



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**16<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

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**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Wednesday, October 21, 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. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:33 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Colleagues, before we begin, I would like to draw your attention to the gallery to former Members of this House, former Speaker Mr. Sam Gargan and a former Minister and Premier, Mr. Jim Antoine are in the gallery.

---Applause

I would also like to welcome all our other guests in the gallery today. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Ministers' Statements**

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 9-16(4):  
STATUS OF BARREN GROUND CARIBOU  
HERDS IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Caribou herds in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and across the circumpolar Arctic are declining. A recent global survey by researchers at the University of Alberta found that 34 of 43 herds being monitored worldwide are in decline.

Barren Ground caribou herds in the Northwest Territories are experiencing the same downward trend. Recent surveys and trend information show declines in almost all these herds.

The Porcupine caribou herd, which we share with the Yukon and Alaska, has dropped from a high of 178,000 in 1989 to 123,000 animals in 2001. Biologists who study this herd have not been able to do a population survey since 2001 for weather-related reasons, but indicators and recent monitoring efforts show that the decline in this herd is continuing.

The only bright spots in the surveys completed this year were the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds. After post-calving surveys of both herds this July, the Cape Bathurst has remained stable at

1,800 animals while the Bluenose-West herd has remained stable at just under 18,000 animals. This can be attributed in large part to harvesting restrictions put in place by recommendations of the co-management boards in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and the Gwich'in and Sahtu regions. In the Cape Bathurst range there has been no harvesting allowed since 2007 and in the Bluenose-West range commercial and resident hunting was closed and recommended harvest for aboriginal hunters was a maximum 4 percent harvest with at least 80 percent bulls.

Unfortunately, the post-calving survey of the Bluenose-East herd could not be conducted due to poor weather. Like the post-calving survey used for the Porcupine herd, this survey depends on the caribou bunching up in tight groups in response to insects and suitable for photography. If the weather is cool or wet and windy the caribou don't group up enough for photos.

Mr. Speaker, the most dramatic declines in the last three years has been in the Bathurst and Beverly caribou herds. In 1994 survey results indicated that the Beverly population was estimated at 276,000 animals. Systematic reconnaissance surveys on the Beverly calving ground in 2007, 2008, and 2009 indicate that the Beverly herd has all but disappeared. Limited collar information suggests that some of the last Beverly cows have shifted to the range of the much larger Ahiak herd. The Bathurst herd has dropped from a little over 100,000 animals in 2006 to 32,000 this summer. Because the Bathurst herd is so important to NWT communities tough management actions will be required to give the herd a chance to recover.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources is working with the Tlicho Government to develop a joint proposal on recovery options for the Bathurst herd that will go to the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board. This joint proposal and a technical report are expected to be submitted to the board at the end of October. We have also held a number of information-sharing workshops and there have been meetings in all the communities that value the Bathurst herd. The Tlicho are holding their own workshops and meetings as well. I anticipate the board will hold a public hearing on the proposal in December. During November the Department of Environment and

Natural Resources will be consulting with other aboriginal governments, harvesters, and stakeholders on the recovery options in the joint proposal since the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board management is restricted to the Tlicho region.

The GNWT is responsible to all communities and aboriginal governments that hunt the Bathurst herd, such as the Akaitcho communities, the Metis Nation and other communities south of Great Slave Lake.

It has been very encouraging to hear the chief of the Yellowknives Dene, Edward Sangris, speaking out about cancelling a fall hunt of the Bathurst herd this year. They are not waiting for our management proposal. When we announced the Bathurst survey results a few weeks ago all the Tlicho chiefs and Dene Nation Chief Bill Erasmus were there and pledged to work with us on making difficult decisions for the sake of future generations.

All partners involved in the management of this herd want to have management actions agreed to and ready to be implemented by the end of December before the winter hunting season starts. As we have seen from the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herd, tough measures are making a difference in helping the herds stabilize and hopefully in the next couple of years start gradually increasing.

There is no easy answer to the problem of declining herds. We can only deal with those impacts we have direct control over and hunting and access to herds are the main ones we can control.

Mr. Speaker, some people may believe the Ahiak herd is immune to this decline or even increased. Unfortunately, this is not the case. Ongoing reconnaissance surveys of the herd's calving grounds indicate a substantial but declining herd. Additional data on caribou condition and pregnancy rate indicate that this herd is not doing well. We are currently planning the first calving ground survey of this herd with the Government of Nunavut. The area is remote and the calving ground is large and has chronically bad weather, so the survey will be challenging.

We are developing another five-year Barren Ground Caribou Management Strategy to cover 2011 to 2015. This strategy and future management actions to conserve our herds will be developed with our co-management partners and aboriginal governments over the coming winter. Mahsi.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 10-16(4):  
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that the honourable

Michael McLeod will be absent from the House today and tomorrow to attend meetings with the Council of Ministers responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety in Vancouver. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO ROBERT ALEXIE, SR. ON NOMINATION FOR JIM BOURQUE AWARD

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to recognize a very remarkable constituent of mine, Mr. Robert Alexie Sr. who has been nominated for the Jim Bourque Award from the National Fur Institute of Canada.

This summer Rob would learn that he was a recipient of that award. Robert accepted the award earlier this summer on his commitment in preserving the traditional knowledge and passing it on to the young people. Robert has received this knowledge from his father, in which his young boy Robert would walk ahead of his dad's dog team with snowshoes and clear the way for his dad. Robert credits all his father's learnings have been passed on to him today in which he is now passing on to the younger generations.

The 75-year old gentleman from Fort McPherson has been hunting and trapping along the Peel River since he was a young man. Robert has contributed extensively to the Government of the Northwest Territories Environment and Natural Resources trappers program for young people. He brings them out to his cabin at the mouth of Trail River in the Yukon and shows them the traditional territory that his father and grandfather and his great-great-grandparents harvested in and also the importance of that territory to the Gwich'in people. He shows them the traditional ways to sustain yourself on the land, but, more importantly, how things were prior to the 1960s when people lived there year-round.

He makes the time to attend meetings, workshops and continues to strive for the protection of our land, the Peel River watershed, animals and, more importantly, our environment. He emphasized to the young generations, during the Trapper Training Program, how much of a challenge it is to trap these days and never to forget the importance of education.

Robert Alexie Sr. is a highly respected elder who passes on his traditional knowledge and willingness to all people. With that, I would like to congratulate Robert Alexie Sr. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
GNWT SUPPORT FOR NWT FILM INDUSTRY

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Working against the odds, our resident filmmakers have achieved world acclaim, publicity and tourism promotion through films produced in the NWT with examples like Mad Trapper, Ice Road Truckers and Buffalo Airways series, Aurora Borealis and One River, Two Shores.

Unfortunately, however, productions about the NWT are infrequent and predominantly produced by southern-based firms. The Time Keeper, the story of the Great Slave Railway in the 1960s, was shot in Quebec. Richard Van Camp's the Lesser Blessed will largely be filmed outside the NWT. Producers say production is too expensive here and there is little government support. CBC's North of 60 was shot entirely in Alberta.

Unlike us, Yukon provides a comprehensive web of programs to support local production, attract southern productions and market films. Nunavut's film art is known worldwide, thanks to a full film development corporation providing incentives and support including the development of animation.

Mr. Speaker, the recent economic review of the Northwest Territories does not even include a section quantifying the value of NWT film performance and fine art industries, giving figures only for the value of arts and crafts production. We need to begin gathering this data.

Data elsewhere shows we will find that spending a dollar in the film industry multiplies its spending far more than spending on large resource developments. To develop our industry, we need to understand it and work with NWT filmmakers to design programs of support. A market study, assessment of the resident industry and a development plan are first basic steps. Ms. France Benoit, a local filmmaker, reports that the NWT is the only jurisdiction in Canada that does not offer financial incentives to producers.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, the NWT needs to take a much more aggressive approach to supporting our resident filmmakers and attracting southern partners to enjoy the benefits we currently forego. I will be asking the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment questions later during this session. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
SUPPORT FOR PERFORMING ARTISTS  
IN THE NWT

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to talk about the performing artists in the Northwest Territories. Performing artists fall into

a number of categories including actors, musicians, dancers, and the list goes on and on.

To begin, I believe the 16<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly has done a good thing in increasing our support to the arts in the NWT. Our budget in this area has increased by almost \$2 million since we began in October 2007. This is a positive step and acknowledges the value that arts play within the Northwest Territories.

However, with respect to performing artists such as musicians I don't believe that we are taking advantage of the good work that is being done. We haven't taken steps required to form partnerships with our northern musicians to promote themselves and the Northwest Territories at the same time. Through ECE we provide money to northern musicians who apply to help them produce their music. Once produced, this government is done with the artists. There is no follow-up. There is no further cooperation or partnering. This is a missed opportunity. I believe that the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment should work with Education, Culture and Employment to identify these musicians and see if they can find ways to work with them in a mutually beneficial way to promote the NWT as a tourist destination.

I have looked through the GNWT Arts Strategy as presented by ITI. There is one brief mention of performing artists. The majority of the focus is on commodities such as crafts. Northern musicians produce a product and are a commodity in and of themselves. ITI should pay greater attention to performing artists as part of their Arts Strategy.

I have also spent a lot of time reviewing our Spectacular NWT campaign. Once again, I'm sad to report that there is very little reference to the arts, including performing artists, as a reason for people to come and experience the Northwest Territories. When people consider coming to a place like the Northwest Territories, they want options and a wide variety of things to do. Attending arts festivals and other music related events is a definite draw.

Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon I'll be asking the Minister responsible for ITI some questions on this topic and seeking commitment of this government to work with performing artists from the Northwest Territories to promote the Northwest Territories and the artists themselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
JOHN TSETSO MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
IN FORT SIMPSON

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'm rising once more on the subject of the John Tsetso Memorial Library in Fort Simpson. In February I spoke in the Assembly about my

concern that the library needs a home. In May I spoke about the value of the community's library as a place to pick up reading materials and for many literacy programs it has offered over the years. Yesterday my colleague Mr. Abernethy spoke about the limitations of the Fort Simpson library. The facility is currently too small and the foundation cannot support the library's collection of books. Currently, due to the relocation from the old Deh Cho Hall, we are now a resource centre and a virtual library there, Mr. Speaker.

The John Tsetso Memorial Library is a designated public library and the residents of Fort Simpson deserve to have one restored. In fact, I think a region of our size, about 4,200 residents, should have a regional library located centrally in Fort Simpson. I support and recommend upgrading and designating a regional library for Nahendeh. Such a library could house a larger collection of books, and books could be circulated to our smaller communities.

The Department of Public Works and Services is currently sending in an engineer to determine where to locate the library. I support a facility that could be a regional library. This library will not only include computer access for patrons but also a book collection and resources that could be accessed by the entire region.

Mr. Speaker, the government has made a firm commitment to promoting and fostering literacy. A library that provides a welcoming space and a good selection of books in Fort Simpson will contribute to literacy. Once again, I support a regional library that will provide additional service throughout Nahendeh. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GYMNASIUM FOR ECOLE ALLAIN ST-CYR

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ecole Allain St-Cyr is a French-first school located on Taylor Road here in Yellowknife. It is one of two schools administered by the Commission Scolaire Francophone, the other being the Ecole Boreale in Hay River. This school has been at its current location on Taylor Road since 2000, when the then \$4 million school was built with support from both Heritage Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Department of Public Works and Services was responsible for the overall project management on the federal government's behalf.

The school is named after Mr. Allain St-Cyr, a former French teacher at both J.H. Sissons and William McDonald School here in Yellowknife and I actually had the honour of having Mr. St-Cyr as my Grade 9 French teacher. He was very well-

respected both as an educator and as a promoter of French schooling.

Today the school is home to 110 students. It also houses a daycare centre for up to 30 students and acts as a cultural centre for Yellowknife's French-speaking community.

