010. Looking forward to that.

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

MS. BISARO: It's my honour today to be able to recognize some of the very accomplished Wolfpack team members who happen to be constituents of my riding. I haven't got all the names, so I'm going to recognize the Dent family, the Miller family, and the Nilson family. If I missed anybody, my huge apologies.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I'd like to recognize some members of the Yellowknife Wolfpack hockey team and their parents. I'll start with Tyler Dent, Tye Hand, Keegan Hnatiw, Storm Hubert, Reggie Kaip, Ryan McCauley, Aaron McDonald, Matthew Miller, Kent Nilson, Fraser Oliver, Joss Round, Jacob Schofield, Cody Villebrun, Colby Wallace, their coach Clem Hand, manager Marlene Nielsen, and the parents: Charles Dent, Clem and Shannon Hand, Marlene Hnatiw, Gary Hubert, Bill and Lizette Kaip, Evan McCauley, Ken and Maureen Miller, Marlene Nielsen, Jeff and Coralee Round, Kim Schofield, Lorna Villebrun, Stewart Wallace; all members of the Yellowknife Wolfpack.

I also wanted to recognize Ter Hamer and Julianne Hamer. Ter was one of the original proponents of the Deh Cho Bridge, now living in Peace River.

Also, my Yellowknife South constituent, Matthew Simms.

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

MR. BROMLEY: I'd like to begin by recognizing Chief Edward Sangris of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation.

Also, we've been talking a lot about official languages in the last few days. I'd like to recognize the students from the Language Skills for Newcomers to Canada Program at Aurora College, who have come to the Chamber today with their instructor Lynne Zentner. These students now have permanent residency status in Canada and are working hard to improve their English language skills. They are Hiroko Matsuo, Julieta Baziyan, Melanya Grigoryan-- sorry, Melanya -- Natasha Salodkina, Suchitra Yadev and, finally, Rama Pakhrel.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I'd like to, as well, recognize from the Akaitcho region Chief Ed

Sangris, as well as the president of the NWT Metis Nation, Betty Villeneuve.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Today I'd like to recognize one of my good friends Mr. Ivan Gloden.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I, as well, would like to recognize Betty Villebrun, president of the Northwest Territories Metis Nation; one of the executive board members from Fort Smith, Mr. Ken Hudson; as well as Gord Villeneuve from Fort Smith. Welcome to the Assembly.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Sometimes members in the gallery get many recognitions. I'd like to recognize Mr. Gordie Villeneuve, a long time friend, and congrats on your success with your Corrections course. He's the owner of T.J.'s in Fort Simpson. Welcome to the gallery.

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

MR. RAMSAY: I'd like to, as well, welcome the Wolfpack hockey team that are with us this afternoon. In particular I've got a couple of constituents, Mr. Evan McCauley and Ryan McCauley. Welcome.

Also to the Corrections grads, welcome. I know I've got a constituent up there, Nathan Kogiak. Welcome to Nathan.

As well, it's nice to see Chief Sangris here in the audience as well.

To everybody else, welcome to the Assembly. I don't have any questions for Mr. Dent today. Thank you.

---Laughter

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

MR. YAKELEYA: I'd like to recognize Nicole Bonnetrouge to the family, I mean, member now. I congratulate her on her training course.

Also Nora Doig.

I also recognize two leaders, Chief Sangris and Mrs. Betty Villebrun, and Mr. Hudson, to the Assembly.

And also a former colleague, Mr. Charles Dent.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Recognition of visitors in the gallery. If we've missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the House. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. Always nice to have an audience in here. Item 6,

acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 379-16(3): SAHTU LAND OWNERSHIP

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs in terms of the issues that I talked about earlier with the consultation issue we seem to have with the federal government and industry, especially Encana. I want to ask the Minister if he's willing to meet with Chief Frank Andrew and the other Sahtu leaders in terms of a discussion on this crucial issue in terms of consultation with the federal government.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've committed to meet with aboriginal leaders across the Territories three times per year and then once with the regional leadership and the chiefs of the region. In this case, we are prepared to sit down and have a discussion around consultation. It is also an area of work that we at Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations have been working on.

MR. YAKELEYA: In terms of meeting with the aboriginal leaders, I asked if the Premier, the Minister can commit to meet with Chief Frank Andrew of the Sahtu Tribal Council and some other leaders in the Sahtu to discuss with him some pretty tough, sensitive issues around the federal government's moral obligation to consult with aboriginal owners, especially when they went through a trapper's cabin and they damaged some traps on that line. Would the Premier or Minister commit to meeting with the grand chief to have some discussions on how they can get the federal government to understand the term "consultation"?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: As I had stated, we are prepared to work with Chief Andrew to have that discussion. It would fit well with the work we're trying to do on consultation as well. Yes, we'd be prepared to arrange a suitable time.

MR. YAKELEYA: Can the Minister also look at providing the leadership in terms of this government's definition of what they mean in terms of consultation? I know this is an issue that is quite sensitive. It angers a lot of people in my community in terms of the federal government's attitude in the way they came right onto Sahtu Dene-Metis land without talking to our people. Would the Minister commit to providing some of the GNWT's terms of what they mean in terms of consultation?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Gladly we'd share the work that we have done in that area of consultation. Again, at a mutual time that we can get together

and share the work that we have done. In our position, I think, this is an example that shows how we need to as Northerners gain control over what decisions are made in the North.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the assistance from the Minister. I'd ask if the Premier would, once he meets with the grand chief in the Sahtu, draft a strong letter to Prime Minister Harper regarding the federal government's ignorance and attitude in terms of coming onto Sahtu Dene-Metis land without talking to the trappers, without talking to anybody in Tulita in terms of what they have done in the past winter. Can the Premier show his support to the people in the Sahtu region through this type of letter?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: First we'll need to sit down with the chief and leadership within the Sahtu area and within Tulita. At that point we'll be able to decide what action is the best action to take in a common effort.

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

QUESTION 380-16(3): RETENTION POLICY FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health and Social Services spoke yesterday on the new recruitment and retention website that was launched yesterday at a media briefing. At least half of it was. The practicenorth.ca website was developed, the Minister said, at a cost of \$110,000, contains the most modern on-line marketing features for attracting applicants to our health care positions, however, I don't see the promised other half of the health care staffing equation -- retention -- on the website. Could the Minister tell us the average length of service of a health care professional employed by the GNWT, perhaps by category of professionals, doctors, nurses, technicians, and perhaps compare that to the average for the GNWT as a whole?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That would require some time to compile and collaborate, so I will undertake to get that information for the Member. I could tell the Member, though, that I have attended many long-term service awards ceremonies for Stanton and Yellowknife health authorities anyway, and we have anywhere...We have lots of health care professionals who have made the North their home; 20, even 30 years, of working. So we will have to see what the average is and the highs and lows,

perhaps. I mean, the shortest and longest years of service. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I agree there are some long-serving employees out there and we certainly appreciate them. They bring that experience to the job. But I sort of have the impression, as do others I know, that there's quite a turnover in our health care professionals and retention is a huge part of that equation. It sort of becomes a catch and release program, if you will. You know, we attract them and they stay for a couple of years, advance their careers and on they go.

What is on the website about retention and if it's not there, other than a pin every few years, what is the Minister planning, or what's in place to actually help retain these employees, these valuable employees? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: The information I have is that, on average, our public service has about eight years. Health and Social Services has average service years of about 10 years. Obviously, I need a breakdown of health care professionals. I think the Member is interested in, probably, social workers, nurses and physicians. I've just had a meeting with physicians, who are specialists, who have spent 18, 20 years practicing here. So I think it's really hard to generalize.

I do take the Member's point that this website is supposed to be recruitment and retention, and I will undertake to get the Member more information. I think, in terms of the innovation and the creativity of this idea, it is a good thing that we have launched yesterday. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate those comments from the Minister. I know a lot of people that tell me that every time they go to see a physician -- which may not be frequently, but it might be a couple times a year -- it's a new physician. I'm sure the Minister is familiar with that situation. This is, to me, an opportunity and with that information in hand, I suspect that we could actually develop programs directed towards retaining the categories that need that sort of program. When can we expect that the Minister will focus that attention and start actually retaining some of these highly qualified and great people that we do attract? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: That might be, perhaps, the perception out there, but I think we are lucky to have lots of doctors, nurses and social workers that we have in the North. Mr. Speaker, I know there are challenges in some of our regional centres where we don't have permanent doctors anymore. There are lots of parts of the country where it is really hard to, anymore, have a family doctor. Not everybody can now say that I have a family doctor and he or she has been my family doctor for 10, 20 years. I know some Yellowknifers have that, but that is becoming more and more rare.

I think the way to retain our doctors and nurses is a lot of things beyond having a nice website. A website is one thing, but having a competitive package, creating a very good working environment and making people feel that they are welcome and that they are supported. That is always the short-term, mid-term and long-term strategy in retaining our staff, and I believe we are doing that. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course, I'm just using the Minister's own words, recruitment and retention website, looking for the other 50 percent. I'm sure she will not deny that this has been a continual problem retaining health care workers and we can all point at individuals who have been here for a long time, most of their lives, or almost their entire lives. I guess, with data in hand, we can actually start to answer those questions. I'll look forward to that response. Will the Minister ensure that the other 50 percent of the website gets on there soon and that we start working to retain our workers? Presumably with \$110,000, we have some work done on that already. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I am aware that Stanton Territorial Health Authority, which is one of the biggest, has just completed a Human Resource Management Plan. Minister McLeod is releasing the Human Resource Plan for the entire government and, as the Member knows, many of our health care professionals are employees of the government. I do believe that all of the authorities...and we are working in that area. So I just want to make sure that the Member understands that just because it's not one that we flagged at the website, it doesn't mean that we are not engaged in this recruiting and retaining of our health care professionals on a daily basis and as part of our work every day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 381-16(3):

SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, Mr. Speaker, I talked about the Summer Student Employment Program by the GNWT. I'd like to ask the Minister of Human Resources a few questions about that program. What is the process whereby the government determines the level of engagement or employment they will have available for summer students? Is it driven by departments' requests or is a number set as a goal for the summer? How does that process work? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Generally, the way the process works is early on in the year, usually February or March, we meet with departments to start planning for the summer and we make representations to the departments to identify summer student positions. Generally, our goal is to try to achieve previous years' targets. As I've indicated in the past, our best years were probably about five or six years ago when we hired about 315 summer students. On average, the last few years we've averaged about 282 students on a summer basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, does the Minister know roughly how 282 placements of summer students would compare with the number of summer students who registered looking for employment with the Government of the Northwest Territories?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Last year we had approximately 580 summer students apply. This year I think we're up to about 625 summer students that have applied. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you. Once the students take that opportunity to register their resumes and their interest in summer work with the Government of the Northwest Territories, does the Government of the Northwest Territories make that database or that inventory of people looking, do they make that available to any other employers in the private sector, for example? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: In the past we made it available to the federal government career office. I don't think that's working anymore. We also have programs where we top up or make assistance available to the private sector to hire summer students. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I raise this line of questioning today is in response to some constituents who have raised concerns about fairness and transparency in the hiring process, and Ms. Bisaro mentioned it yesterday too. I mean, I hope that...I mean, people who are, you know, the children of deputy ministers and senior management of the government are entitled to student employment with the GNWT as well; however, if they're working directly for one of their parents, of course, that's something that I think needs looking into.

However, one of the situations that I heard of in Hay River is that when a certain government department went to the summer employment office to get students, the only names that were sent over

to them to choose from were the P1 students. I'd like to ask the Minister if he believes that the Affirmative Action Policy must apply for summer students who are not going to be necessarily forming a long-term representation...I mean, the affirmative action is to have a representative workforce. Does the Minister feel that only P1 students' names should be sent out initially to those departments seeking summer students? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say, we're very concerned about some of the allegations that are being made about practices not being followed in the hiring of summer students. Certainly, it's casting some serious aspersions on our civil service and we don't take these allegations lightly. In the hiring of summer students, our affirmative action policies apply, but historically we've been challenged to hire more than 30 percent affirmative action P1 summer students and the statistics this year bear that out as well. We encourage and we require the Affirmative Action Policy to be applied and when we send out information, we make the whole database available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 382-16(3):
EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE
IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is in regard to the community of Tsiigehtchic and residents' homes being threatened by melting permafrost and, more importantly, land that's starting to move. Because Tsiigehtchic is built on a hill and, apparently, the houses along the edge, along the river, along the bank, are now noticing cracks in the ground and, more importantly, their homes are now shifting where they're seeing a lot of cracks in the walls of their units.

Mr. Speaker, in regard to an individual, Mr. Cardinal, who did have someone from the Housing Corporation investigate and look at his house, said that the recommendation will be to move this individual to another location. I'd like to ask the Minister of Housing exactly what programs are available to people in these types of conditions where we're seeing that the threat by way of climate change and movement of the ground and whatnot of the homes is affecting the structure of that unit. I'd like to ask the Minister: Does he have any programs to assist people in this matter and also what's the status on Mr. Cardinal's request for assistance?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm reluctant to talk about an individual's application in public. We certainly can talk to the Member and the individual that has been flagged as having concern about the circumstances.

As to the second question that he asked as part of this, there are programs within our department, under our housing initiatives, that are targeted towards repairs and it certainly deals with health and safety issues and also deals with structural soundness. Those areas of criteria are part of the consideration and a house in that community would certainly qualify, providing they meet the rest of the criteria.

I would also add that there are other communities with soil erosion, and that's something that subdivisions fall under the municipal government's responsibility and that also has some responsibility through MACA. So we have and will bring this forward to MACA for a look at how they could work with the community. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, again, I'd like to ask the Minister, realizing that this problem is pretty apparent. It's happening. It's in the communities. We're seeing it throughout the Arctic communities. Also, we're seeing it because of the climate that is changing; it's getting warmer. We're seeing more precipitation by rain and it is affecting the foundations in our communities.

I'd like to ask the Minister again: At one point there was a program to enhance the piling program, especially in light of the infrastructure challenges we're seeing in the Inuvik region, but now this is even worse than that because even the units that are on piles are now seeing the ground moving on those units. I'd like to ask the Minister again: Can you consider looking at a program similar to the piling program to assist these people -- the majority of those people have homes that they have received through the Housing Corporation -- to either move their units or find ways of sounding up their units so they are safe and they are secure in regard to these challenges they are facing today at no fault of their own? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe the NWT Housing Corporation was involved in the program for fixing the situation with the piles and the ones that were identified in the Beaufort-Delta for replacement. This is an issue that has been flagged. We do have programs that can address it. The programs we have are application-based and if there are any individuals in the Member's community that would like to apply, we'd

certainly have our regional staff talk to them. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, just to remind the Member, there was such a program in the housing programs that were delivered in the past. You reframe it your program, but the program is still there. I'd just like to ask the Minister: In light of people from the department going into the communities, inspecting houses because of this problem, are you aware of any other houses in the Mackenzie Delta region that are having the same problem?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we did and continue to do a number of repairs on the piles. There are other communities that have challenges in terms of soil erosion. Most of the communities are trying to deal through MACA to rectify the situation and our focus, of course, is our public housing stock. I certainly can talk to the other departments to see if there are any other communities that are facing the seriousness of the challenges that Tsiigehtchic is facing and provide that information to the Member. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to the urgency of this matter, I'd like to ask the Minister if he can move this up so that we could try to resolve it before this summer and, hopefully, get an answer sooner rather than later. I'd like to ask the Minister if he can try to find way of moving on this matter in regard to the residents of Tsiigehtchic and, more importantly, the community of Tsiigehtchic in regard to the threat that they're under. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Housing Corporation is aware of the situation. The Member has raised it. Several individuals in the community have raised it. Some have provided and formally submitted applications. There is some consideration for those applicants and I can certainly share that information in confidence to the Member as things develop. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 383-16(3):
GUIDELINES FOR CHANGES TO RFPS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister for Public Works and Services. I have commented in my Member's statement and suggested that no guidelines exist for request for proposal changes. I'd like to start off with an easy question to the Minister and ask him whether or not he can confirm that my understanding is correct. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a lot of rules around requests for proposals, we have a lot of rules around the tendering process and sole-source contracting, and I would be pleased to provide that to the Member if she would like. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I would thank the Minister for the offer but I don't really need those rules and regulations. I did ask whether or not there are any guidelines in regard to changes. I accept that changes may be necessary at certain times and I guess my question to the Minister is why the documents that go to request for proposal proponents do not contain guidelines or indications that changes may be necessary and what circumstances a change such as an extension of a closing date would be necessary. Why is that not included with the documentation that goes to our RFP proponents? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, at the time of providing the information and the drafters that put the information that we felt necessary for the people that were bidding, it wasn't deemed necessary that we indicate that there is discretion that can be used to extend deadlines. I think, overall, if it makes sense to try to encourage people to meet what we're establishing as a goal to have more people bidding on contracts...We certainly can provide it. It wasn't warranted as something that we felt was necessary at the time. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for the explanation. I do feel, though, that the Minister knows, and I think most proponents know, that changes are often necessary and whether or not an individual project requires an explanation that a change might occur, I think the tender document, the RFP documents, as a matter of course, should include anything, any sort of indication that changes may occur and under what circumstances they should occur. As I stated, I think we have to be clear and we have to be open about our process. We have to be able to have proponents know what is going on.

Many proponents, by the time an extension comes along, have spent considerable time and money on their project. I would like to ask again, to the Minister, what exists in our current documents that will make it clear to proponents that changes may occur and under what circumstances those changes would occur. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe there is a list of circumstances at which the closing dates can be extended. I would have to go back and verify that it is clearly demonstrated that there is an allowance for extending and changing and making addendums to contracts. I would have

to confirm and follow that up with my officials. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister for committing that he is going to go back and look at this. I called for reconsideration of the RFP process and possible changes to the process and a reconsideration of the practices that PWS currently uses for RFPs. I would like to ask whether or not this is something the Minister could commit to. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we certainly can reconsider. We are always looking for ways to improve our process. In this government, we are looking as part of our goals a way to promote and increase our competition on our tenders. Sometimes what makes sense is not really fully incorporated in our contract documents. I would be pleased to take another look at it and reconsider what we provide and how we provide it. Any input from the Member would be appreciated. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 384-16(3):

MEDICAL ISSUES RELATING TO CONSTITUENT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It gets back to my Member's statement where I was discussing an issue that has come up with an individual who was diagnosed with a brain tumour, was awaiting surgery in Edmonton for upwards of four months, was scheduled to go down to Edmonton and receive that surgery last week, got down to Edmonton with her daughter, with her husband, and no surgery.

As you can imagine, the individual is quite upset about how this happened and why it happened. Her new surgery is not scheduled now until sometime next week. The first question I have for the Minister and the Minister has known about this case for some time. I would like to ask the Minister if she actually did any intervention and the fact that it was taking so long to get this individual out for surgery in Edmonton. That is the first question, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can advise the Member, without speaking in details about this situation, that the staff in my office have had a number of conversations with the person in question and the family. I have talked to the patient myself and her family. We have worked hard to help with the process. I share with the Member that

things could have worked out more smoothly than it has been. We don't know the details about where the miscommunication has happened. I have asked the officials to sit down with the patient and the family so the family has a chance to explain about what the process has been so that we can minimize the chances of this sort of misunderstanding happening again. I understand that meeting is happening this afternoon. The lady was given a number of options of different times to meet and this afternoon is the time she chose to meet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I thank the Minister for having her departmental staff meet with this individual and her family. I was at that meeting this afternoon. That is why I was late arriving to the House today. It was a very productive meeting. I think they understand the situation, but it gets back to my earlier question. There was an indication at the length of time it was taking to get this woman out to Edmonton to have surgery on this brain tumour and it was taking a tremendous amount of time. The Minister knew that. The question I had to the Minister was: Did the Minister intervene in that case to ensure that she would have her operation last week on May 22nd, Mr. Speaker, not three weeks later? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I think the Member is well aware, and everybody here, that those appointments are scheduled by the physicians. I actually happened to be at a Rotary Club breakfast two weeks ago and a gentleman came up to me out of nowhere and just coincidentally thanked me for the service he received, because he was diagnosed with a brain tumour in December and all in all it took him six weeks and 19 hours of operation. He couldn't say enough about the service that he received. I think that is really difficult for us here to talk about details of any file. I think it is on a case-by-case basis and the important thing is that I am putting the patient and the family together with health care providers so that they communicate well so that she understands exactly what the procedure is she has to go through and how she can be supported. That is the role I have played. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to say here is: if the Minister intervenes in a file, obviously the department and the health care providers are going to understand and appreciate that the Minister has had some concern regarding that file. When it is scheduled that this woman goes out to Edmonton to have surgery and if she doesn't have surgery, that suggests to me that the Minister didn't intervene in the first place. The question I have for the Minister was whether she intervened in this case. Yes or no. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I have to completely reject that premise and the assumption