Mr. Speaker, in the past few months Members and Ministers alike have received letters from parents of students at that school disagreeing with the government's decision to postpone the funding of phase two of the expansion, which would include a gymnasium that was left out of the original design of the school until 2012-2013.

Mr. Speaker, I'm aware that discussions are currently underway with Heritage Canada on securing funding for the expansion and I want to state again today that it is my belief that this government must immediately enact a policy when it comes to the construction of any new school in any one of our 33 communities across the Territory that the new school has got to have a gymnasium incorporated into the facility.

The statistics don't lie, Mr. Speaker. Youth today are not as active as they were in years past, so why would any government build a school or help build a school, where children spend eight hours a day, without a gymnasium? It defies any logic, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to call on the government to do everything they possibly can to expedite the discussions with Heritage Canada and finally get a gymnasium for the students, the parents and the staff at Ecole Allain St-Cyr. Merci beaucoup.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROMOTION OF BISON MEAT PROCESSING INDUSTRY

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members will have noticed, I'm trying to focus my attention and my comments and Member's statements during this session on the principle that this government says that they embrace, and that is for self-reliant, sustainable communities and people in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, I think part of that is to examine the resources we have on our own doorstep which we do not partake of for whatever reason. I talked about the commercial fishery the other day and what a valuable and big resource that is, but we can't figure out how to take advantage of it.

The one I want to talk about today, though, and I'm sure there will be pushback on this, is that anyone who has travelled on the road, Highway No. 3, the famous Highway No. 3 between Yellowknife and Fort Providence, would have noticed that there are

these large herds of big beasts close to the road. These are our bison. This is a bison sanctuary. It has been there for many years. I don't know what the herd number is today, but anybody who likes bison meat, how many people import bison meat from Alberta so they can eat it here in the Northwest Territories?

Mr. Speaker, this must be ludicrous. Again, anybody looking at us from another planet would wonder why we say we can't afford food, we can't afford the cost of living in the Northwest Territories and yet we have resources like this standing literally at our door.

Now, I understand that the caribou herds are in decline and we're not sure of all the reasons for that and the caribou are certainly easier to hunt than a bison. Most people could handle a caribou. After they've killed it and butchered it, they could handle it themselves. Bison are a little bit more challenging, no doubt, but they are still a very nutritious food source and unless they are sacred or endangered or something else, for the life of me, I cannot understand why a herd that is healthy, disease-free and numbering in the thousands cannot be harvested at a greater rate than about, I think, 12 tags a year.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would have questions today for the Minister of ENR about this. We have a very successful commercial muskox harvest higher up in the Arctic. We have meat and we've even processed the hides from those muskox and it works. So, Mr. Speaker, I'll have questions today for the Minister of ENR. Why can't we eat those bison? Thank you.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEED FOR A YOUTH CENTRE IN LUTSELK'E

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to once again talk about the youth in Lutselk'e. The youth know what they want and what they need. Without proper facilities, the community is challenged to deliver much needed programming for them. Lutselk'e needs a youth centre.

I know this government is doing something in this area and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has the Youth Centres Initiative program where communities can apply for up to \$25,000 to support the operation of a youth centre. This is all fine if you have a youth centre. This year Lutselk'e received \$17,241 under this program. Unfortunately, this is nowhere near enough to deliver a comprehensive youth program. We need to do more. The youth of Lutselk'e are faced with a number of social challenges and are in desperate need of a youth centre.

With yet another recent youth suicide in the community, I consider this a very serious matter and we can no longer sit back and keep up with giving the community the minimum when much, much more is needed. The youth are currently using an old government house as a youth centre. This location is okay for our youth work and to develop programs, however, the home itself is far from ideal for a youth centre.

I realize the construction of a youth centre falls within the responsibility of the community as per the New Deal. However, a community the size of Lutselk'e does not get enough capital through the formula. I feel this government must add some more money into the capital requirements of Lutselk'e in order for the community to build a youth centre.

I strongly believe that as a minimum each community should have a place for the youth in the community to get together, a place to access positive programming. Each community should have a youth centre. A well-run youth centre can have many positive benefits for the youth, the community and the whole NWT.

Lately I've been talking about the need for this government to get creative in finding solutions. This is another situation that needs such a creative solution, an immediate solution.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Let's get some kind of commitment from this government for this project before this community has to experience yet another youth tragedy. Today I will have questions on this very important issue for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EXPANSION OF MIDWIFERY SERVICES IN NWT

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Midwives in Canada are trained specialists who care for women throughout pregnancy and birth, and further, they offer aftercare to mothers and babies in the first weeks after birth. Midwives believe that pregnancies and birth are a part of a woman's natural lifecycle. Midwives recognize most pregnancies and births are healthy and normal. They are skilled to know what to do if complications or difficulties arrive. Midwives are primary health care providers who help women to have healthy pregnancies and babies. They are a fundamental part of the health care team and can refer patients to doctors, specialists, public health nurses and

other health care providers, as well as to the community resources.

In Fort Smith there are two midwives providing these services. We hear nothing but rave reviews of these services in a community where resident physicians are sometimes difficult and hard to find. In Yellowknife there is one midwife and she is willing to accept the challenges of a huge demand for these services. This is an option that many women and many parents want to make, yet no additional midwives are being recruited in Yellowknife. That seems to be the fact of the plan: that there is none.

Here is one example where health care reform makes sense. It has a huge community support, it is a well-established and respected service throughout Canada and the health care system, but, to my dismay, here is an example of health reform in the NWT that no one is considering moving on.

Our one midwife in Yellowknife has to turn away many, many patients. She can only manage a small patient workload because she is only one midwife in Yellowknife. As I understand it, the department doesn't seem to be out recruiting for these types of health care professionals. On the website [practicenorth.ca](http://practicenorth.ca), which the government uses as a big recruitment tool, this website does not even mention midwives. They mention things like EMTs and paramedics, which are not even licensed in the NWT. Where is the call to arms to get more midwives in our health reform system? Many people would like to know, and certainly I would like to know, what the plan is for the Ministers meeting those objectives of providing a much better service?

In closing, expanding the Midwifery Program makes a sensible decision, an economic decision, and it's certainly one that delivers health care reform to the Northwest Territories.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
INCOME SUPPORT AND  
PRODUCTIVE CHOICES PROGRAM

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement today is on the Income Support Program and Productive Choices Policy. During the summer, Tuktoyaktuk hamlet council sent a letter to the regional superintendent of the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment regarding limited numbers of productive choices for small and remote communities. These productive choices programs are something all clients must partake of in order to receive their income assistance.

I agree with the objective of the productive choices polices, but I question how practical they are in small and remote communities such as all the communities in the Nunakput riding. Our small communities have many challenges. Limited jobs and programs often contribute to the cycle of dependency. Adjusting these concerns can hopefully improve our unfortunate cycle.

The Minister did respond, indicating they would wait for a list of the productive choices provided by the Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, but I think the Minister should have gone the next step given that the community governments are overstretched and overworked, and given that the community governments that are most knowledgeable in how various programs should be administered. The Minister should have provided resources for the community to review these concerns adequately, to provide the report.

In the letter to the community it had some suggestions, such as the suggestion that certain counselling and wellness services could be carried about by a group of elders identified by themselves. I believe all government assistance must be administered with respect to regional cultural sensitivity. Currently many income assistance recipients in small, remote communities feel a serious disconnect with their client services officer, the programs and activities they must complete and the way it's administered. These concerns are: one, programs should be administered with respect; two, establish clear and productive policies for staff to follow and provide adequate options for unique challenges in the small and remote communities.

I'll have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment at the appropriate time. Quanami.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
IMPACT OF NWT CAMPGROUND SITE FEE  
INCREASE AND PERMIT ACCESS

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. About 18 months ago the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment proposed two things: increases to the fees for NWT camping sites and the elimination of full-season camping sites. Not surprisingly, a roar of protest followed. Nobody likes changes and especially not our hard-core, dedicated campers.

In what I considered a good judgment decision, made using common sense, the department put the proposed changes on hold for the 2008 season in order to do some surveying of users and to get some facts, so to speak. The resulting report was comprehensive and recommended that the department proceed with the changes, and that they did this past camping season.

Now that we are, unfortunately, well beyond summer -- look outside -- it's time to assess the impact of these changes. Last week our local paper published an article titled Campground Use Down. The article indicated that the number of camping visitors was relatively close to last year's number, but the number of camping permits was down significantly. There's no doubt that some of this decrease was due to the very poor weather that the Yellowknife area experienced for almost six weeks at the start of our summer, but the decrease in campers must also be attributed to the shortened seasonal site permits -- two months' duration instead of four -- and also to the increase in site fees, a fee increase with no corresponding increase in services.

As I mentioned in a statement on this subject last spring, in order to avoid paying the higher fees, many campers planned to squat for free along the side of the road instead of using our campgrounds. How many campers actually did that during the summer of 2009? Did ITI monitor the situation over the summer? Was the Ingraham Trail inundated with squatters camped out along the shoulders of the road? Were any of these squatters given tickets, warnings or eviction notices?

In June the Minister committed to an evaluation to determine the success or lack of success of the new half-season-only campsite permits and the new fee structure. Has that evaluation taken place? Have campers been surveyed for their input after this season?

The information presented by the paper indicated or suggested that the department may be considering some changes for next year, possibly returning some full-season campsites to the inventory. Is that information correct?

I will have these and other questions for the Minister of ITI at the appropriate time.

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

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FISHING INDUSTRY

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was giving some thought in terms of my Member's statement today and I was thinking about what the MLA for Hay River, Mrs. Groenewegen, was talking about in terms of how the North could be independent, strong and free in terms of self-sufficiency regarding fish. She was talking about the fish the other day. I thought about this and I talked to my wife about this. Wouldn't it be wonderful to walk into our stores in our small communities and have fish that was from the Northwest Territories, either Great Slave Lake or Great Bear Lake? Lake trout from up in the Beaufort-Delta where there are some wonderful

fishing lakes up there. All down the whole Mackenzie River. Have people go out on the land and fish. That's part of their life, being self-reliant, independent and healthy. Teach about the importance of our food here.

How is it today that when we walk into our stores we get fish from outside of the Northwest Territories? We don't even look in our own backyard. I'm just wondering that this government here, in terms of really taking the bull by the horns to shake things up and say this is what we're going to do for the Northwest Territories and for our people. Start looking at how to invest in our own resources, ourselves as people, our communities. The wonderful food that this land has to offer is out there. Caribou, buffalo, moose, even the sheep and all the fish. Even the berries for making jam, making wonderful jam. We have a wealth and it seems that we still need to go out and purchase these things outside of the Northwest Territories.

This is something that we need to think about in terms of how we're going to pass this on to our children, tell them the importance of our own resources in our land, the importance of having fish brought in from our fish lakes. They can get back to the land. People in the South Slave can certainly have some wonderful fish shipped up into the valley and we can do the same as down the Mackenzie Valley here in terms of having food in our local grocery stores by our people. These things should be part of our life here.

I look forward to a day that we can have this discussion as to how we can depend on ourselves.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. 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 gives me great pleasure to recognize the Aurora College fourth-year Nursing Program that is here with us. First of all, the nursing instructor, Matthew Smith, is with us; Rielle Nakehk'o from Hinton, Alberta; Jeri Cooper, Hay River; Shannon Laframboise, Manitoba; Bonnie Lynch, Yellowknife; Jenna Menard, Yellowknife; Cristi Mercado, Philippines; Elise O'Connor, Fort Smith; LeeAnn Laraway, Whitehorse, Yukon; Jane Robertson, Vancouver, B.C.; Megan Russell, Yellowknife; Fion Shing, Hong Kong; Betty Strbac, Croatia; Kristin Tarrant, Lawn, Newfoundland; Charlene Teddy, Tuktoyaktuk; and Becky White, Yellowknife. Mahsi for being here.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize Jeri Cooper in the visitor's gallery today from Hay River, a nursing student. And I'd like to recognize Vince McKay, a resident of Hay River South and recently departed from local politics in Hay River. It is very good to see Sam Gargan and Jim Antoine in here, proof that there is life after the Legislative Assembly.