that the Member is making. I want to tell the Member -- and he knows and all the members here know -- that when we get calls from the Member and all the general public, we look into every one of those situations and we try to accommodate that as much as possible. If the Member is asking if I did, as a Minister, call Alberta and say get her an appointment, that is not a role of a Minister of a government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not making any assumptions here. I am not suggesting anything. All I am saying is if the Minister had looked into this situation, the woman would have had her surgery on May 22nd as scheduled. They would have had her out to surgery. The Minister would have instructed her staff to get this woman out, to get her the surgery that she needed. She wouldn't have shown up in Edmonton and not had the surgery and had been scheduled for three weeks later. That is what I am saying. Obviously the Minister wasn't in control with this file or the woman would have had surgery when she was scheduled to have surgery. She should have made sure that that had happened, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, as I have indicated, the woman had been in contact with our office. Our staff had been in contact with her and her family. She called us and told us that she was going down to Edmonton for the procedure. I understood that everything was in order. She came back and told us that that in fact didn't happen.

Mr. Speaker, it is not correct that the Minister is in charge of who is getting what surgery in what place. That is a medical decision. We just want to make sure that when somebody brings a problem to our attention, that we look into that. I just wanted to make sure that this person gets case conference with all of the concerned people so that she could express her concerns about what has happened and from going forward, because she will need more support, and she will get the assistance that she needs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

QUESTION 385-16(3):
RECONSTRUCTION OF HIGHWAY NO. 6

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. ... (inaudible) ... Highway No. 6 about the safety issues for travelers on this highway and the dangerous sections of the highway. I have questions for the Minister of Transportation. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister put enough money into the infrastructure plan this coming business plan

review to finish all of Highway No. 6 to chipseal stage? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member has raised many issues, including the need for attention to be paid to Highway No. 6 in his riding, and over the last while we have worked really hard with the Member and people of his community to bring some focus on the need and did some evaluations. We were able to identify \$3.9 million for this construction season. That will be targeted for his riding. However, further to that, we can forecast the need for next year and we will be bringing that forward. As to guarantee that this is going to reconstruct all of Highway No. 6 is not something I can confirm today, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I think I heard the Minister say that \$3.9 million into the construction season this year. However, I guess I just would like to have confirmation that the reconstruction of Highway No. 6 will begin this summer. Can the Minister advise me if that is correct? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I certainly can agree to that. Subcontracts have already been awarded for crushing of the material prior. I know the community and the Member has been quite eager to see some work started even prior to this. We are anticipating the bulk of the work will be out to tender and ready for construction sometime in mid to end of June, and a lot of work will consist of engineering work and drainage improvements and things of that nature. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, in case of any deviations, can the Minister keep me abreast of the project so I can keep the community of Fort Resolution up to date? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we would be pleased to do so. I have had discussions with our officials and they have been in the community a couple of times already over this past month and plan to go back in June. I would certainly ensure that the Member is kept up to a current status on where we are on this project and money invested in this riding. Thank you.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister direct staff to take a serious look at the availability of resources, whether they be equipment or human, that are available in Fort Resolution for this project and advise me of his findings? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, once again, of course we can provide that information to the Member. Some of the discussion I believe has

already happened at the community meetings. We would be pleased to provide that to the Member. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 386-16(3):
RESULTS OF REVIEW CONDUCTED TO
ESTABLISH INCOME SUPPORT
FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my questions are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. In September 2008 a working group including representatives from Education and Health and Social Services as well as NGO disability sector forwarded recommendations regarding the establishment of an Income Support Program to specifically address the needs of persons with disabilities. Could the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment please tell me the status of those recommendations and when will this Assembly be informed of the proposed recommendations and changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. That specific recommendation has been in the works by the committee that the Member alluded to. It is in the works. The recommendation is generally highlighted as various departments need to follow through with. Certainly I can provide more detailed information to the Member on the updated status, where we are at with specific recommendations that were brought forward. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Minister of Education for that. I am happy to hear that the recommendation is still in progress. In addition to providing me with the information on behalf of Education, Culture and Employment, I was wondering if the Minister can maybe compile some information in general from both departments and submit it to myself and other Members, if they are interested, in one package as opposed to getting separate packages from Education and Health. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, that information has been part of the ongoing discussion that our department has been having with other departments as well. We can certainly compile that information that we have within our department and other departments' information that they have undertaken. We can certainly share with the Member and also members of the standing committee. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Minister for that. I just have one last little question. How long does the Minister think it will take to get me that information? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, certainly this information we need to collect from other departments as well. We will expedite the process, what information we have that we can compile. We are hoping over the summer period. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 387-16(3):
INDOOR SWIMMING POOL
FOR COMMUNITY OF WRIGLEY

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up with my Member's statement and continue to raise the issue for the need of an indoor swimming pool for the community of Wrigley. The Minister and I did a recent tour to Wrigley. They have identified many infrastructure needs. The water treatment plant needs a replacement of the fire truck. A lot of these needs are very pressing. They had asked one of their immediate needs was for their youth and working towards getting a swimming pool. I would like to ask the Minister to help us with those plans and what can be done in the short term. Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In our trip to Wrigley, they did raise the issue of a swimming pool and their concern with the children swimming. I told them at the time, in answering their question, that capital money is provided to the communities now. I understand the Member's concern with that pressing need. It is up to the community now to make that decision as to when they want their swimming pool included into their capital plan. That was the message that I relayed to the folks in Wrigley when I met with them. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, the government does have a history of assisting communities in developing swimming pools. We have done it in the past for other regions and other communities. In fact, in the recent supp, we did it for one of the northern communities. I would like to ask the Minister again. We are not going out of our way. We are not doing anything different by providing for the needs of a small community like Wrigley. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member said it correctly when he said "history". That was the history of how things operated before, but the process has changed now because of the

whole New Deal and having given the community the authority to make those decisions themselves and put it as part of their capital plans. They submit their capital plans to the department, which is a good thing because, if there is some money available out there through one of the federal programs and we have their plans on file, then we can take that and maybe submit it for additional funding if that opportunity were available. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear some willingness by the Minister on this issue, but our government, it is not unheard of for us to provide those kinds of facilities. In fact, all of our communities should have minimum basic infrastructure facilities, and supporting our youth is one of our primary goals. Once again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister to look at this issue seriously and to provide a plan and pre-planning to develop an indoor swimming pool for the community of Wrigley. Thank you very much.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the department would be pleased to assist the community of Wrigley with their planning and possible options for financing. The community of Wrigley right now is a band community and the department is working with them to form a corporation. Once the corporation is formed, the rest of their capital allotment will be released to them. It's quite a substantial amount. But the department would be more than willing to go into the community, work with the community of Wrigley to come up with a plan and maybe options on different types of infrastructure and they can make the final decision themselves.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I am aware that there are...

---Laughter

...that there is some unallocated infrastructure money that this government has. I'd like to ask the Minister: can he do that for the community of Wrigley as he has done for the other communities and just recently in our supp? That is to provide one of the basic infrastructures which all of our communities need, which is an indoor swimming pool for the community of Wrigley.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'm not quite sure what unallocated money the Member is referring to. The unallocated money I am referring to is the money that is earmarked for the community of Wrigley and it's almost \$1.3 million that they would be able to use for their infrastructure planning. If a pool is included in that planning, that would be their decision. Our department would be there to assist them in putting a capital plan together.

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

QUESTION 388-16(3):
DEVELOPMENT OF NORTHERN GOLD
STANDARD CARBON OFFSET PROGRAMS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As of today there are no gold standard carbon offsetting programs in Canada where people can personally contribute to help offset or become carbon neutral. If carbon offsetting programs can happen in India, Madagascar and Indonesia, why can't they happen here in the North?

My questions are directed to the Minister of Environment and my question would be: Would he be willing to look into developing a carbon neutral, a carbon offset gold program here in the Northwest Territories so that we can direct that type of influence and potential resource money into developing our great hydro system here in the North?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course I'm interested to look into that issue and get a good base of information. In fact, Minister Bob McLeod and I are heading down to Banff on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to a very important gathering called The Search for Canada-U.S. Climate Change Accord: The Road to Copenhagen and Beyond. One of the working sessions is called Pricing Carbon in a Canada-U.S. Cap and Trade System. So this is an emerging area. I acknowledge that there are other countries doing things of great interest. I will commit to get that base of information so we can have an informed discussion.

MR. HAWKINS: Is there willingness from this Minister and this Department of Environment and Natural Resources to create a carbon offsetting program such as the gold standard program that I had referred to? Is there a willingness to do this?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We have a Climate Change Committee that involves myself, Minister Michael McLeod, Members Bromley and Krutko, and I would commit to put that item on the agenda for our next meeting so that we can have some initial discussions about the issue and what potential next steps may be there.

MR. HAWKINS: Like the old saying goes, you can lead, you can follow, but certainly get out of the way and make a choice. I'd certainly hope that this Minister would make the choice to lead on this one. As we know, as I've said a few times, and I certainly know that this Minister understands the problem that money is being directed by personal

contributions where people want to make a carbon neutral world. Why aren't we doing this in the North to help develop our northern hydro? Is the Minister aware of what type of money could be generated in this type of project, in this type of program? Because there is no program in Canada of this type of certification that we could develop and use hydro to help offset some of our greenhouse gas emissions. Does the Minister...Is he aware of how much money could be directed to help fund things like northern hydro?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: It's a bit of a conundrum. The Member has indicated that there is no program of this nature that exists in the country and yet he wants to ask me how much money this program would potentially save. I have acknowledged that it's an area where we'll look at it. We'll find out what other countries are doing. We are looking at the whole issue of the pricing of carbon and the cap and trade. That's a very topical issue across the land. The Americans, jurisdictions in Canada, Ontario, Manitoba have looked at it. Alberta. So there are things, areas for us to move on this. I will talk it over with my colleagues at the Climate Change Committee and we will be able to have a more informed response.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously I wasn't referring to the programs in Canada, because there are no gold standard programs of this nature in Canada. They are throughout the world. It wouldn't take much to figure out how much money is being diverted to these type of projects, whether they're in Indonesia, Madagascar or, certainly, India.

My last question for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources is: Is he willing to commit to developing some type of strategy in recognition of this is the wave of the future? The people want to connect and do their part for the environment by trying to be carbon neutral, by minimizing their footprint. Would he be willing to develop a strategy to work towards this type of goal so we could help benefit from this type of good will that people want to make?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We are willing, I am willing to take this issue -- and I've looked across the floor at the two other members of the Climate Change Committee -- as a starting point to the Climate Change Committee. Our staff are listening as we speak. We'll be pulling together the basic information so we can have an informed discussion about this and about how we would incorporate this into the other broad plans we have when it comes to dealing with climate change, greenhouse gases, and dealing with things like carbon offsets as the Member talks about.

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

QUESTION 389-16(3):
SUPPORT FOR NORTHERN AIR CARRIERS

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I was speaking in support for the northern-based air carriers. I have a question for the Minister of Transportation or ITI. Will this government either review their current projects and policies and commit to changes in the negatively impacted viability of the true northern air carriers?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our policies are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Our projects and funds that are available are always earmarked to enhance and promote northern companies. If there is an area that is raising a concern for the Member I'd be pleased to look at it. I believe that our Premier earlier this year had sent out a directive to ensure that all departments are abiding by our current policies and are following the promotion of northern companies will be first and we will give priority to them.

MR. JACOBSON: Subcontractors are often excluded from these policies, creating a loophole and allowing millions of dollars to leave the North. Will the government strengthen and monitor and truly enforce the current directives and policies such as the BIP, demonstrating the GNWT's commitment to support northern-based airlines?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The issue that the Member is raising and the concern in that area has been recently brought to our attention. It's a difficult one for us to address. We will certainly have further discussion with the appropriate authorities within our government to see if there's any room for us to enter that field. Dealing with subcontractors and other agencies that are not completely government and requiring them to abide by certain policies in our government is challenging and we'd have to have further discussion and explore that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

QUESTION 390-16(3):
DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of the Department of Transportation and it's about the Deh Cho Bridge. A perennial subject for questioning. First of all, I'd like to know if we are on budget for this project and what is the latest estimate of costs of the Deh Cho Bridge.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe there are two questions there.

---Laughter

I'll have to say, first of all, that we are probably a little behind schedule on the Deh Cho Bridge. I believe we are on budget. We are again having the contractors back at the job site and are resuming construction for this season. Last year we had targeted to have the four piers installed and the temporary bridge out by December. We didn't have that happen until March. We're hoping to avoid that this year.

MR. BROMLEY: Sounds like good news there. We're on budget. There are rumours out there about working relationships and onsite strife. I'm wondering how the working relationships of the partners are working out and if there are any threats to the on-budget and safe completion of this costly project.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The Member has raised an issue that has been voiced by many people in and on the project, that there are some challenges in having everybody work together and get along. We've been trying to address this along with the developer, Deh Cho Bridge Corporation, and the trades. They've had some discussion over the last while, some opportunity to sit down and have a debrief on some of the issues that have been challenged. My understanding from the Bridge Corporation is that all the companies are back on site and they are starting, and have been starting or have started installing the temporary bridge as of last weekend.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate those remarks from the Minister. We are in a changing economy. We're in a steep recession. Deep recession. We know that fuel costs have dropped tremendously since this project started. Steel and labour prices have dropped considerably. Can we anticipate cost reductions for this project or was this not designed into the agreement and the taxpayers are going to be covering the whole amount regardless of the decreased costs?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: This whole initiative, this whole project was designed to be a contract with a fixed price. The price was, as the Members have raised many times, a lot higher than we initially started with. However, since then there has been change in the cost of materials, both steel and concrete and other materials, that we hope to have a good discussion on. We expect there has to be some good will on the part of the developer and the sub-trades or sub-contractors. We haven't finalized it yet, but I'll be glad to share that information once we do have that discussion. We are continuing to

meet on a regular basis. I believe all the people that are involved with the project are meeting today and I'll keep the Members informed as we move forward.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Finally, we know there is a contingency fund of \$10 million. Do we still have funds remaining in that and are there any vulnerabilities to the project in terms of GNWT liability that the public should know about?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: As with any large project, and this is considered a mega-project by our standards -- it's a \$160 million project -- there is always a lot of claims. I think that might be said for all our government projects. But in this case there are a number of claims. There is the issue of the project being behind schedule. To date I believe we've spent \$36 million on this bridge project and that includes some of the claims that were settled. There are still a number of claims that are outstanding, and that will be resolved through the process that is spelled out in the concession agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for question period has expired. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 7.

---Unanimous consent granted.

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

Oral Questions (Reversion)

QUESTION 391-16(3): STATUS OF HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS IN MACKENZIE DELTA COMMUNITIES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is in regard to health programs and services in my riding. I've stood up in this House many times asking questions regarding positions for our communities, for nurses from Tsiigehtchic, to doctors' visits, to mental health positions in our communities. Yet I have received very little, if any, information regarding where these initiatives are and where we're going with them. I'd just like to ask the Minister regarding questions I have asked in this House where I received a letter from yourself regarding the mental health position in Fort McPherson and reinstating that position then having it delivered out of Inuvik. I think it's important. I'd like to ask the Minister regarding these types of positions what the department is doing to ensure that those positions are filled in the

communities where those dollars are earmarked for and the program is being delivered.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member knows, the Member and I have had numerous discussions in his office and my office and I have been paying attention to a lot of issues he has brought up, specifically the issue regarding the mental health worker that was under contract with T'loondih Healing Society. That has been an ongoing issue for at least six or seven years. The latest has been that I directed the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority to transfer that money to T'loondih and the latest information is that that has in fact happened.

MR. KRUTKO: Programs and services are essential to the health and well-being of our communities and I'd just like to ask the Minister, knowing that it's the summer season coming along and a lot of our communities are concerned that we are going to be finding ourselves being on emergency cases only where you're not going to have access to the clinic because a lot of the nurses usually go on holidays and whatnot, I'd like to ask the Minister what we are doing to ensure that the health centres in the Mackenzie Delta communities will be open this summer.

HON. SANDY LEE: Our health and social services are open. Their hours are not dependent on seasons. We do provide health services in health centres in his riding and I don't think the summer season makes a difference.

I want to tell the Member that as I have discussed with him, I am working on a proposal to expand the nursing services in Tsiigehtchic. I have also been talking to him about a pilot project that we can do in Fort McPherson to address the increased number and the large number of children in care and children in protection in Fort McPherson. There is a proposal that the Department of Health and Social Services is working with Justice to see if we could bring something on board there. There are lots of proposals that I have been talking to the Member about. Obviously this is something that we would like to work through the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority. But I could assure the Member that if that's not going to be able to happen with the authority, the department is willing to go on our own to make things happen in the Mackenzie Delta.

MR. KRUTKO: When you have a situation where programs and services have been dragging along for six or seven years, that tells me there's something wrong with the system. For the years I've spent here, this is one of the biggest issues in our communities. I've been getting calls from cancer patients, patients who have come back to

our communities and not been getting the attention that they should be getting because the basic services are not being delivered. I'd like to ask the Minister if you are considering appointing a public administrator to oversee the operations in the Inuvik-Beaufort-Delta health centres.

HON. SANDY LEE: I can advise the Member that I'm paying very close attention to a lot of things that are going on in the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority. The department is working very closely with the management of the authority. We are reviewing programs and finances to make sure that we are delivering as effective and efficient services as possible. I will look at and consider all options. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, again, the situation in my riding is urgent when you cannot get the fundamental basic programs and services such as mental health positions or alcohol and drug counselling or nurses, and having doctors' visits cancelled because they can't make it. I'd just like to ask the Minister again: Realizing that these challenges are out there, this health centre has been running deficits year after year, but yet we continue to bail them out and allow them to operate the way they are and not have basic programs and services delivered. Again, I'd like to ask the Minister: Would you seriously consider appointing a public administrator to oversee what is the problem with the Inuvik Regional Hospital in regard to not being able to deliver these critical services to our smaller communities?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I am interested in working through for the next little while to see exactly what is causing the deficit and how much we are able to provide programs in small communities, because I agree with the Member that a lot of communities in the Beaufort-Delta, the smaller communities, are not able to recruit and retain and offer the services in the communities in the way that they should. I prefer to work with the authority and the management there as well as the board, so that appointing a PA is not an immediate option that I am considering. I still would like to work with the authority and work with the Member to see if we can do things better. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 392-16(3):
ISSUE RELATED TO SALE OF PROPERTY
AND SAHTU LAND CLAIM AGREEMENT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger, in regard to an issue that I became aware of in terms of an

outfitter in the Mackenzie Mountains that had sold his outfitting operation to another person. In the Sahtu Land Claim Agreement, chapter 13, there are specific clauses that have to be followed to ensure that the sale of an operation is legitimate, I guess, and is following the clauses of the Sahtu Land Claim Agreement. I want to ask the Minister, is he aware of this situation I'm talking about?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am aware of the issue and circumstance that the Member has referenced. We have obligations under both the land claim agreements with the Gwich'in and the Sahtu when it comes to these types of matters. I've asked the department to backtrack this issue right from start to finish to make sure that we have clear information about what happened every step of the way and ensure that we've honoured our obligations, and to be able to report back to me in the next few days to see what that information tells us. If there happens to be a misstep, then we want to find out where that was and why and how do we remedy the situation. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the people in the Sahtu have fought hard and long and also when they negotiate the final deal with respect to outfitters in the Mackenzie Mountains they have, in the agreement, the option of right of first refusal in terms of any type of sales of outfitter operations. I asked the Minister if he would work very closely with the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated and the Sahtu Tribal Council to get to the bottom of this issue as to the steps that may have been taken or may not have been taken in terms of a violation of this specific clause in our agreement.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, I'll commit to work closely with the other stakeholders of the aboriginal governments. As well, I'll commit to keep the Member fully informed as we sort through this issue. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, certainly, I look forward to working with the Minister on this issue. Can the Minister tell me, off the top of his head, if he knew how long this issue has been regarding when the actual sale of this operation took place?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I became aware of the issue a couple of days ago. I'll commit to get a full chronology for the Member that I will share with him when I get it so that we can all be as informed on this issue as possible. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister also inform me in the House as to this operator in the Mackenzie