---Laughter

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is indeed a pleasure to welcome back the previous Speaker of this Assembly and now Grand Chief of Deh Cho, Mr. Sam Gargan, as well as Jim Antoine, the previous Premier and Minister of this government and Member for it would have been Nahendeh at the time, and now chief of the band in Fort Simpson. Welcome.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize a couple of constituents who happen to be in the gallery today. One is Barb Wyness, who is the research and PR officer with the Union of Northern Workers, and with her is Jackie Walsh, who is a brand new assistant to the president of the UNW. Welcome to them both.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Someone once asked me how many times can you be recognized in the Legislature, but I will continue to add a special welcome to Chief Jim Antoine of Liidlii Kue First Nations, as well as to grand chief of Deh Cho First Nations, Mr. Samuel Gargan, who spends a lot of time in Fort Simpson now. Welcome. As well, a special greeting to my niece, Miss Erica Menicoche and her mother, Cheryl Yakeleya. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize my lovely, lovely wife, Cheryl, and our daughter Erica.

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

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure today to have people from Nunakput here. First of all, I would like to welcome Ms. Bessie Hagen and my sister-in-law from Tuktoyaktuk, Ms. Donna Ruben from Paulatuk, Charlene Elias and His Worship Mayor Merven Gruben, welcome. I would like to welcome Miss Charlene Teddy as well, Mr. Speaker, for coming down here to

continue her education in nursing, and all the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. If we missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Chamber. Welcome to the House. It is always nice to have an audience. I hope you are enjoying the proceedings. Item 6, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

### Acknowledgements

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to acknowledge a resident of Wrigley, Mr. Charlie Tale. Charlie has been awarded the Top Trapper Award for 2008-2009. Charlie has had the highest sales and the highest number of pelts of any trapper in the Deh Cho and, as well, many times in the past years.

Miss Renalyn Pascau-Matte, trade and investment manager for the Deh Cho region, presented Charlie with a drum of gas in time to use when he goes out to his trap line this fall. He will also be awarded the muskrat board plaque and a certificate from the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

I am honoured to acknowledge Charlie Tale and his legendary success. I wish him another great trapping season this year. Mahsi cho.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 45-16(4): PROMOTION OF BISON MEAT PROCESSING INDUSTRY

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about that very handsome resource that we have. We have bison and buffalo in various locations around the Northwest Territories and in the south part of the Territory. We know the ones in the Wood Buffalo National Park are protected, but there are also issues with them in terms of disease, a history of disease. We have a herd around Fort Liard. We certainly have a herd close by here in Yellowknife that we are very proud to say is disease-free and has multiplied and now exists in very high numbers.

Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of ENR is: what is the population of that herd now? Is it protected in some way? How many tags per year are issued for that herd? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. There are three questions there. The Minister may answer one or all of them. The Minister responsible for ENR, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are in the neighbourhood, I believe, of about 1,600 bison on this side of the river. I will point out that the range is expanding north towards Behchoko. There is interest now not only from the people from Fort Providence but in Behchoko and the Tlicho, as well, now closer to Yellowknife they get in terms of having access to the herd. I believe they hand out several dozen tags over the course of the year for outfitting. That is usually done, of course, in the coldest and darkest days of winter to make it a challenge as opposed to opening the door of your hotel room and shooting them in the parking lot as they rub against your truck. They are considered threatened. The numbers are down somewhat, which is also a source of some concern. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** That is very interesting information; not very concise, though. We don't know exactly how many we have. We don't know exactly how many tags we issue every year.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister indicated that there is interest from various communities and various regions in the Northwest Territories. I mentioned we do a commercial harvest of the muskox. What is preventing a commercial harvest assisted by this government in some way of this resource for meat? We figure out a way to ship liquor all over the Northwest Territories, subsidized or cross-subsidized for everybody to get it at the same price. Why can't we ship some bison around? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** There is clear information there. I just don't have the exact number of tags at my fingertips, but I can find that for the Member. I indicated that we estimated during the last count in the neighbourhood of about 1,600 animals in the Mackenzie sanctuary. They are considered threatened under the federal Species at Risk Act. There are restrictions and limitations on what can be done when animals are under that category. There is not a great number of them. Whatever we do has to be done very carefully. The idea of a commercial harvest is not one that has been contemplated, given those considerations. Thank you.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** It doesn't seem that there would be that many natural predators of an animal of that size. Mr. Speaker, what would it take for this government to put in place the kind of -- I hate to say it -- study or review to determine if there would be a sustainable harvest that would not affect the numbers of the bison?

Mr. Speaker, they are a renewable resource. The cows theoretically have a calf every spring. It seems like it is something that could be managed. The Minister talks about the federal legislation. We are embarking on our own species at risk legislation. What does that say about whether or not the bison are protected? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, the bison are going to continue to be considered threatened. Work is being done with the federal government on that issue. Given the numbers at this point, I don't think that there is going to be any change in the classification coming.

I can commit to the Member that I can get her information about what may be feasible or not in terms of making use of the herd and who has access, what hunting rights are now currently in place for those aboriginal harvesters that are in there in terms of the subsistence hunt. I can get something more technical on the issue of what is the sustainability in regards to commercial harvest. Thank you.

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

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Who would we, as a government, need to consult? Who would the stakeholders be who we would need to get some buy-in from if we were going to begin to harvest these animals on a grander scale? Would it be the decision of this government or who all would need to be included in such a decision? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, we would be dealing with the people of Fort Providence. We would be dealing with the Tlicho, given that the range is now expanding into the Tlicho region, with, as well, probably the Wekeezhii board, the renewable resource board, the territorial government and we would also probably be working with the federal government as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

#### QUESTION 46-16(4):

##### NEED FOR A YOUTH CENTRE IN LUTSELK'É

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I talked about the desperate need for a youth centre in Lutselk'é. I have questions for the Minister of MACA. Mr. Speaker, in June of this year the Minister committed to, and I quote, "getting the wheels in motion for a proper, adequate youth centre for the community." I would like to know the status of this. Are we any closer to getting a youth centre in Lutselk'é than we were in June? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the Member pointed out in his Member's statement, the community of Lutselk'é does have access to funding to build a dedicated youth centre should they decide to do so. There are some issues that MACA is working with the band

council related to the ownership of assets by the band council. The community is funded for their own capital projects. If the community of Lutselk'e decides that they do want to build a youth centre, then they do have the funds available to them to proceed with that project. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Mr. Speaker, also as mentioned in my Member's statement, communities the size of Lutselk'e do not get enough capital funding in order to complete a youth centre. I would like to know if the Minister can commit to working with the community to get a youth centre into a capital plan somewhere in the immediate future. Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we will work with the community to get a youth centre into the capital plan, but it will be the community's capital plan; it will not be the corporate capital plan that the government has. We will commit to working with the community, as we have with many communities across the Northwest Territories. We will work with them on their capital plans and assist them with financing and any other help they need from the department. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I still feel that there is more need for a capital plan other than what is in the formula in order for some of these smaller communities that don't have the infrastructure that larger communities are able to get in their plan. Will the Minister commit to making sure that the MACA staff go into the community with maybe the idea of moving some capital allotment within the department in developing some sort of funding plan to building a youth centre in Lutselk'e? Thank you.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** MACA is more than willing to work with the communities. The communities have to make the request to come forward to MACA to ask for assistance with their community capital plan, then we will sit down with them. We can't dictate to them. We are trying to get away from dictating to the communities what they should be building, but we will assist them in any way possible. Thank you.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister commit to visit the community to meet with the leaders to discuss this important project? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I am always interested in visiting the communities, especially one that relates to youth issues, and hear from the grassroots some of their issues with youth. If scheduling permits, I will be more than pleased to go into the community with the Member to meet with the residents there. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 47-16(4):  
JOHN TSETSO MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
IN FORT SIMPSON

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Member's statement when I spoke about the lack of a community library in the community of Fort Simpson. It has been almost a year now that we are trying to get some resolution around that. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment what the current plans the department has to assist the community of Fort Simpson in restoring the library to a full library. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Certainly PWS has made some arrangement, through talk with the two schools, on the structural engineering -- both Thomas Simpson and Bompas elementary schools -- if they could have a library situated in one of those schools. So those are the discussions that the community will be having with PWS. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I look forward to be continually updated on the assessment when it happens. Another approach that I would like to take there, Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement I spoke of making the John Tsetso Memorial Library in Fort Simpson a regional library. Will the Minister work with me to establish this and call it a regional library?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, I certainly can sit down with the Member to discuss this issue. I think we also need to involve other parties as well, the local district education authority and also the divisional education council as well, because those are the decision-makers at the community level. I'm willing to commit to work with those organizations and also the Member to proceed with this initiative. If that's the interest of the communities, then we can certainly work towards that.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** As I had stated, we are now only a resource centre and I think even the correct term might be like a virtual library where if you want books, you just go on the computer. The previous facility was more of a gathering centre for youth, visitors, et cetera, so that's what we'd like to work towards. Can I ask this Minister if he's willing to come to Fort Simpson to meet with the residents and meet with the education councils and the newly elected village council to talk about a plan and a strategy to work towards setting up the library once again and/or even designating it as a regional library?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, certainly, that's one of the goals of my department,

to visit the community. I think there has been some plan arranged for sometime next month to visit the community, to visit the MLA as well and the community leaders to discuss these initiatives that are underway.

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

QUESTION 48-16(4):  
INCOME SUPPORT AND  
PRODUCTIVE CHOICES PROGRAM

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement I was speaking about the Income Support Program. Mr. Speaker considering the community governments that are most knowledgeable with how the programs are administered and considering that the Minister recognizes that the community-based and supported programs options are often more effective, will the Minister provide the necessary resources for the communities to adequately review the program and policies to provide the report? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I'm willing to commit the resources that are necessary to review what the Member is asking for. Within our programming there is always a review on the way and if there is a concern or issue that's been brought forward, we can certainly look at it and see what we can do within the region. So, certainly, I'm willing to work the Member on this particular item. Mahsi.

**MR. JACOBSON:** In response to the letter that was sent to the Beaufort-Delta regional superintendent of Education, Culture and Employment regarding how the department administers the Income Support Program and considering many people feel disconnected with the programs and the way it's administered to the communities' limitations and unique challenges, will the government work with the communities to review the following three concerns: administer the programs with respect and regional sensitivity; establish clear, productive policies for the staff to follow; and provide adequate program options to the unique challenges in small, remote communities?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, this is one area that we need to clearly improve our communication and working relations with the communities. Those are expertise we need to hear from, having a clear communication dialogue between client service officers and clientele. Certainly that's been recognized in the past and that we are currently working towards as a

progression period. So those are the areas that we're focusing on right now as we speak.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Mr. Speaker, can the Minister look into the income support to see if we could give an increase on the amount for the communities so that what support that we do give them lasts the whole month and not just two weeks due to the high cost of the groceries that they are buying and the families that they're trying to feed?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, there has been some increase in 2005 and going forward, 2007. So we have been increasing our subsidy program, but certainly we can look at what kind of subsidy we provide currently and where we can improve in those programs. As long as it meets the demands of the clientele, certainly, we can work towards that.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Mr. Jacobson.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the 2009-2010 increases for the communities in income support on the program that they're providing. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. I didn't hear a question there. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

QUESTION 49-16(4):  
FUNDING FOR EXPANSION AT  
ECOLE ALLAIN ST-CYR

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Some of the information that I have from parents of students at Ecole Allain St-Cyr would suggest that the government has put off funding of phase two, which would include a new gymnasium at that facility, until 2012-2013. I'm also of the understanding that discussions are currently underway with Heritage Canada on securing funding, so I'm just wondering how a decision could be made to postpone funding until 2012-2013 when discussions are obviously underway. Thank you.

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

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Those discussions with the federal Heritage Minister, they are ongoing negotiations that are currently happening. We've sent letters to the Minister of Heritage and we haven't had a response back from them yet. We're still waiting for them. Certainly this is an area we are focussed to move forward on, so we're just waiting for the federal response. Mahsi.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Was there then a decision by Education, Culture and Employment to delay or

postpone any funding for phase two, the expansion at Ecole Allain St-Cyr to 2012-2013? Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Currently the second phase is, like I said, we're waiting for the federal government to commit the funding. So once the funding is in place, then we can certainly put it towards the capital. As we speak, we're just currently at a standstill until we get confirmation. We have our staff currently negotiating with the federal government on expediting the process as we speak.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, according to the information that I have, it looks like we're going to be looking at a two to three-year wait for the federal government to come back to us on whether or not they're going to fund this project. Mr. Speaker, I think that's a bit ludicrous. I'd like to ask the Minister again: has the government given any consideration to a policy that would see any new construction of a school in the Northwest Territories be mandated to include a gymnasium in the original design of that school?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Speaker, those are the areas that we definitely need to discuss with the other departments as well, my department and also Public Works and Services. If we need to include the gymnasium as part of the ongoing new schools, then that needs to be discussed at that level with other departments as well. So those are discussions that we'll certainly have on a going forward basis.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given the high childhood obesity rates, the inactivity of our youth, wouldn't the Minister and the government think that, you know, they don't need to talk to their government officials. I mean, that's a decision, I think, the government should be making and we as legislators should be making here in the Northwest Territories. If we say that every school that's going to be constructed here in the Northwest Territories should include a gymnasium, that's a decision I think that politicians need to make, Mr. Speaker, not bureaucrats. I'd like to ask the Minister that question. Thank you.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** When I said the departments, it was myself and Minister McLeod making those kinds of decisions, not the bureaucrats. At the same time, we have to work together with the MLAs around the table as well. As long as it meets the needs of the North, the people, then we can certainly work towards that. We do have alternative arrangements in the past where we built schools for the gymnasiums, with partnerships with the Sahtu, the Tlicho region and the other communities that pursued other alternatives in the schools. So we continue to strive towards that as interim measures, but for the long term we'll

certainly discuss those initiatives. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 50-16(4):  
EXPANSION OF MIDWIFERY SERVICES  
IN THE NWT

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In today's Member's statement I talked about the important role midwives play in our health care system and, if I may say, they certainly deliver results in our health care system. Mr. Speaker, knowing that very well and also hearing the voices of Yellowknife Centre constituents who have written me to applaud the services that are being provided by this government through our Midwife Program, they'd like to know what is being done to expand this program to continue to help deliver an accountable health care policy, certainly in a way that makes good sense and in a compassionate way. Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health and myself, as Minister, support the expansion of midwifery services in the Territories. That principle is reflected in the Foundation for Change Action Plan and I look forward to working with the Members in the House through that plan to find ways to expand this program. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister supports the Midwife Program and I don't think that's at doubt in any way in this particular case. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to know what the Minister is doing to deliver more services that are much needed in this Territory, specifically Yellowknife where we have one overworked midwife at this time. Certainly the demands are out there to help grow in this area. So, Mr. Speaker, what is the Minister doing to help deliver more midwives to our health care system? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I do understand the pressure the midwifery service is in in Yellowknife, as well the challenge of expanding services within our system which is already currently under enormous financial pressure. The only way for us to expand programs such as that is to make some real bending-the-trend changes that changes the trajectory of where we are going with the health and social system where we can focus on prevention, focus on community care, and midwifery fits into that. In order for us to resource it in a way that we would like to see, not only in Yellowknife but across the Territories, we need to make some profound

changes, and the Foundation for Change, which I'm going to be tabling next week, will speak to that. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, some people will even say that delivering babies is almost as old as time, and it's certainly a natural process. As we all know, most pregnancies go without any complication and I'm certainly grateful to know that that is certainly the trend. But, Mr. Speaker, midwives play an essential part in our health care reform and, Mr. Speaker, will this delivery for change or the expansion for change demonstrate and, certainly, say we are going to add more services in the Midwife Program? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Certainly midwifery is something that is not only good on its own merit, it's something that we would like to see especially in communities where there is no permanent, reliable physician services, which is all of the communities outside of Yellowknife and Inuvik. I do appreciate, I think it does a great job in Smith and I know it really fills a void in a community like Fort Smith where we don't have a resident doctor.

Yellowknife, I know that the program is really popular and we need to make some major investments to expand these programs, especially in places where physicians are not available. But in order to do that, we need to make some changes within our system and I think the committee has already seen our Foundation for Change plan and we need to work together and work hard to see how we focus our resources on places like midwifery throughout the Territories, not just Yellowknife, but of course including Yellowknife. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Your final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that an obstetrician costs a lot more than a midwife and in many cases a midwife can offer the same types of services that an obstetrician would offer. Of course, as I said in my statement and as the Minister knows very well, that if there's a problem, the midwife will refer the patient back to the system of specialists. Mr. Speaker, that obstetrician costs a lot more than a midwife and, furthermore, our doctors, as we all know, are extremely overworked as is. So, Mr. Speaker, everybody knows, as well, that midwives can deliver this in a compassionate and an affordable way.

So, Mr. Speaker, would the Minister update her website that talks about attracting more health care professionals and also will she inform this House as to potentially maybe how many more midwives we can be offering not just in Yellowknife but throughout the Territory as a whole? I think we could all benefit from the expansion of these services, not just here but everywhere in the North. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** In our discussion I think it's important to note that midwives or the midwifery service does not in any way replace or reduce, really, doctors' work. They work in partnership and I guess in the long run and in provinces like Ontario where there are a large number of midwives, they are beginning to get into reducing a doctor's workload, but we have a long way to go. We couldn't do that with the one or two or three or four midwives and certainly I think that is the way that we should be heading for the Territories for the next 10 or 20 years.

In terms of advertising on the website for a midwife position, it's hard to advertise for a position when we do not have, right now, positions open for midwifery. I think we should strengthen training of midwives. I would love to see midwives, local women or men, being trained out of the Sahtu. I think that would be very good there. Inuvik, Beaufort-Delta and extra midwives be trained for Yellowknife and Hay River. So we need to train our own midwives and then to expand the services, but we need to do a lot of work, because we can't continue to add on services without looking at how we can move our resources around at the same time, because everybody here knows the pressure that the system is under. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

QUESTION 51-16(4):  
SUPPORT FOR PERFORMING ARTISTS  
IN THE NWT

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment and they're in follow-up to my Member's statement from earlier today. In reviewing the NWT Arts Strategy I find very little reference to performing artists. These performing artists provide a product that is as tangible as any piece of fine art or traditional craft. Why is there not greater attention placed on them by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The NWT Arts Strategy is a document that is prepared with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Department of ITI. We do it jointly and we update it every few years. Our government is a very active supporter of the performing arts. I'm very pleased to advise the Member that in this 2009-10 ECE budget, \$700,000 was added to the 2008-09 investment of \$500,000 for artists and cultural organizations in this important sector. Also, every year in all five of our

regions ITI recognizes the performing arts through funding of various initiatives and activities held in their communities. Also we provide direct and financial support to NACC for the Northern Performance Promotional Materials Program and I know of at least one performer that took advantage of that this year. Thank you.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I'd like to thank the Minister for that. Just as a reference or as a note, I did mention the increased money that we have been putting into arts and I applauded the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and ITI for doing that.

My Member's statement was more along the lines of taking that next step. I know that we support these artists and we help them develop product, but then there's nothing. There's no encouragement of these artists or partnerships of these artists to work together with the Government of the Northwest Territories to have them go out and champion the Northwest Territories. The Arts Strategy itself -- and I'm glad it's updated on a regular basis -- only has a small reference to the performing artists and I don't see a tie with ITI specifically, them working with the performing artists as a means of promoting the Northwest Territories as a whole, which in fact promotes the artists themselves. So I wonder if I could get the Minister to talk a little bit more about that specific aspect of it and tell me what his department is going to do to work with these artists to have them work together to promote the Northwest Territories and themselves.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Certainly I feel we promote northern artists here in the Northwest Territories very well and one area the Member mentioned was using NWT artists to promote tourism in southern Canada and certainly we're quite prepared to do that. It's all dependent on the level of resources that we have for tourism. It's a struggle every year to get funding to promote tourism. In the past we've tried hotel tax to try to get more money for tourism, but certainly the more resources we have dedicated for tourism, the more we can do to promote tourism using northern performers. Thank you.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Promoting and supporting I think are slightly different things. In a related topic, in reviewing the Spectacular NWT campaign supported by ITI, I find very little reference other than basic ads to performing artists and events held throughout the Northwest Territories. These events themselves are tourism draws and our northern performers could, and would, be willing to be our champions in this area, promoters of the Northwest Territories like Susan Aglukark was for Nunavut. She basically did a lot to put Nunavut on the map and it also helped her career as well. We're missing a great opportunity to work with people like Pat Braden of Yellowknife, Diga of Behchoko, Leanne Goose of Beaufort-Delta and Leela Gilday of the Sahtu and many, many others from across the

Northwest Territories. Would the Minister commit to working with Education, Culture and Employment to identify northern performing artists and find ways to incorporate these northern performers into our Tourism Strategy and our tourism campaign? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Certainly through the Vancouver Olympics in 2010 we are showcasing northern performers there as well, but I'd be very pleased to work with my colleague, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, and work with the Member, as well, to find ways to improve our showcasing of northern performers. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 52-16(4):  
IMPACT OF NWT CAMPGROUND SITE FEE  
INCREASE AND PERMIT ACCESS

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are also addressed to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment and, not surprisingly, I had a few questions in my statement, which I want to follow up on.

The impression that I got in reading the article in the Yellowknifer was that the department has gathered some information from the use of campgrounds and the number of camping visitors we had from this past season, 2009. The impression that the Minister gave me in June was that there would be a report. So I would like to ask the Minister, is there a report coming and is the Minister planning on presenting these findings any time soon?

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here in the Northwest Territories we are very lucky to have an impressive array of territorial parks for people to use for camping. We do, as a matter of course, a review of our summer camping season every year and we are now gathering information and we will be doing a review and we'll be able to share the results of that review at the appropriate time. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** I appreciate that we're going to get a review. You kind of sound like another Minister when you talk about receiving the review. It sounds like in the fullness of time. I'd like it a little sooner than that, I think.

I'd like to know if the Minister could advise the parameters of this report. I mentioned a number of changes that occurred in the 2009 season. Will this report be looking at the impact that these changes had on the numbers, the usage of campsites, the number of campground visitors in this past season

and also the incidences of people who were camping outside our campgrounds and trespassing, so to speak? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** This summer our parks ran very smoothly. There were very few complaints from the public and I would certainly like to commend our parks contractors and our parks staff for the excellent job that they did. Also we've received a lot of positive comments on the campgrounds from the park contractors and I'm very pleased to advise that our revenues increased by 27 percent this year, but we will be looking at all of the information. We kept information on camping permits that have been sold, we gather information on the total nights of camping, the total camping visitors and we will be looking at all of those things.

In terms of squatters and people that are using other places to camp, that's not our jurisdiction. That's either federal land management or if it's on Commissioner's lands, that would be my colleague at Municipal and Community Affairs. Thank you.

**MS. BISARO:** I guess I have to take it from that reply and I want to just sort of back up and say at the outset that I do appreciate what ITI does in terms of campgrounds and campsites and the work that the contractors do. I think they do do a good job, but there certainly were some changes that were made and I'm looking for some evaluation of how those changes impacted the efforts of this past year, the campers who used our campsites this past season. So I gather that there was no monitoring of people who were squatting outside of our campgrounds and I guess that means since the Minister said ITI didn't do it, I would have to then ask the Minister of MACA, but I'll have to do that another time.