Mountains...Has this operator also had some type of working arrangements in the Sahtu and also in the Gwich'in Settlement Area?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll add that to the list of the information required to get a full accounting of what has transpired with this particular outfitter, the changing of hands of the licence, the overlap of the areas between the Gwich'in and the Sahtu, and our obligations in terms of when that licence changed hands and all the intermediate steps that got us from where we were to where we are today. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 393-16(3):
ANIMAL PROTECTION LEGISLATION

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister of Justice. While attending the recent NWT Association of Communities' Annual General Meeting I learned of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' proposal to amend our antiquated Dog Act. This can only be seen as a stop-gap measure to address a real legislative need for new comprehensive animal protection legislation. I know that the Minister of Justice is aware of the public concern around this need. My question to the Minister, then, is: What is planned to ensure that we get the necessary legislation as soon as possible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Member's questioning in this area because it is an important process that we're going through and we take it seriously about the animals in the North here. At the same time, I think that with the NWT Dog Act, it's the Municipal and Community Affairs department that's looking into that, but within our Department of Justice, we are pursuing the animal protection legislation that will be before us. We continue to work with ENR and also MACA on this specific piece of work because it will be, I guess you can say, a one-of-a-kind that will be produced. We're hoping to produce legislation in 2010 as early as possible. Certainly, we have developed option papers between the three departments and we currently are reviewing that to develop models towards the new legislation. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for his remarks. I guess I'm a little surprised that the Department of ENR is being involved in this. I guess I see animal protection legislation not necessarily extending into Environment and Natural Resources' realms. But, that being said, that's,

perhaps, all well and good. I'd like to know if the Minister could give the House some sense of what this animal protection legislation will encompass when it comes forward. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, certainly, we need to highlight the federal legislation that they have in place with the territorial legislation and at a municipal area, as well, with the bylaw officers, the legislation that they have, the policies. There needs to be a comprehensive consultation process with the general public, because we are dealing with the three departments. There's a reason for that: We need to cover all grounds. We have various dog mushers, as well, and we need to protect the animals. As well, at the same time, we need to balance it out. Those are the areas of discussion that need to take place. This is just a preliminary discussion that we're having on the options papers that we've developed and we certainly are moving forward on an ongoing basis. Again, 2010 is the target date for new legislation, Mr. Speaker. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Minister. I guess, 2010 is not all that bad considering how long it takes us to get legislation enacted in this lovely government.

I have heard rumours that this legislation is going to target hunters and trappers and the rights of animals relative to hunting and trapping. I guess I'd like to ask the Minister...He didn't mention that as being part of the legislation that may come forward. I'd like to know if that is part of the consideration by these three departments. I hope not, but I guess I would like to know if it is being considered. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, certainly, during the consultation process I'm sure this part of the discussion will be brought up. We're going to take in as much input from the general public. The Member is alluding to certain areas; it could be part of the discussion, but the final decision will lie with this Assembly to either pass legislation as presented or make some changes to that matter. So, certainly, I'd like to have input of all the general public of the Northwest Territories and organizations, agencies, and also Members of the Legislative Assembly, because I think this will be a comprehensive legislation that will come forward. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Your final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks again to the Minister. I have one last question. I'd like to know whether or not, with this new legislation, is there the intention of the legislation to provide significant fines or penalties for animal abusers and will there be adequate opportunities in this new act for prosecution of animal abusers?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I think that's part of the reason why the Department of Justice is taking the lead role. So we need to cover all aspects of the legislation itself, the enforcement. We need to discuss that further with the general public, with the agencies, and what kind of penalties are they seeking out. We need their input as well. So we're seeking out all kinds of options and also recommendations to be put forward into legislation. That will be the ongoing discussions that we will be having from here to 2010 next year. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 394-16(3):
EVALUATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE
GREEN INITIATIVES

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today, again, will be focused and directed towards the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Speaker, it's no surprise to the Minister that I'm very supportive of green initiatives that can build day-to-day business in an environmental way into our normal lifestyle, because if we can do things better and smarter, I think it's the easiest way to go as well as, of course, the most accepted way to go.

However, part of that, Mr. Speaker, is that sometimes when you do things, people just do them and they don't know what type of results they get. A couple of years ago I advocated that we should buy things like smart cars, and as I am aware, the Department of Transportation ran out and bought one, then they used one, then it disappeared and then, lo and behold, recently I heard it showed up at Public Works.

The question would then be, on this situation: What type of work is done in evaluating these types of green initiatives that we go out and do and what type of results and how do we publicize this information on what type of results we get from switching to these initiatives? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we attempt to document the savings. For example, in my Minister's statement today I referenced the savings in CO2 gases on the number of cheques we've written for folks that were going to embark on energy savings initiatives. As well, there was another...I made two references to the savings in my Minister's statement. So we do make attempts to quantify that and as we move towards reviewing our Greenhouse Gas Strategy and the targets we've set, and as this process evolves and we get better

at it and we look at targets, it's going to become an even greater requirement. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I followed along with the Minister's statement very closely because I thought it was very timely for today and the issues I wanted to raise. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister and his department monitor all the energy initiatives that have been developed over the last few years? Because if you don't monitor and measure it, you don't know what you're doing. Is there a monitoring and measuring process to find out what value we get from all of these initiatives that we keep supporting and passing? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There is a committee of deputies of various departments that have roles to play in these areas. For example, we're investing a significant amount of money in retrofitting government buildings. We've put in boilers in the North Slave Correctional Centre, Chief Jimmy Bruneau School. We're doing the same in other buildings. We can calculate those savings and those are quantified. We've been able to quantify some of the savings through the rebate program. So, yes, we are collectively trying to do that on a more and more efficient and effective basis as we move forward. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, getting back to measuring and monitoring, I'm wondering what type of evaluation was done on those smart cars that were bought with the idea that we didn't need to send people around in 4x4s or big trucks or whatever the case may be; we can send people to run errands in small little eco-cars. I'm curious on what type of information was used and, certainly, found in that scenario. Because I can tell you, sometime this winter when I drove by the airport and I could see the Transportation little property out by the golf course, I thought I saw the little smart car sitting there. It didn't look like it was in service or being used.

---Interjection

MR. HAWKINS: No. That was where they keep the gravel and equipment. Mr. Speaker, has there been any work done to develop in the area of monitoring and finding out what benefits we've received on those smart cars we purchased?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, yes, there has. In addition to smart cars, I know that some hybrids are also being used. The Legislative Assembly has one. I know ENR has, as well, invested in hybrids. So, yes, that information can be quantified. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, as an owner of a hybrid I can speak very well about the quality of the good you can be doing. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of ENR be willing to

supply me the information that they've garnered from evaluating these cars, the smart cars as well as the hybrid cars he is referring to? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 395-16(3):
DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to pick up on some of the questions my colleague had -- Mr. Bromley -- on the Deh Cho Bridge.

Mr. Speaker, on repeated occasions, Members of this House and the public have been assured by the Minister of this and the previous government that the contract for the construction of the Deh Cho Bridge was awarded based on a fixed maximum price of \$165 million. For example, as recently as February 26th of this year, the Premier stated in this House, and I quote from page 2644 of Hansard: "Still, we have a guaranteed maximum price, so unless things really go wrong, that's within the realms of that. We have to remember, we are still the guarantor of this project so we do have the ultimate liability at the end."

Mr. Speaker, there are many rumours circulating out there about project delays and cost overruns on the Deh Cho Bridge project. Will the Minister of Transportation, today, set the record straight: Is the contract for the construction of the Deh Cho Bridge based on a maximum guaranteed fixed price, and if so, why are we already accessing a prefunded contingency? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, yes, the contract is for the amount that the Member has indicated. It is for a price that has been signed off that includes some money towards providing and dealing with claims and, as with any large project of this size and of this nature, there is to be expected a number of claims. So far, we have received, or the project has received claims. As I indicated to the Member that raised questions about the bridge earlier, roughly \$36 million has been spent to date. Of that, there is roughly a little over \$3 million that has come out of the contingency fund. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, if the guaranteed fixed price for the Deh Cho Bridge was to exceed, I guess that is a hypothetical question, but if it is to exceed \$165 million, who would ultimately be responsible for paying those additional costs? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: It is a hypothetical question; however, it is probably a question that many people are asking. The responsibility would fall on the project to find a mechanism to recover these costs and pay for them. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, does the Minister have any reason to believe that the Deh Cho Bridge project is not on time, not on budget and has a firm design in place? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member knows the schedule had already last year slipped somewhat and is a little bit behind. We are hoping to pick up the differences here. We are working on the sign-off on the design. We expect the targeted \$165 million to be in place at the end of the project. We are working towards that goal. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The previous government signed the concession agreement on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories on a Friday afternoon before the last election. The concession agreement commits this Legislature to approximately \$4 million in annual contributions to the Deh Cho Bridge over 35 years. The commitment was made with no public debate on the floor of this House. Will this government commit in public and on the record that it will not do business in a similar fashion? Will this government and the Minister commit that if there is any change in the future financial obligations of the Government of the Northwest Territories directly or indirectly to this project, that it will bring these changes to the attention of the Members of this House and to the public before any firm commitments are made? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I believe the Member has asked this question to a number of Ministers over the last while, including the Premier, and that commitment has been made. We will certainly honour that. At least I will as the Minister of Transportation. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 396-16(3):
AVALON VENTURES PROJECT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment. I would like to speak briefly about Avalon Ventures project which is moving towards a prefeasibility study. In fact, I think their first meeting is today. Mr. Speaker, it is going to be necessary early on in the process to decide which road they go down; local value-added with their rare earths or actually deciding to ship the concentrate elsewhere for development and further processing. Mr.