In terms of possible changes, which were referenced in the article in the Yellowknifer, I'd like to ask the Minister whether or not the department is considering changes to the operation of camps, seasonal sites and fees and so on for the 2010 season. Is that something that's likely to be encompassed in the report that's coming in time? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Things change as we go along and certainly we're adding another loop to the Reid Lake campground. So certainly it gives us more flexibility. We don't always develop our programs based on editorials in the Yellowknifer, but we will look at all of these different areas and certainly we will be prepared to look at seasonal campgrounds as well. Thank you.

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

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to the Minister for his response. I certainly agree with you, I don't make my decisions based on editorials in the Yellowknifer either. The Minister

referenced the report in time. Could I get a shorter time frame than "in time"? Any idea when this report might be coming forward? Are we talking three months, are we talking six months, are we talking a year? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I expect we'll have this report before Christmas. Normally we try to do it so that if we have to make any legislative changes that we can do it well in advance of the next camping season. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### QUESTION 53-16(4):

##### GNWT SUPPORT FOR NWT FILM INDUSTRY

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up on my Member's statement on building support for our film industry. The Canadian Television Fund recently held meetings in the Yukon and Nunavut, but not in the NWT, to collect input for the design of its guidelines. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment and it's whether or not the NWT Film Commission made a submission to these consultations. Thank you.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not aware of the Film Commission making any submission to this group that you're referring to.

**MR. BROMLEY:** That's disappointing that we did not participate in that obviously potential source of support for the North. I would like to also recognize early on that we have been increasing our support to the arts generally, both ECE and I believe in ITI. But here is an area where we really need more.

What work is being done to develop, in consultation with our fledgling film industry, a comprehensive set of useful supports for the industry's development?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We review, from time to time, the benefits from pursuing more active involvement in the film industry. I don't think we want to go to Hollywood and start producing blockbuster movies, but we look at it in terms of the benefits that would remain in the Northwest Territories, and any applications, we review on an individual basis.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I appreciate those comments. I think the Minister has raised a couple of very important issues. One is, what are the benefits? I think just a little bit of research would start revealing, especially on a full cost accounting basis, what the returns on investment in the film industry are. Especially in the way of promotion of tourism, local hiring and skill development, and quality of life, with the exciting opportunities it often presents,

even though it may not be Hollywood. Our problem now is that films of the NWT are produced in Hollywood rather than right here, yet we have amazing Yellowknife films. France Benoit, with her recent production; Dennis Allen, Elaine Alexie, Alex Czarnecki, Terry Wolfe -- I could go on -- Alec Beaudin.

What resources does the NWT commission have and how is it developed to support this film industry?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** The NWT Film Commission has no resources. It only can direct people who are interested in shooting in the Northwest Territories or asking for information. We can point them in the right direction.

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

**MR. BROMLEY:** Obviously I think there are major gaps here, especially if we compare our programs of support to our sister jurisdictions of Yukon and Nunavut. Will the Minister commit to examining their programs and to doing the research on value-added, the sort of full cost accounting range of benefits that we'll get from a film industry, and report back to committees and using that information to develop a very useful and directed program of support beyond just an empty shell like the NWT Film Commission?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** We'd be pleased to do so. We do review on a regular basis. So we'd be prepared to look at it again.

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

#### QUESTION 54-16(4):

##### HARVESTING AND MARKETING LOCAL FOODS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about traditional foods that we could use in our communities, especially in our local stores. I want to ask the Minister...No, I would like to ask the Premier, as the leader of the government, about having some discussions with his Cabinet colleagues about whether this is possible. Imagine walking into a store in one of the communities and seeing on the shelf that there's caribou meat there or muskox or buffalo meat or fish. Wouldn't that be a wonderful thing to happen in the Northwest Territories?

Can the Premier, in terms of his discussions with his Ministers, confirm if this is something possible for the Northwest Territories to have?

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would say yes, it is a possibility in the Northwest Territories. As the Members have raised in this House, we have an abundance of natural resources

when it comes to fish in our lakes and the wildlife that take up the land here across the Northwest Territories. In fact, in the past when I was with the hunters' and trappers' committee, I recall a pilot project on the fisheries project up in the Mackenzie Delta that was tied to the fisheries group in Hay River and Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, I believe it was. They did a bit of a pilot project there. At that time I recall asking why we didn't try to do something or packaging of things in the North instead of sending our products south. It is something I believe should be looked into a little more and making use of our own resources.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I'm delighted to hear what the Premier has to say that this maybe should be looked into more in terms of how we can go forward with it. Can I ask the Premier, in terms of his discussion again with his colleagues and certainly with Members on this side and maybe the committee in the Northwest Territories, how can we look at something that we could see come to realization within possibly the life of this government? How can the Premier provide his leadership in terms of guiding us to a realization in the North?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** One of the ways we would start this discussion would be with the appropriate Ministers. I know I've had discussions with the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment around expanding some of those areas that we look at right now. We could incorporate the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. Then we have to look at what other areas we would have to engage in; some of the federal government, their offices, as well, when it comes to how we can ship product around this country. This is something that has to be taken into consideration. More importantly, we have to sit down with Members to look at how we would take some of the resources that we use today and divert it to some areas where there's new opportunity that we could look at investing in.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I believe the Premier would really demonstrate his leadership in our communities. The community members would certainly fully support this concept here in utilizing our own resources here in our backyard. How do we bring that forward into our communities? I think the Premier is on a good thing. I would ask the Premier when maybe we could have some formal discussions with the Members on this side just to bring up the discussion to see if there's an appetite -- that reminds me, I'm hungry -- over on this side here to see if this is something we could really engage in.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** As Members are aware, we are working on the next round of business plans for the next budget of this government. There are responses that will be going to our Minister of

Finance and appropriate Ministers to look at other areas. If the Members felt strongly enough about this, I'm sure we could work with Members to see if we could incorporate anything into the upcoming budget cycle. Barring that, there is again still life in this Assembly where we can put the foundation in place to start to look at this and start to engage in some areas of opportunity for expansion when it comes to our natural resources.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I would certainly look forward to further discussions with the Premier and his Cabinet colleagues and with Members from this side in terms of some introduction to the business planning process in terms of what we can do here. Certainly I would ask the Premier if he would put together some indication as to where we start looking at areas that could see some light at the end of this project in terms of the life of this government here.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** I will commit to sit down with the Ministers to look at a time frame, timeline, options, and have that paper then brought forward to members of standing committee so that we can start some discussion as to how we would engage in this area.

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

QUESTION 55-16(4):  
MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Premier. It is in regard to a proposal he received along with the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs regarding a proposal for preliminary design and engineering work for an all-weather highway south of Inuvik in the Gwich'in settlement area, which he received from the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Mr. Richard Nerysoo.

I'd just like to ask the Premier if he has had an opportunity to discuss this with his Cabinet colleagues and his federal counterpart, the federal Minister of Indian Affairs, and see if there is a potential opportunity to invest in some of this engineering design work for the Mackenzie Highway down the Mackenzie Valley from Inuvik south.

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

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I indeed have had discussions with quite a number of people: the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Minister Strahl; I've had discussions with the Prime Minister; I've had discussions with the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council on that

proposal. Initially it was one that was a joint proposal being looked at between the Sahtu and Gwich'in. There have been subsequent changes to that proposal. We've been engaging in trying to go right from Wrigley north and trying to get that environmental work done with the Minister of Transportation. So there's ongoing work in trying to secure funding from the federal government.

The avenue of trying to do that right now is still up for discussion, but I know in the interest and as I've laid out right from the early days of this government that the Mackenzie Valley Highway was one of the priorities we'd like to see some engagement on. So we've been trying to promote that in as many forums and meetings as possible.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I believe that in this proposal we have to look at the development of the Mackenzie Highway coming at it from all sides, north, south, working from the north, south and vice versa, working from Wrigley north. I think that it's an initiative. I think if the aboriginal groups in those regions can work out their differences and find a way to move forward -- and I believe I talked to the president of the tribal council yesterday and that Fort Good Hope is onsite now and they are in discussions of doing the highway from Inuvik to Fort Good Hope -- this will increase the cost of oil and gas development in that area. I know there's a question about the oil and gas potential in the Colville Lake area and I think having this infrastructure there will improve that activity.

I'd like to ask the Premier, in regard to this proposal, are there any resources in the Government of the Northwest Territories by way of the Building Canada Fund or infrastructure funding? I believe there is \$500,000 that has been identified for research as the federal infrastructure funds are there today. So out of the \$500,000, is there a possibility of using those resources to assist with this proposal?

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** I don't have that detail on that one small pot of funding. What we have done as a Government of the Northwest Territories is we've raised it as a priority level to look for funding. Whether it's internal to ourselves, the Minister of Transportation, I know, has been working on something. It's not enough yet to do all the work that's necessary. We've engaged the federal government at a number of levels to see if they can come to the table with us. My meetings with the Prime Minister are along the same lines. So we're working with that. If there's partnership out there with the aboriginal organizations and governments, again we're open to that and I've expressed that with the regional leadership, as well, across the Territory.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, I think it's critical that we do get this baseline information done in regard to the engineering design work that has to be done before

we get to building the highway. I'd like to again ask the Premier to ensure that he keeps myself and the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council informed on these meetings and also for them to take part in these discussions between the federal government, the federal Minister of Indian Affairs, and yourself in order to move this project forward.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** I will keep Members apprised of any new developments that come along. When it comes to the federal government, I know there's again ongoing discussions to try to find any lever we can to see if there's possible enhancement of what our plan is right now. Our plan will take quite a number of years. I know there's another, there's a group out there that's through the Mackenzie Aboriginal Corporation, I believe it was called, that's done a bit of legwork as well on the Mackenzie Valley Highway. They've gone to Ottawa for discussions. They have a partnership with aboriginal groups up and down the valley. Our goal right now is planning to get the environmental work done and feasibility work done. In that light, we are continuing to work with the Department of Transportation, the federal government and aboriginal groups up and down the valley to try to see if we can move this along in partnership. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, where there is a will there is a way. We were able to find money for the Mackenzie Pipeline initiative in regards to having funding available there. We were able to fund the APG. I would just like to request from the Premier that there are resources and pots of money in this government. I know we spend a lot of money in capital investment, but there are also research dollars there that can also be identified for this project. I would like to ask the Premier if he would seriously consider the Building Canada Fund \$500,000 that was there for research and development, if we can use some of those dollars so we can get this work underway. Thank you.

**HON. FLOYD ROLAND:** Mr. Speaker, we are definitely looking at every pot of funding out there that we can internally as well. Again, like I committed earlier, if there is the will of this Assembly, there is a way we can deal with that and I am prepared to come to Members to put that on the table, looking at some options that may come available to us between now and even as we return back with Members on potential business plan processes upcoming. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 56-16(4):  
REVITALIZING THE  
NWT FRESHWATER FISHERY

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I was speaking in the House the day before yesterday about the plight of the commercial fishery on Great Slave Lake and the need to extricate, get ourselves out from under the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, the Minister for ITI responded that there had been yet another review done. These are just a few of the reviews that I grabbed out of the library today that have been done over a fairly short period of time, actually. I noticed that, in this most recent review, which coincidentally I didn't even have a copy of when I was talking about this yet, but it talks about...what are the next steps now? I have a copy of the most recent review that we have dialogued, a discussion we have had with the commercial fishermen. It does seem clear that the traditional way of dealing through Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is not the way to go. At the time when the fishery was most vibrant, it was all private fish buyers, mind you that is going back quite a few years in Hay River, but since FFMC has become involved, the fishery has been in decline and it continues to decline. I would like to ask the Minister of ITI what are the next steps in terms of responding to this report to get us away from FFMC. Thank you.

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

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Member has a copy of a draft strategy that was developed. There was a meeting, the Freshwater fishermen executive and our regional people. There was some direction given. The final version of the strategy is being rewritten. We have not received the final version yet. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Just so that we can understand the actual logistics of how this is going to happen, when you get the final report and we want to notify Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation that we are going to develop a northern made-in-the-North response to the commercial fishery and we no longer require their services, how do we go about doing that? What do you do, write a letter to the federal Minister? What is the process? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I only wish it can be that easy. There are a lot of legal issues that would have to be addressed. We would have to go back and look at what the terms of where and when the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation was formed. My recollection is, although I wasn't around when it was formed, but I understand there are some issues of liabilities that were assumed. We would have to check that out. We would have to

work with Fisheries and Oceans to look at what kind of requirements would be needed in order to go off in a different direction. We would have to see whether the research has been done so that inventories of all the fish stocks are available. There are a number of different things that would have to be done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Time for question period has expired; however, I will allow the Member a supplementary question. Mrs. Groenewegen.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister had indicated in previous questions on a previous day that the province of Saskatchewan has opted out of their involvement with the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation, so certainly the precedent has been set. It shouldn't be too hard to figure out how we could follow suit. As far as the work of Fisheries and Oceans, fortunately the headquarters for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans is located right in Hay River, right on the shore of the Great Slave Lake, right where the fishermen are, right where they have the lab to do the inspections and they have people in management, conservation, protection, who are all over the issue of sustainable quota in the Great Slave Lake. That is a bonus. I think that Mr. Minister should be able to look at the precedent of the province that he named, the province of Saskatchewan, find out how they got out and help us and lead us out of this. Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I know that Saskatchewan has written a letter requesting to opt out. I don't know if they have, in fact, opted out already. Certainly I would be prepared to go to Saskatchewan to see how they did it. We would follow suit. I always thought the regional headquarters for DFO for the Northwest Territories was in Sudbury, but I would check on that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** I don't know, Mr. Speaker. I used to work for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. Unless it moved from Hay River...I don't know. I thought there were still some Fisheries officers in Hay River.

Mr. Speaker, I guess this is a serious issue. We have been playing around with this for a long time for a lot of years. We have a viable industry. We need to give it support. I am serious about this. I am probably only going to be here for a couple more years. Would I ever like to see something done about this thing that we have been talking about for so long. Will the Minister commit to report back to this House and to me and the other Member for Hay River what the next steps would be for separating ourselves from the monopoly of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I would be pleased to do that as soon as I receive a report that has been endorsed by the NWT Fishermen's Federation. Thank you.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to oral questions, item number 7 on today's agenda. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

### Oral Questions (Reversion)

#### QUESTION 57-16(4): REESTABLISHMENT OF STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL BOARD

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just had one question. I was hoping to get it in today; therefore I asked to seek unanimous consent, which I appreciate my colleagues are allowing to go through.

Mr. Speaker, reading Hansard back from February 9, 2006, specifically page 916, then-Regular MLA Sandy Lee was asking a question to then-Minister of Health and Social Services, who was Michael Miltenberger, inquiring in Committee of the Whole about the details about the re-establishment of the Stanton Territorial Board.

Mr. Speaker, we don't need a long, protracted lesson about what happened to that board, but all I have to tell you is that I have a particular constituent in my riding who used to sit on that territorial board and just to add coincidence to the scenario, tomorrow is her birthday. I am sure she would like to hear a very happy answer as an early present to her birthday. So the question specifically to the Minister of Health and Social Services is: is she working towards that issue of re-establishing the Stanton Territorial Board? If not, why not? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe we make decisions about re-establishment of boards as a birthday gift to somebody. Mr. Speaker, in all seriousness, I can advise the Member that there is no plan at the present time to re-establish the Stanton Territorial Health Board. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, when is the plan expected to re-establish the Stanton Territorial Board? It is not unusual in other jurisdictions across

Canada that a hospital of this size and magnitude has one. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I believe that is the same question as the first one. There is a lot of work that needs to be done at Stanton, as indicated by a lot of questions that were raised in this House, with respect to their capital plan process, their budgeting process. There is a lot of work that needs to be done. We are working very closely with them. There is no plan at this time to establish the board. Thank you.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure I am hearing the Minister correctly. I almost think I heard something to the effect that a board would be in the way of managing the hospital. Mr. Speaker, one could argue a dictatorship would be much more efficient than a democracy. I just want to make sure that that wasn't clear, that the potential of re-establishing a board wouldn't be in the way of managing a hospital. It is potentially the long-term goal of re-establishing that board that belongs to Stanton. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I don't believe in any way that I have said that having a board or not having a board has anything to do with management of the board. I think if you look across the Territories, we have all sorts of different situations in our different regions with respect to existing or no boards. Hay River has a public administrator. Beaufort-Delta, Yellowknife and Deh Cho have boards. Sahtu has a board, but we have a mix of public administrators and boards. They all are doing their work. I don't think presence or absence of a board speaks to anything about management. What I am saying is that Stanton Territorial Hospital is the key to the management and delivery of health services in the Northwest Territories. There is a lot of work that needs to be done. That is an essential part of our Foundation for Change Action Plan. In order for us to do that, my plan is to keep the public administrator there as we have now. We will proceed forthwith. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, all I can say is my disappointment to hear that we are not working towards this. Mr. Speaker, a public administrator is not the way a community hospital, a territorial hospital should be run. It should be in the hands of the community people to set the tone and the direction. Mr. Speaker, my last point on this which is certainly, obviously, the question is: can we ever expect the re-establishment of the Stanton Territorial Health Board? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** The Member has not provided me with, outside of here or today, any evidence that would suggest that would encourage a re-establishment of a board. I am willing to hear that, Mr. Speaker. I think it is really important to know

that the Stanton Hospital is a territorial hospital. It is currently being guided by a joint leadership council which is made up of all of the chairs of all boards across the Territories including the public administrators. They meet regularly. They have supervision over their strategic plan. We all agree, myself as a Minister and all of the health board chairs, that Stanton Territorial Hospital has to be and it is key to our delivering system. It will continue to be so and it will remain a territorial authority. They do have guidance from representatives from all across the Territories. It is not a community health facility. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. 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 Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

### Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 12-16(4):  
LETTER TO THE EDITOR OF NNSL FROM  
GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL ON  
ALL-WEATHER ACCESS ROAD FROM  
INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to table a letter to the editor of News/North from President Richard Nerysoo in regards to the proposal on the highway from Inuvik to south.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 15, notices of motion. 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 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

### Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We are in consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee wishes to continue with Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011, with Mr. Miltenberger and we'd look at the departments of Justice, Health and Social Services, and Public Works and Services today.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Okay. With that, we'll take a short break and then begin with the Department of Justice.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to the break we agreed to begin the Department of Justice. At this time I would like to ask the Minister of Finance if he would be bringing in any witnesses. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does committee agree if he brings in his witnesses?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

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

For the record, Mr. Minister, can you introduce your witnesses?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Margaret Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance; Mr. Paul Guy, acting deputy minister of Public Works and Services.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. As we agreed, we'll begin the Department of Justice. Page 7-2 and that page we will defer until after consideration of activity summaries. We'll turn to page 7-4. Does committee agree to defer?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Page 7-3, community justice and corrections. Page 7-4, Justice, activity summary, community justice and corrections, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$343,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Moving on, page 7-7, Justice, activity summary, legal services, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$161,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Moving on to court services, page 7-10, Justice, activity summary, court services, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$385,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Moving on to page 7-13, Justice, activity summary, services to the public, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure summary, \$145,000. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Moving on to page 7-16, Justice, activity summary, services to government, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure summary, zero. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Can we turn back to department summary, page 7-2, Justice, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$1.034 million. Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just going through this I think there's not a lot but some good things happening here. One of the things that appears to be missing -- and I'm sure it is somewhere and maybe I just didn't see it -- is over the last couple of years we've talked a lot about Arctic Tern, and I understand that some decisions need to be made about the Arctic Tern facility and where we're going to, in the future, place female inmates. I'm curious, was the planning studied? Does it not appear in this particular capital document on what we're going to do with the Arctic Tern facility and in any future correctional facilities that may be required to support inmates in the Northwest Territories?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, that Arctic Tern is still in the planning process. We're still working with the Town of Inuvik in that format and working on options on what to do with the facility due to low enrolment of inmates there. So those are the areas that we continue with. That's where we're at with the Arctic Tern. Mahsi.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you for that, Mr. Minister. As far as the placement of female inmates, particularly youth female inmates, what are the future plans in that area? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, we presented to the standing committee some of the options that we wanted to move forward with Arctic Tern. Those are the options that we're currently working with. If we need to move forward on whether to close down the facility or the gradual closure of the facility, those are options that we've been working with. So we continue to work with the Town of Inuvik and also various departments that may have some potential impacts. That's the area that we're currently at the planning stages as we speak, Mr. Chair. Mahsi.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thanks to the Minister for that. I mean, there's been a lot of discussion about Arctic Tern and where we might need other facilities to meet that, and I think there's been a lot of talk about the structure itself, the Arctic Tern facility, and whether or not it's going to be able to be a secure facility in the future.

My concern related to this area is if we're going to go out of Arctic Tern, I mean, it employs a lot of people in Inuvik. There is, I think, an expectation in Inuvik that we're not going to leave those people standing high and dry. Now, it may not be a Justice issue, the future of that building may not be a Justice issue, but I certainly think the Department of Justice would play a role in working with other departments to find other uses for that particular facility, uses which hopefully will come with some level of employment so that we can maintain some level of employment in the Inuvik area rather than eliminating 14 jobs. That might not be Justice. That might need to go somewhere else, and that will come out as the planning study comes forward. But I would like to encourage the Minister to continue working with his colleagues to find a real productive use for that facility that will hopefully maintain some levels of employment in Inuvik, because 14 jobs may not sound like a lot, but in a community the size of Inuvik or other communities throughout the Northwest Territories, 14 people and their families can add up to quite a lot. So I'd like to encourage the Minister to work with his colleagues and find a real solid, productive use for that facility, keeping in mind finding ways to employ. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, that is certainly one of our objectives, to work with other departments. We certainly do have a role. We have 14.5 PYs there. We're just not going to ignore them. If we do go that avenue, then we need to find a replacement, whether it be opportunities or whatnot. So those are areas that will be continued to be worked with within the other departments as well. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

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

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, just a question on the wilderness camps. I was just wondering the location of the wilderness camps and, basically, what type of infrastructure they have in place at those camps. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the wilderness camps are spread out in various communities. The infrastructure would consist of whether it be the buildings, the tent frames or the snowmobiles. We can certainly provide that detailed information. I don't have that in front of me as we speak, but certainly we can provide that freely to the Members. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister, for forwarding that information. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe I could just get the number of wilderness camps that are in place, being used by corrections.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, I don't have that in front of me as we speak, but I can certainly provide that information. Mahsi.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The issue, I guess, that I would somewhat follow up with is the same line of questioning as Mr. Abernethy. In terms of the Arctic Tern facility, can the Minister provide us with sort of like a date as to when this facility would be discontinued as a corrections facility and possibly maybe looked at another type of program being run out there? How long are we expected to wait to see when this facility will be closed for this specific purpose?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this particular area is in the planning stages as we speak and it's going to be gradual phases where if we're going to close down the facility, it's not going to happen right away due to the nature of the community, the staff that we have on board. So we are working with other departments and the Town of Inuvik and who may be interested in the facility for other venues. So, certainly, it is GNWT property, so we have to fully utilize that building somehow. So those are areas that we're exploring as of today. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chairman, I do get the point of gradually closing the facility over time. I guess the point is that for the amount of people that are in that facility, with the amount of staff that we have, it's a very highly expensive operation to run. As other community programs in our communities are suffering because of the lack of funding, that we still maintain this. What I'm hearing from the Minister is that because of the staffing and the jobs and that, it makes it very difficult for them to make a decision. The sound of what I'm hearing is based on because of the amount of PYs that are working there, that's going to have an impact on the community for the amount of people in there who are being ordered to stay there.