Speaker, there are only facilities for this in China. There are none in North America at the present time that are operating. This is a real opportunity. What is our government doing to investigate this opportunity and to determine the key factors and let the developer know of our interest at the beginning of their feasibility study when we can actually have a chance to nail down some of this value-added activity? Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our government has met with the principles of Avalon Resources on several occasions. We are in regular contact with them. We invited them here to appear in the House, and certainly we have discussed with them what the opportunities, are and what their interests are and what they are looking toward. Certainly we are advocating value-added for the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate those remarks. Mr. Speaker, I would like to hear the Minister talk about his understanding of this opportunity in terms of the absence of value-added work in the area of rare earth minerals worldwide, with the exception of China, and the opportunity that we have, the understanding that we have that this is a real opportunity and that we recognize it and that is a unique opportunity. Exactly what are we doing to ensure that we take advantage of that? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, when the committees were updated by Avalon on what their project entailed, they indicated that these rare earth minerals, when in production, would be in production for a lifespan of about 100 years. They indicated, as well, that value-added could be done in a number of locations, that they were looking at the requirement for power sources and also for some access to road systems and that depending on what was put forward by various communities, they could see themselves as doing value-added and processing here in the Northwest Territories and in a number of different locations. I guess they would determine that on the basis of what would benefit their company the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, thank you again for that response. Does the Minister see a match between, for example, Taltson hydro development project and the requirements for this development, and has that been pointed out to this company and other opportunities like that that can help in the early consideration and hopefully influence their decisions to actually do the local value-added route rather than exporting outside? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, Avalon Resources have indicated that the power source would greatly facilitate their development as well, as I said earlier, some sort of a road system would facilitate as well. We have yet to determine whether the proposed transmission lines would be able to go close enough to the Thor Lake project to be able to provide their power sources. But certainly if it is the case, we would certainly be encouraging that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a final question. Are we participating in the feasibility review at all, both just by staying in touch and being aware, for example, of where they are headed? Are we enough in touch to be closely informed about opportunities for influencing that decision? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, yes we stay in close contact with Avalon Resources. They do have a representative here in Yellowknife. We take advantage of that opportunity on every occasion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 397-16(3):
ACCESS ROAD TO GRAVEL SOURCE
IN COMMUNITY OF AKLAVIK

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister of Transportation in regards to the access road to the gravel source in Aklavik. I know there has been some great success in regards to the project in Tuk in which it has stimulated that community very successfully in hiring some 100 people this winter. I would like to know from the Minister exactly where we are in regards to the project for Aklavik to be able to access their gravel source some 20 kilometres away. I would like to get an update from the Minister on exactly where that is and what are the next steps moving forward.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over this past winter, there was a contract and funding for a planning study that was funded through a local company and another consultant company out of the southern part of Canada. They provided a proposal at the end of January, I believe. That is currently being reviewed. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, in regards to the department and its involvement in this project, there is a road committee established in the community

of Aklavik which had been working on this, but, more importantly, working along with the department to see about the possibility of fast tracking this program. Knowing that we are going into the capital planning process here in the next couple of months, I want to get some assurance that we will do everything we can to try to get it in there. Again, I would like to ask the Minister: With his department and the community planning committee, are there continued consultations going on between your department and the community?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, there has been some considerable discussion between the consultants and members of the community. There has been a site visit to the gravel source and also a project initiation meeting held in February, and the work continues with a review and consideration of the proposal. We expect some type of recommendation to come forward in the latter part of June of this year. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I believe that in order for this project to go anywhere, the Minister will have to personally intervene. So I would like to ask the Minister: Is he willing to make a trip with myself and meet with the committee in Aklavik in regards to once this report is concluded that we can ensure that we move quickly on the next steps and try to get some activity happening in the community of Aklavik possibly this winter or late next spring? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, pending the outcome of the report, I would be glad to have that discussion with the Member. We would probably have to fit it into my schedule and start looking at September some time for me to be able to travel to that community. However, I would be pleased to sit down and have that discussion once we have the recommendations and see any value and which way we are going to go in terms of the next steps. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I don't think we can wait until September, but, if it is possible, maybe we can meet the Minister wherever he is available between now and September. If he can't make it, we can meet with you wherever you are. Is that a possibility?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid to ask where the Member would like to meet.

---Laughter

Mr. Speaker, the project has been moving along just fine without my personal involvement. We have a number of officials that are quite well versed in this discussion. I am sure that we would be glad to meet with the community. I would certainly not hesitate to go into the community of Aklavik. I have gone there and we have had some discussion with

this issue. Just scheduling might be a problem. I will commit to the Member to have further discussion and bring the appropriate officials or myself, if we can fit it into a schedule that would work for all of us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Before I go to the next Member on my list, I would like to take a moment to recognize the presence in the gallery of my son, D'arcy, and Betty Stanley, who are here to await the arrival of my next grandchild. I want to wish them both well as they go through this process.

---Applause

Welcome to the Legislative Assembly. The honourable Member of the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 398-16(3):
DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation in regards to the Deh Cho Bridge. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask the Minister if he has the latest tracking partners report in terms of the benefits that are going to the community of Fort Providence in northern and aboriginal businesses that are benefited by the construction of the Deh Cho Bridge.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I know there have been quite a few people that have been employed on this project from the communities of Fort Providence, Hay River and also a number of firms in Yellowknife, I don't have that information compiled. I am not sure how long and who would do it, but we certainly can see what this project has gathered so far and provide it to the Member and the standing committee, if that is desired. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have some very good people monitoring the construction of the bridge. I would urge the Minister if he would see what steps we need to be taking to see if we can get this information to me or to the standing committee on tracking the number of benefits and employment and businesses for the Members here. I think that would be beneficial to our side in terms of seeing the types of benefits that are going to aboriginal northern businesses. Can the Minister commit to putting some information together within several months?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we would be pleased to see what is available. As to having it readily available, I think it would be difficult. As to how much or what level of detail we can provide is, again, something we have to talk with the developer and see what we can come up

with. Any information we can compile or has been compiled that we have available to us, we would be glad to share with the Members. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 399-16(3):
ENERGY SAVING INITIATIVES

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To continue my personal environment theme day, I will continue to further question the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Speaker, I was reading recently that there is a discussion that said that 18.5 million trees and over 22 billion carbon tonnes would be removed from the environment if people used the Internet instead of allowing their recurring bills to go out via the mail. In other words, if your phone bill and your power bill were sent over the Internet, you could save a lot of CO2 and certainly a lot of trees. And, of course, businesses could save a lot of money. My question is directed to the Minister as such. What type of policies is the Department of Environment and Natural Resources developing and certainly looking into to help the private sector look at this type of angle whereas in they can save money instead of sending out bills such as your power or phone bill? Certainly they can contribute in their own way in helping in cutting down their environmental waste, because a lot of people just take these things and throw them in the garbage. What is the Minister doing about creating these types of initiatives? Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, as far as I am aware, most larger businesses have that capacity for clients and customers to pay on-line and are encouraged to do so for convenience for all parties. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I am aware you can pay, for example, your bill by leaving your credit card on file with the Power Corporation, or Northland Utilities in the case of Yellowknife, or, for example, for your phone, but, Mr. Speaker, that still does not stop the fact that they mail out your bill. The issue I am really getting at is, is the Minister in a position where he would be able to look into the idea of helping foster a better environment by working with, for example, the Yellowknife NWT Chamber? We may have members out there who send out bills regularly that would much rather send them out by Internet. I think that would serve the same purpose. Would the Minister be able to look into an initiative like that so we can basically save some trees, mail, postage stamps and do a lot of good? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I will have the department and officials do a survey to see what the possibilities are for that type of service and what role we may be able to play, if any; keeping in mind that we have a whole list of things that we are doing. We do have limited capacity in many cases. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, although this would be a lot easier if I was on that environment committee, but I am not,...

---Laughter

...and I really wish I was. Ultimately these are issues that I am trying to raise in the sense of can we do business better. That is the type of environment I am trying to foster as well.

Mr. Speaker, does the Minister think he could bring some type of discussion paper back by the fall so we could take a look at maybe helping business do better in a more efficient way? Because we know that they are struggling to do it as sharply and as smartly as possible, as well as trying to contribute in their own way to the good stewardship of the environment. So could the Minister look at a discussion paper by this fall? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we'll look at trying to address that issue through the business planning process as well. Once again, we have people taking notes. When the Climate Change Committee next meets, we'll also ensure that we have a discussion about that particular item as well. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 400-16(3):
DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to continue with some questions for the Minister of Transportation in regard to the Deh Cho Bridge project. In response to an earlier question that I had, the Minister said that there wasn't a firm design on the project itself. I'd like to ask the Minister if he could explain to the House why or how a project of this magnitude gets so far along -- and I believe it's \$36 million having been spent already -- with no firm design being in place, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the bridge project has to follow and abide by the Canadian Highway Bridge Code on all aspects of the project including design, and must also have the design pass a number of very rigorous tests and evaluations to ensure that the project meets that code. At the time of the

signing of the concession agreement, both the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation and the Government of the Northwest Territories had agreed to complete these detailed examinations. Those are currently being held and we will have the report, hopefully, sometime over the summer. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, going back, you know, when the concession agreement was signed, and I was under the impression, as were, I think, many members of the public and Members of this House, that the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation had been working on a design for that bridge for a number of years prior to the concession agreement being signed. I believe the government, in signing the concession agreement, should have had a firm detailed analysis of the design done so that no design changes would have to take place, especially this far along into the project. Was the due diligence done on behalf of the Department of Transportation on the design of this bridge before the concession agreement was signed off on, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I think the project has followed all the rules and regulations up to now. There may have been, could have and should have maybe had this all signed off prior to the project starting. The reality is there was an agreement between the Bridge Corporation and our government that this would happen after the concession agreement would be signed, and that evaluation is taking place now. The Bridge Corporation has hired a very competent firm to do so, and will review all design issues and work very closely with our advisors to ensure that this bridge is safe and as maintenance free as possible and it serves the public for many years to come. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, if you go out to spend \$165 million of what is going to amount to public funds, in my estimation, you would make sure that all that work was done prior to getting into an agreement that commits you to \$4 million a year indexed for every year for the next 35 years. Obviously, this was rushed. It was a rush decision to sign this concession agreement and to get the project started. Again, I'm left wondering why and I think the public should be having many questions about why this concession agreement was signed off three days prior to the last election to allow a project to start that now we're starting to see that all the i's were not dotted, all the t's were not crossed. There are some problems here, Mr. Speaker, and I think we need to try to get a handle on those problems.