I can't get around how we rationalize and how we are coming to a decision that we keep this open, as other programs and services in our regions certainly need it and we always seem to run up to the fact that we don't have much money here and there. I think there's a point where we've got to say we have to do something. How much longer can we maintain this facility?

I think it's about \$1,600 to \$1,700 a day per client there. I'm not too sure what clients are there today and how many staff members we have there looking after these clients here. That's my bone of contention here in terms of there's got to be a time

when you've got to say this is it here and make that difficult decision as we're all faced to do over time.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, we're fully aware of that. We are, as I stated, exploring all options as we possibly can and where we can possibly secure these inmates in other facilities. At the same time we're fully aware of the cost to operate the facility with 14.5 PYs there looking after inmates of sometimes up to four, up to six. So, definitely, those are our concerns as well. That's why we presented to standing committee on a moving forward basis and I think we've been given a clear direction to move forward on the objectives. So that's what we're aiming for. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you. Certainly I'm aware of the affected staff in any government position that's going to be cut in any community. I'm fully aware of the consequences. We had also felt that in our regions. So I would ask, again, because the Minister had said gradually we're going to look at this and close this facility. Gradually could mean a year, two months. I don't know how long it will take. What I'm saying is that hopefully they'll make a decision here that the amount of dollars being used in this facility can be used in some of the programs that we are asking for in our communities, such as the wilderness camps, community justice programs; culturally relevant, appropriate programs in our facilities. Certainly we could see some utilization of those dollars. Certainly the Minister has a difficult task in terms of deciding what to do with the people in the Arctic Tern here.

Mr. Chair, there's existing facilities such as the one in Fort McPherson. I'm not too sure if that's viable or it's something that you want to look at in terms of the Tloondih Healing, or up in Inuvik they have another camp there in Inuvik or something like that where we could use.

Again, it's bothersome that we spent this amount of money for the number of clients. I understand sometimes even two, two clients there. You know, Mr. Minister has said four to six clients are there and I'm not too sure when. However, this is something that I would say on behalf of the region, at least in my region here, they're kind of scratching their heads on this as to how we justify this type of operation with what's known so far about the Arctic Tern facility and the amount of dollars that we're spending to keep it open. Certainly, again, they are looking at different ways to keep this facility open by offering different programs or a different organization may be taking over it.

So, Mr. Chair, I would ask if the Minister here, again, can maybe be a little more clear on his definition of "gradual." I know it might be difficult for him to answer. Is it going to be a year, two years?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mr. Chair, I just recently met with the standing committee and I was given direction to work with this with the community

and also with the committee, as well, on the gradual phase out. They don't want us, as a department, to close down the facility immediately. They want us to explore our options, what to do with those 14.5 PYs so it doesn't have a huge impact on the community of Inuvik. So those are our main concerns, as well, on how we can deal with those and the facility. We're exploring our options on who or what organizations can take over that facility. So those are areas that we need to explore. So I can't really give an answer of how long it's going to be. It could be a year, but that's the direction I've been given from the standing committee. Mahsi, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** It's come to my attention we are dealing with capital and I believe that the issue that's being discussed I don't see anywhere in the capital budget we're reviewing. So I'll just remind the Members that we're basically dealing with capital in the Department of Justice. So if you can try to structure your questioning around the item at hand, mahsi. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I do apologize, my questions somewhat went off in terms of this issue here. So I would thank the Minister for his responses.

Mr. Chair, the question I guess I would have to look at in terms of capital expenditures in terms of the wilderness camps in our region is: is that something the Minister now is going to put as a permanent program now into these wilderness camps such as the one we have in the Sahtu region?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chair. Clearly that's one area that we'll probably have to look at on a long-term basis. We currently have a pilot project happening in the Sahtu region and there's supposed to be one happening in the Tlicho region this fall. So those are just pilot projects and we are hoping to do another pilot project in another region. We wanted to cover all five regions. So that will be down the road if we commit to long-term plans. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** The previous government has indicated that this is a good program and this government here, through this Minister, has indicated that this is a good program. When do we stop calling it a pilot project and start calling it a permanent wilderness program?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Those are the discussions that we need to have, Mr. Chair, with the regions, with our department and also the MLAs. It's a huge undertaking within the regions, but it's a worthwhile investment and those are the discussions that we can certainly undertake once we complete the pilot projects in the regions. Mahsi.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Just a reminder, we're on page 7-2, Justice, department summary,

infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$1.034 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Does committee agree we've concluded the Department of Justice?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. The next item on the list was Department of Health and Social Services, page 6-2. Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I request permission to bring Ms. Paddy Meade, the deputy minister of Health, to the table.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Is committee agreed the Minister brings in his witness?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witness in.

Mr. Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witness?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Paddy Meade, deputy minister of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witness. We're on page 6-2. Basically we'll defer that page in consideration of activity summary. Turn to page 6-4. Does committee agree we defer?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Page 6-4, Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$4.174 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. In this area I just wanted to ask a question on one of the things that obviously I think is missing. Over the last couple of years, since being elected, we've seen the Stanton Master Development Plan in future years as part of the budgets and now it's gone. The Minister has explained at length in the House that it's gone and I understand what she's saying and I understand that it's not really gone, but it's in a planning study as per our new processes.

What I'm curious about is when are we going to see it come forward? Is there any estimate as to timeline as to when we might see the results from that planning study and have an idea of what future costs might be and what work may be required? I think there are a lot of people in Yellowknife and it

is a territorial facility, so I know that there are a lot of people throughout the Territories that are wondering when and what. So if we can get a bit of an idea, that would be fantastic. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd ask Ms. Meade to respond, please.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for the question. I think this has been raised in the last few days and I can tell you that, yes, there was a master plan brought forward. It was not affordable, nor did it fit the current and future needs of the health system for the GNWT. So we are now in the process of reworking that closely with Stanton, as well as the other authorities. This will look at what services need to be provided there, within the Territories, what can be moved out and the functional plan and the impact on the actual functional needs will arise from the program service needs that will be established. This is critical to ensure that the use of the existing facility is renovated and redesigned to fit both patient safety and flow as it has evolved in the last two years. So I'm anticipating that this work will be completed and inclusive of the work with the Department of Public Works within the next two years, total.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Okay, so we all, I mean it was in, it's out. That's fine; I understand the new process. But two years seems a bit far for something that is obviously so urgently required. Does that mean we're not going to see anything as MLAs, no results of planning studies for two years or are we going to see something during the life of this Assembly on where we need to go with Stanton? It's been an issue since before we, as Members, came into the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, it continues to be an issue during the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. I'd sure like us to have something to look at and maybe make some decisions before the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly. I know the work may not be able to be done or all of it be done during the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, but it continues to be an issue and I'm happy and I like the response I got. That gives me a bit of the what, which I think is important. I'm more interested, after hearing that, in the how long and the how much we'll wait for. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to add to that, for the Member's information, that while the Master Development Plan is being reworked as we work toward getting into the books under the new process, there will still be a lot of work that will be done in terms of responding to the technical assessment that was

done. In fact, since 2003 up to this year, over \$8 million had been spent and budgeted to deal with those technical upgrades and we have another \$2 million planned to address some of the technical issues there.

It should also be noted that this is a 22-year-old building, but in the context of a lot of other health facilities, it is relatively in good shape. The assessment has shown that, but it is important that we keep up with the upgrades and deal with the technical issues as we plan for the larger Master Development Plan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I've been going through these with you for the last two years and I have seen a lot of the technical upgrades, and I am fully aware that the technical upgrades are continuing, and I've raised my hand to support those technical upgrades as they come forward. So I think I understand that, and I get that, and I will continue to support the technical upgrades. I think they need to be done.

What I'm asking about is the big picture changes, the flow, the things that the deputy minister was talking about, the changes to the facility that are required to make it more effective and better utilizing the space in it. I'm asking: are we going to see something in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly? These issues existed before the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly, they were election issues, they were issues when we came into this House, they're still issues today. I'm asking: are we going to see anything in the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Before this life of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly we'll know the programs and the requirements, the consolidated clinic will be there, that was designed to take some of the flow out of the emergency, out of Stanton, the primary care network that we've spent millions setting up with all the rehab teams and all the work in the communities will be incorporated so that, yes, we'll know before the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> Assembly what services are required and the configuration that will be required in Stanton to meet those needs. Thank you.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I'd like to thank the Minister for that response. So it sounds like the answer is yes, we're going to know the configuration, but does that mean we will have some semblance of a plan in place as far as how we're going to move forward? Through this new process of capital, everything's got to go through a bit of a planning study and then there will be secondary steps to figure out what the construction is actually going to be. How far along...I mean, I get from the response we're going to have an idea of what we need, but will we get into the part of actually coming up with some costing, future costing on what we're going to need? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Within the life of this Assembly we'll be in a position to move forward with putting Stanton back into the capital plan.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you.

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

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. Earlier on when we resumed this session I spoke about getting the needs assessment done for the long-term care beds in Fort Simpson and the Minister committed to have a look at that. Just in terms of capital budgeting process, can this assessment be done, well, as soon as possible would be my preference, but I know that the request was just recent. Has the department begun working with Deh Cho Health and Social Services to do a needs assessment on the long-term care beds in Fort Simpson?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent is to do a complete needs assessment for all the long-term care facility requirements in the Northwest Territories. The Member has got issues about extra capacity. The Member for Sahtu has pointed out there is no long-term care facility in the Sahtu. There are some areas in critical need more than others and the intent is to do that as articulated in the strategic plan, Foundation for Change, that the Minister is going to be tabling in this House here in the next short while.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** I'm pleased that we're working towards acknowledging that there is a shortage of long-term beds. In fact, we created a long-term care bed committee, I think, to help assess with all the different regions. This only reiterates the fact that there definitely is a shortage and how do we best manage it. For me, my constituents and communities have been looking forward to an increase of the bed space to stop the long waits that are happening.

If anything, what I was looking for was hopefully we could get this assessment done sooner than later and hopefully move something forward in the next capital planning process.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The intent is to start this process early in the new year. We have another budget process to go through with O and M and such, which will take us through into the new year, but the intent is to move on this fairly quickly after that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Next on the list is Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Minister mentioned the consolidated primary care clinic and I'm just wondering if that's on target for its

opening date and budget. If we can get an update on that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Our information is that it's on budget and we're still working to get commitment for the opening date. We're trying to prevent any slippage that would prevent that.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I hope we'll be kept updated on that. I just want to comment on something I've had a concern about at Stanton Hospital. Security of both patients and medical staff was raised quite frequently at the beginning of our Assembly. I'm happy to see the department has now got a bit of a project to develop a couple of secure cells in the emergency room, which is the one I heard most about and an upgrade to the one in psychiatry. I appreciate that. I also appreciate the small project to put in smart cell flooring in the extended care unit and prevent the implications of a lot of falls of patients in that area and potential risks of infection with the current flooring. So just supporting those two projects, modest projects at Stanton.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I appreciate the support from the Member.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you. Next on the list is Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My question is, we seem to be spending a lot of dollars on large-scale public infrastructure such as hospitals and whatnot, but I think we're losing sight of the aging infrastructure in our communities by way of small health centres. We're trying to recruit and retain nurses in our communities, but one of the challenges we're facing is the small design of the older hospitals. I'll use Tsiigehtchic, for instance, because it's in my riding. These buildings are on pilings and we're having some infrastructure challenges, especially in the Beaufort-Delta region.

When you talk to the nurses that are at the health centres and the doctors that go in to provide doctors' visits, there is no room to provide these type of services because of the small designs of these older facilities. I'd just like to ask, in regard to capital infrastructure for health care centres and hospitals, when are we going to be doing a thorough examination and review on the replacement of health centres in communities and, more importantly, accommodating the challenges we're facing of recruitment and ensuring that we're going to be able to house the nurses possibly in the facility itself than having to accommodate them elsewhere? I heard this in the community of Tsiigehtchic, where it is a small community, where the health centre is awfully crowded once you get in there. In most cases the rooms are used for storage and whatnot and there is no excess space for dental care. Even when the doctors visit, they use

the same room that the nurses have to operate out of. In most cases there is no accommodation provided. In most other larger centres there are nurses' accommodations being provided.