Another question I have on the project is if it is a fixed price contract at \$165 million, why are we already accessing the prefunded contingency fund of \$10 million, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the contingency fund was built into the \$165 million price tag and it is to cover off any unforeseen costs. It's not unusual to do this. It's certainly not unusual to have claims on any large contract of this size. This is certainly a mega-project. It's one of the biggest P3 projects that are going on and one of the few projects, certainly, in Canada and the biggest one we have on our books. So we can't expect that there won't be delays and challenges with a project of this nature. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like I was mentioning earlier, the public here and the Government of the Northwest Territories have a tremendous stake in the Deh Cho Bridge project, and I'm wondering if the Minister can comment on how the Department of Transportation and the Government of the Northwest Territories is protecting our interests in the Deh Cho Bridge project, Mr. Speaker, and if anything's changed there? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we have had a series of meetings now with our contractors and the developer regarding the performance over this past year. We have had a facilitator come in and talk to the different companies and see how we can improve things. We have all agreed to step up and provide a lot more attention, a lot more resources to the project...(inaudible)...people on the ground. That's no different for us as a government. We are expecting to have a further position so that we can follow through with some of the quality assurance and audits that are required. I think that's going to help us move along and move forward with this whole project. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 401-16(3):
CANOL TRAIL AND HERITAGE PARK

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of ITI in regard to the Canol Heritage Trail proposed park. I want to ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, has this department done any type of preliminary plans in terms of developing certain sections of that park in terms of proposing to one day have a park that the people of the Northwest Territories would be very proud of? Has his department done some of the preliminary plans to develop it?

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have, in the past, worked with the community management committee to look at developing the

Canol Park and Canol Trail, and we've done work in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I have read the...(inaudible)...management park. The report is not yet quite complete; however, some very good people have worked on it for a number of years. Now the next step is in terms of implementation of that management plan. That's why I would like to ask the Minister: Is there a time and date as to when he foresees the beginning of implementing an action plan to develop the Canol Heritage...(inaudible)...park?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I lived in Norman Wells at one time and I'm quite familiar with the Canol Trail and the history that goes with the development of the Canol Pipeline. Certainly, in the past, I've had occasion to fly the pipeline route and there is a lot of history in that area, and certainly some of it looks like time stood still in some of the places that we visited. There are a lot of old vehicles from the '40s and there are a lot of old buildings and there's a lot of old history. Along with that, certainly, there are a lot of environmental liabilities. There is some significant cleanup that has to be done. There are some significant wires that have been left over from the ground lines that were in place going back through history. So in order to be able to move forward with the development of the Canol Heritage Trail and the park, we require the federal government to clean up the land, deal with the environmental liabilities and then transfer the land to the Government of the Northwest Territories so that we can put the plans into place to develop the Canol Trail and Canol Park. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has certainly given a good overview in terms of the history of the park. The Mackenzie Mountains, where that park is situated, has a tremendous amount of wealth in terms of knowledge, experience, traditional knowledge, minerals, just a mountain of wealth in that area. Mr. Speaker, I've walked that trail. I have walked it and certainly hope to this year. God willing, we will do the last 50 miles on that trail this year. Mr. Speaker, I would ask the Minister, if his schedule permits, if he will be able to join us.

However, I want to ask the Minister, in terms of the implementation of the park, is it possible to start developing some of the significant infrastructure in the park rather than wait for the total transfer from the federal government to this territorial government so the Sahtu can have a park?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Sahtu Dene and Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement in 1994 included an obligation for the Government of the Northwest Territories to prepare a park management plan for a territorial park along the Canol Heritage Trail. A park management plan was developed under the direction of a park

management committee, which was comprised of representatives of Industry, Tourism and Investment and Sahtu land claim organizations, and was approved on January 22, 2007. Now, as I had talked about the cleanup that was required -- and the federal government is responsible for cleanup of the trail -- the full cleanup is expected to take between five to 10 years. A federal-territorial working group is being convened to address issues related to the trail. As part of that, we can work with this committee to look at whether there are opportunities to take certain parts of it and move forward while we're waiting for the trail to be cleaned up. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister has made reference to the land claim and the department's willingness to work within the parameters to develop this park. I would ask the Minister: After 13 years of this park here being developed, would he invite, also, the Sahtu of Tulita district to be part of this working committee to develop the park? Would the Minister commit to doing that?

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Officials from ITI met with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and discussed some of the issues which included the land transfer, wire hazards, work scheduling, contamination sites, immediate plans, tourism opportunities, trail related infrastructure and third-party interests. Now, the federal-territorial work group was envisaged as being primarily made up of government officials, but I think that we would see it appropriate to meet with some of the people of Tulita to update them on what the situation is and to see where there are opportunities to move forward.

As the Member knows, there are some significant abandoned buildings, equipment and vehicles that are out there that have to be cleaned up. I think there are other significant hazards to human and animal health such as oil spills, exposed asbestos, structurally unsafe buildings as well as almost 650 linear kilometres of copper coated steel telephone wire. So I think just with that, it would be very appropriate to discuss with the community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The time for question period has expired. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Written Questions

QUESTION 9-16(3): NWT DECLARATION

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier.

The Premier participated in a closed door process on constitutional development of the NWT, conducted at Blachford Lake early this spring. Could the Premier please provide:

1. A complete list of the people who were there and how much money was spent on the meeting and its public relations products?
2. Who provided funding for the gathering and what was the source of the funding?
3. Which of the partners in his discussions took on the responsibility for producing the public relations products?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Petitions

PETITION 8-16(3): COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to present a petition dealing with the matter of a comprehensive review of the Child and Family Services Act.

Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 77 signatures of the Mackenzie Delta constituents and, Mr. Speaker, the petition requests that the Legislative Assembly conduct a comprehensive review of the Child and Family Services Act in order to recommend changes to the act and its administration that will be more effective in supporting NWT families and more response to northern communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 51-16(3): NWT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT HIGHLIGHTS REPORT 2009

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories State of the Environment Highlights Report 2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 52-16(3): BUSINESSPEOPLE WORKING FOR OTHER BUSINESSPEOPLE: NWT BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION CORPORATE PLAN 2009-2010

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I have two documents to table. I wish to table the following document entitled Businesspeople Working for Other Businesspeople, NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Corporate Plan, 2009-2010.

TABLED DOCUMENT 53-16(3): GRANTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM 2008-2009 RESULTS REPORT

Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Grants and Contributions Program Results Report, 2008-2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TABLED DOCUMENT 54-16(3): REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON GNWT CONTRACTING PROCEDURES

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. In accordance with section 30 of the Northwest Territories Act, I wish to table the Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Contracting for Goods and Services in the Northwest Territories.

Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 22-16(3): STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 4, 2009, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Student Financial Assistance scholarships awarded by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment be reinstated for the 2009-2010 fiscal year; and

further, that the value of the awards should be equal to half of the value of the scholarship amounts issued under each category in fiscal year 2008-2009, with further reductions to be introduced in each category in the 2010-2011 fiscal year; and furthermore, that a redesign of the program be undertaken with the primary intent of providing, on a continuing basis, recognition of academic excellence.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker

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

MOTION 23-16(3):

REFERRAL TO ON-LINE PETITIONS ISSUE TO THE RULES AND PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, June 4, 2009, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that this Assembly directs the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures to undertake research in order to determine the consequences of allowing on-line petitions to be used in its parliamentary process; and further, that the research and analysis pay particular attention to concerns regarding security issues and identification challenges; and furthermore, that the research and analysis also look at the potential for increased participation in the democratic process and modernization of parliamentary processes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MOTION 24-16(3):

INCOME EXEMPTION FOR NEWLY EMPLOYED HOUSING TENANTS

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice on Thursday, June 4, 2009, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that the Government of the Northwest Territories and the NWT Housing Corporation take immediate action to incorporate changes to their programs and public housing rental policies that would allow for an income exemption for public housing tenants for a period of six months from the start of a tenant's employment; and further, that the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Housing Corporation undertake immediate efforts to work with these public housing tenants to encourage and empower these tenants to pursue the longer-term benefits gained through homeownership. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item

17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy; Committee Report 7-16(3), Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure Report on the Review of Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act; and Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act, with Mr. Abernethy in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you. I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We have for consideration Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy; Committee Report 7-16(3), Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure Report on the Review of Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act; and Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to deal with Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act, and following that, Committee Report 7-16(3), EDI's Report on the Review of Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. With that, we'll take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. We are going to be starting our review of Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act. Committee...I'll start again. How about that? Committee, we agreed to consider Bill 6 and I'd like to ask the Minister of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, to introduce the bill. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to provide details on Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act. Protecting and conserving our wildlife species is a major priority for NWT residents. Protecting species at risk ensures these resources remain to meet our needs today and in the future.

Bill 6 meets our obligations under the National Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk to provide effective protection of species at risk in the NWT in a manner appropriate to our unique circumstances. We began development of this legislation in 1999, with extensive public consultation. This first phase, from 1999 to 2003,

laid the groundwork of the establishment of the Species at Risk Working Group in 2005. The working group had members from the four land claim organizations, the four wildlife co-management boards and their legal counsel. The working group worked collaboratively with ENR staff in the drafting of the legislation to ensure land claim provisions were properly address.

Establishing legislation that provides for a northern approach to protect and recover species at risk to update and enhance wildlife management legislation is critical to ensuring we have an environment that will sustain present and future generations.

The NWT is home to wild species that are considered threatened to the rest of the country. Wood bison, for example, are listed as threatened under the federal Species at Risk Act, but as we are all aware, wood bison populations in the NWT are relatively healthy. We need to manage this species at risk in a way that recognizes its difference and allows people to benefit from our healthy populations.

This proposed legislation allows us to do this and provide the extra level of protection that the few species at risk in the Northwest Territories may require. It also recognizes our unique system of wildlife management.

As Members are aware, management of wildlife resources is shared by three levels of government - federal, territorial and aboriginal, depending on the species -- and by co-management boards established by land claim agreements. This proposed legislation respects aboriginal and treaty rights and integrates roles and responsibilities established under settled land claim and self-government agreements as well as the importance of traditional and local knowledge in managing species at risk.

We believe Bill 6 provides a uniquely northern approach to managing species at risk and builds on existing and future land claim and self-government agreements and provides a real opportunity to involve NWT residents in wildlife management. The bill establishes a conference of management authorities which sets out a formal process of collaboration among all management authorities leading to consensus on decisions about species at risk. This northern approach will serve as a model for cooperative management in other wildlife management legislation, such as the Wildlife Act.

We worked closely with land claim organizations and co-management boards to develop this legislation and have their support. We also spent a considerable amount of time consulting partners and stakeholders in this legislation. We believe that the time taken to develop the Species at Risk (NWT) Act has resulted in comprehensive legislation. It involves residents in cooperative

management and will provide effective protection for species at risk in the NWT.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure for the report and recommendations to improve Bill 6 and provide guidance for the current process to revise the Wildlife Act. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I would like to ask the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, which reviewed this bill, to make comments. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure has already presented its report on its review of Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act. Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act, sets out the process to identify, protect and recover species at risk in the NWT. The proposed act will apply to any wild animal, plant or other species managed by the Government of the Northwest Territories. It will apply everywhere in the Northwest Territories on both public and private lands, including private lands owned under a land claim agreement.

During the public hearings, the committee heard from many Northerners, including representatives from the Fort Providence management boards, the Metis Nation, the Chamber of Mines, Peterson Point Lake Lodge, the Salt River First Nation, the Tlicho Government, the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, general members of the public and many other aboriginal governments and organizations. These presentations were thoughtful and reflected the desire of Northerners to be included in the processes and not left out of decision-making.

You have already heard in the committee's report about how the Members considered issues and about the various recommendations made. The committee was pleased to see that both the department and the Minister were open to changes. The committee was also pleased to learn about the collaborative process with aboriginal governments which was used to develop this piece of legislation.

I was pleased to be a part of this important activity, the development of our own NWT species at risk legislation and to now consider it for approval during Committee of the Whole. I also want to thank all the members of the committee who travelled and worked hard for two weeks of public hearings, especially the alternate member, our chairman, the Member from Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy, to whom our committee owes a great deal of thanks. His willingness to travel so extensively with us and work so hard was admirable, and we are very grateful for his input. Also, thanks are in order to our committee staff, Ms. Cate Sills, who has gone on to greener pastures with the Minister of ENR. We wish Ms.

Sills all the best with her new endeavours. And also to our committee clerk, Ms. Jennifer Knowlan, who did travel with us as well. And finally, we know that the implementation of this law will be a challenge and look forward to continuing involvement of the standing committee in these activities. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I would now like to go the Minister responsible, Mr. Miltenberger, and ask if he has any witnesses he would like to bring into the house.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, committee. I will ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Thank you. Mr. Minister, can you please introduce your witnesses.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have Ms. Sue Fleck, director of wildlife for ENR, and Ms. Kelly McLaughlin from Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. I will now open the floor to general comments. Are there any general comments? Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just one other brief comment. I know Ms. Fleck is with us this afternoon. I just wanted to thank Ms. Fleck and the department, as well, personally for all the hard work she and the department and the Minister have put into this piece of legislation. It is much appreciated, Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. I didn't hear a question, but to the Minister.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate the comments from the Member, and the staff from ENR and all those that have helped work on this deserve all the accolades they get. They are greatly deserved. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to comment here. Bill 6 is clearly a comprehensive piece of legislation, a long-awaited piece of legislation, and a key part in the puzzle in protecting and working to keep our ecosystems whole across Canada. It is very unique and really, in terms of wildlife legislation, it talks mostly about the process rather than species, so it is unique in that respect and I think reflects an innovative response and reaction, really, to the

northern situation we have here with the development of various regional governments and so on. In fact, I see it almost as a bit of a model that we could think about, or a guide for political development in the Northwest Territories.

Consultations have been comprehensive, extensive, broad engagements with the land claims organizations and regional governments. I particularly enjoyed participating in this, taking this bill on the road and speaking to people across the Northwest Territories. One of the things that struck me was the recognition that people have, and especially sort of the traditional approach of a holistic or, really, if you will, an ecosystem approach to looking after our land. Of course, the benefits are that habitat is often the basis of problems. When we start losing our habitat or disrupting it or poisoning it, we start losing members of populations of wildlife and eventually they can get to the point where they are threatened. Fundamentally recognized by people is looking after habitat and I hope that will be reflected in the Wildlife Act as well.

So I don't really have questions, except...I don't have questions. I would like to, again, say thanks and compliments to all those who did participate on this piece of work and especially in the department. It has been a difficult one and I think a lot of lessons learned along the way in our new administrative and governing world here, and so there was a lot of patience and persistence in particular that has brought this to the table today, so all kudos to them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I share the sentiments of the Member. I believe that the process that we engaged in with Species at Risk Act is the one we are going to use, or we are using for the Wildlife Act and we are using a similar process with the Water Strategy. So I think it is a way we have to work together to get the issues like this done and to get the collective support of everybody. So thank you to the Member for his comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Next on my list, Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, would just like to thank all the committee staff and community members for each community that we did go to. The community consultations went really well. I would like to thank all of the people in the communities for coming out, thank the Minister for all the hard work and my committee chair and yourself, too, as well. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. General comments, no question. Are there any other general comments? Is committee agreed that there are no further comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Can we proceed to the clause-by-clause review of Bill 6?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Does committee agree that we defer the consideration of the preamble until later and deal with the clauses initially?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay. We will now begin the clause-by-clause review of Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act, which begins on page 14. Due to the length of the bill, does committee agree to review the clauses in groups?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. So we will begin on page 14, clauses 1 through 10.

---Clauses 1 through 10 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Turn to page 21 for clauses 11 to 20.

---Clauses 11 through 20 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Clauses 21 through 30.

---Clauses 21 through 30 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Clauses 31 through 40.

---Clauses 31 through 40 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Turn to page 33 for clauses 41 through 50.

---Clauses 41 through 50 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Clauses 51 through 60.

---Clauses 51 through 60 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Turn to page 37 for clauses 61 through 70.

---Clauses 61 through 70 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Clauses 71 through 80.

---Clauses 71 through 80 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Clauses 81 through 90.

---Clauses 81 through 90 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Turn to page 53 for clauses 91 through 100.

---Clauses 91 through 100 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Clauses 100 through 110.

---Clauses 100 through 110 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Turn to page 62 for clauses 110 through 120.

---Clauses 110 through 120 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Clauses 121 through 130.

---Clauses 121 through 130 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Clauses 131 through 140.

---Clauses 131 through 140 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Turn to page 72 for clauses 141 through 150.

---Clauses 141 through 150 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. Clauses 151 through 162.

---Clauses 151 through 162 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): That is the end of the clauses. Could we please return to the preamble at page 12. To the preamble.

---Preamble approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that Bill 6 is ready for third reading?

---Bill 6 approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger, and thank you to your witnesses for coming in. (

Committee, we have now finished the review of Bill 6. Next item on our agenda is Committee Report 7-16(3). Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you. We will start with the motions Mr. Chairman, is that fine?

Okay, thanks.

COMMITTEE MOTION 52-16(3):
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT 7-16(3):
MONITORING OF COSTS AND
EVALUATION MEASURES,
CARRIED

This committee recommends that the government should closely monitor the costs of implementing this legislation and instate ongoing evaluation measures to ensure the process operates efficiently and in a cost effective manner. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. A motion is on the floor. A motion is being distributed. The motion has been distributed. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Question has been called.

---Carried

COMMITTEE MOTION 53-16(3):
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT 7-16(3):
STANDING COMMITTEE REVIEW OF
IMPLEMENTATION PLANS,
CARRIED

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the committee recommends that the Minister review implementation plans for the conference of the management authorities in the Species at Risk Committee with the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. The motion has been distributed. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Question is being called.

---Carried

Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Mr. Krutko.

COMMITTEE MOTION 54-16(3):
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT 7-16(3):
INCLUSION OF TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE,
CARRIED

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would also like to make a motion. Mr. Chairman, I move that committee recommends that a series of protocols and guidelines for the collection of aboriginal traditional knowledge be developed to support its inclusion in the assessment and protection measures of species that may be at risk in the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. The motion has been distributed. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Question is being called.

---Carried

Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 55-16(3):
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT 7-16(3):
EXCLUSION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS
AND FISHES,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the inclusion of fishes and migratory birds in the Species at Risk

Act be undertaken as consequential amendments to the new Wildlife Act.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. The motion has been distributed. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned during my general remarks, one thing we did hear while we were on the road was a desire to recognize that habitat, including the good health and well-being of all species is fundamental to the benefit of other species. From that standpoint, there were questions about why fish and migratory birds were not included, and this particularly applies to migratory birds that have been part of our species of concern in the past where we did have jurisdiction. They were dropped at some point in the past and there has long been a desire to get them back on our list of species that we can participate in the management of, as do all other jurisdictions in Canada, with the possible exception of Nunavut. So the intent behind this motion is to right that wrong for migratory birds. We have never had it for fish and hopefully over the process of devolution, and so on, we can get that, because these species are major parts of the diet of our people, so it is really...This motion recognizes the input in this situation and I will be voting for it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Question is being called.

---Carried

Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mrs. Groenewegen.

COMMITTEE MOTION 56-16(3):
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT 7-16(3):
DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS,
CARRIED

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Minister should use a process which supports the involvement of key stakeholders in consultation with all interested parties during the development of regulations related to this law. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. The motion has been distributed. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Question is being called.

---Carried

Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Does that conclude our review of Committee Report 7-16(3), Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure Report on the Review of Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Agreed. That concludes our business. What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act, and Committee Report 7-16(3), Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure Report on Bill 6: Species at Risk (NWT) Act, and would like to report progress, with five motions being adopted, and that Committee Report 7-16(3) is concluded, and that Bill 6 is ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Clerk, orders of the day for Wednesday, June 3, 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. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions

- Motion 21-16(3), Establishment of a Special Committee to Review the Child and Family Services Act

18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy

- Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 6, Species at Risk (NWT) Act

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, June 3, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:33 p.m.