I'd just like to ask when we are going to do an evaluation of the condition ratings of the health centres in communities and replace those health centres.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to advise the Member that that is exactly the issue that the department has been working on, and we are currently taking an inventory of all of the health facilities by different categories and the status of those health centres in terms of space and age.

I think we understand that many of our health facilities were transferred to us during the federal transfer in the late '80s. Many of them have not been replaced. Some of them are in good shape, but we need to have an inventory and we need to have a clear picture of where those facilities are. We are doing that and we plan to bring it back to the committee once that is completed. I don't know exactly what time frame that is, but it is currently underway. We do have a lot of facilities in the Territories that we need to look at.

**MR. KRUTKO:** It would be nice if we could get a copy of that report so we can see exactly where our health centres are on that evaluation and when we supposedly can see a replacement or upkeep in regard to those facilities.

The other facility in my riding that has been listed to do renovations and whatnot is the Joe Greenland Centre in Aklavik, which is a care facility. There again the facility has been on the books for some time. There were supposed to be some major renovations done on that facility. I believe all we did was some roofing. There have been some structural challenges in regard to the pilings and a flood a number of years ago. I'd just like to know exactly when we are looking at replacing those facilities in the communities. I believe it's critical that we have these facilities in our communities, especially for the aging population we have to provide for, but, more importantly to keep the elders as close to our communities as possible and keep them in the regions, if that's possible. I'd just like to also ask what the status is of that facility.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Ms. Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As my Minister has said, the department, in partnership with Public Works, has been looking at a review and assessment of all the infrastructure and that is not yet complete. But your facility, as you've mentioned, will be captured in that full assessment

and prioritizing across the full government health infrastructure community programs.

Also, the department is looking at a standardized building as what's required for a health centre and what's required in long-term care so that we have more efficiencies and be easier to bring on stream. All of that will be complete in the next while, and then the Minister will be able to bring that forward and deal with that in the ongoing capital planning process for the next while.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Meade. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to thank the witness for that answer. I believe we do have to have a coordinated effort in ensuring that we are maximizing the use of our long-term critical care facilities and ensuring that we do have the people that are filling these beds and, more importantly, getting the maximum usage of our facilities.

Again, back to my original point, we have to ensure that those facilities are brought up to specific standards, especially when it comes to code issues and violations; electrical code, structural codes. We have a real challenge in the northern part of the Territories, especially dealing with the structural foundations of a lot of these facilities, especially buildings which were built on pilings. I believe that facility I mentioned in Tsiigehtchic is on pilings and also the facility in Aklavik where it has had some foundation challenges also. I think it's important that we do have to -- no offence to the larger health centres throughout the Northwest Territories -- but it seems like we've done a lot of focus on the larger regional hospitals from Inuvik to Fort Smith and here in Yellowknife. I support the efforts for Yellowknife, because it is a territorial hospital, but I think we also have to realize that we do have to not lose sight of the health providers in the communities and the challenges they face. We must also equip them with the facilities that they will be able to work out of and ensure that the working conditions that they are working under are suitable and adequate compared to other centres. If we want to keep these nurses in the communities and keep them providing these services, we have to provide them with the working environment to be in.

So, again, I'd just like to ask that whatever possible we can do as a government to make a major capital investment in regard to the health centres throughout the Northwest Territories and ensure that we are able to provide the services, but also provide the working environment for the providers of health care in our communities, especially the nurses and community health workers, mental health and whatnot. I know the Minister mentioned the question about they're working on it. How soon do you expect to have that information released to ourselves as Members or to committee so we can

see where we're going moving forward at these structural investments?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The intent is to have that planning work and study work done within this fiscal year. When I say this fiscal year, I mean 2010-2011.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Well, I better ask now. When can I see the hospital replaced in Tsiigehtchic and make sure it's in the budget for 2010-2011? I have a farewell gift for Tsiigehtchic on the way out.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, within the upcoming fiscal year that work will be done and the Legislature, including Mr. Krutko and all of us, will be able to see what the assessment tells us and what is being recommended.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I know that the Department of Health and Social Services also has responsibility for people with disabilities. I strongly feel that we as a government are not doing enough to accommodate people in our communities who have some disadvantages, especially being disabled, and also providing for the services in our communities. It very much appalls me when we see a person with disabilities stuck in a facility or a small housing unit that has never been designed for people with disabilities. Also, on the service side, a lot of these people cannot leave their homes in some cases for 10 months of the year. They are stuck indoors because of just basic mobility challenges. In our communities, it is not there and yet we have human rights and everything else.

I think this government and as the Department of Health and Social Services that we have to do everything that we can to accommodate those people in our communities who are not receiving the care that they should be simply because of where they live. I would like to request from the Department of Health and Social Services and this government, whatever we do, we cannot lose sight of the fiscal challenges that certain people have in our communities, especially aged, people that are disabled or wheelchair bound, and making sure that, as a government and as a program provider, we do have services in those communities where we know these people are living and ensuring that we try to accommodate them whenever we can from transportation to logistical services to health care services, and also ensuring that those people are working with other department agencies and the Housing Corporation to the Department of Health and Social Services and ensuring all services are provided and are not losing sight of these individuals who basically have some challenges. More importantly, I feel quite strongly that sometimes we sort of lose sight of those people. Out of sight, out of mind. We are not really providing the services that they really need.

With that, I would like to leave it at that and hopefully get the Minister and the department to consider that type of capital investment that we are going to make that we ensure we design these infrastructure to provide by way of accessibility to any health centres or hospitals that we design, or care facilities for people that are in wheelchairs and people that have mobility challenges, that we are able to assist them or improve their quality of life in communities. Mahsi.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think this is going more into the O and M side of our budgeting process, but I do want to provide the Member with a few things.

First of all, I am not aware of anybody who is housebound for 10 months. If there is any situation like that, I would like the Member to give me the details so we could look into that situation.

The department provides a number of supports to the persons with disabilities and from the capital plan point of view, we work closely with the NWT Housing Corporation who has a program to renovate or build units that would make it more accessible for persons with disabilities. If the Member has a specific question on a specific individual, I would be happy to work with the Member on that.

I would also like to advise the House that the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities have expanded their offices, because they are the biggest advocate. Not just an advocate, but they do deliver a number of programs on behalf of persons with disabilities from the funding that they receive from our department as well as other government bodies.

Obviously, in terms of capital plan process, any long-term care needs study and health centre facility needs study we are doing does involve surveying not just elderly but anybody who needs assistance with their care. While we as a government and the system want to encourage our residents to stay in their home as much as possible, whether they are elderly or they are ones who need more support by way of respite care, home care and community level service so that we want to support our residents with varying needs to be able to stay at home. Without knowing the specifics of that individual case, I can't speak to that. But certainly supporting our residents with disabilities to live in their home by providing them with capital service, well, the physical services as the program services is something that we are working on. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy):** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Next on my list is Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I really wanted to know about the Stanton Master Plan, specifically about the component to this plan which is the aboriginal wellness part here.

Mr. Chairman, the Aboriginal Wellness Program certainly has a lot of support from the elders committee that we are seeing this process here. We look forward to having something established within the Stanton Hospital. I want to ask the Ministers, when can we start seeing some real promise in terms of having this part of the hospital program and services that would be dedicated to as we read many years ago in terms of having an Aboriginal Wellness Program in the hospital? Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** The Aboriginal Wellness Program is part of the programs being delivered at Stanton. It is being worked on by the elders council. The progress of that program will not be determined necessarily by this Master Development Plan, although that is part of the services that will be delivered and that will continue to be delivered at Stanton.

I think we need to be aware that when we are talking about master development for a hospital the size of Stanton, we are talking about not necessarily the size of the room or where are the rooms located, but also about what kind of programs are we going to be delivering there. There are a lot of changes going on right now that would impact the services being provided at Stanton. For example, the opening of the Dementia Centre in Yellowknife would allow some of the extended care patients to be able to move out of Stanton. The facility being built at Hay River for the assisted living clients would have an impact on the hospital.

The Foundation for Change Action Plan for the department speaks to putting more focus on prevention and strengthening the services at the community level. The Master Development Plan work will go on and the Aboriginal Wellness Program will be part of that, but I want to assure the Member that the work that has started under the leadership of Francois Paulette continues. It will continue and he is doing that on the advice of all of the Elders Advisory Council that has been appointed to look into that. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Certainly, again, I look forward to seeing when we could have an Aboriginal Wellness Program similar to one they have in Whitehorse, which is a very well run program. We visited there in the past governments to look at their program there. It certainly is something that we could have here in the Northwest Territories. I know we are looking at other facilities around the Northwest Territories to improve health care

wellness centres in regions outside of Yellowknife. We certainly look forward to some improvements that we are going to receive.

Also, I would like to keep focused on the aboriginal programming here at the Stanton Territorial Hospital to see if we could have a place there. There are some very well-trained and good nurses in Stanton here. They worked long hours with my people. Certainly there is room for improvement, because some of the nurses are still new and not knowing the various aboriginal cultures that they come into when they have patients in the hospital. Sometimes it causes some tension there. I wonder if they would look at how they could start improving some of the programs and services in this aboriginal program in Stanton. Certainly that would be very beneficial to the people. I think they greatly appreciate it.

I want to say, for the record, the nurses up in Stanton are doing a good job, at least from my experience in working with the people. There are some of them that we have to teach a little bit about our culture in terms of how we deal with people who are dying or who are sick in the hospital there.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I didn't hear a question there, but I take the Member's advice and that is one that I share. I will get back to the Member and give him an update on where we are on that program. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. Next on the list is Mr. Jacobson.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just in regards to your line of questioning earlier, I have numerous elders in the communities that I represent. We have Mary Gruben, who we call Little Nanik Evik Ruben. I got a call about a month ago in regards to the way her appliances are set up in her house. Little Nanik Mary is a little person so we have to try to get appliances into her unit like a bathtub, a kitchen, try to help her fix her kitchen, because she lives alone. Right now she has to be helped with everything that is going on with her tub and stuff like that, because I don't know her situation now but the last time I was there, it wasn't set up for a little person. What I am looking for now is if we could, with Health and Social Services and Housing, try and accommodate not only her but other elders in the communities with proper bathtubs and proper appliances to make their lives easier. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister Lee.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I would be happy to talk to the Member and get the details and get back to the Member. Thank you.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Ms. Minister. I look forward to that. In regards to making our elders feel taken care of instead of just put back on the

backburner, I have other questions regarding other issues once we go on. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. We are on page 6-4, Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$4.174 million. Agreed?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 6-7, Health and Social Services, activity summary, community health programs, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$800,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We are moving on to page 6-10. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I had actual questions on 6-7. I thought it was 6-8. I didn't put my hand up in time. The areas that...

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Beaulieu, are you requesting to go back to page 6-7?

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I request to go back to page 6-7.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does committee agree that we go back to page 6-7?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. For community health programs in the area of capital, I had indicated several times that I was looking for some sort of capital expenditure in Fort Resolution at Our Great Elders Facility. It seems to have more profile in the community. Recently an elder in the community was very sick and eventually passed away. He was being taken care of by the family. The family was first of all appearing in Yellowknife with the elder and also in Hay River with the elder.

I know there are some obstacles that we have to work around in order to do this, but what I was hoping the department would do is put a palliative care unit into Our Great Elders Facility. Right now, the facility can house four elders. It houses no elders. The building is basically now used by the home care group. There are six satellite units around the facility that are being utilized, but essentially utilizes nothing more than public housing with some home care support from the main building. However, at one time the unit was used for people in the community, not necessarily the most elderly, but for people that provided the most assistance, living assistance.

Ultimately, I believe that there's some sort of change in, perhaps, legislation or maybe it's a policy of the department that we're no longer supporting facilities that had less than 10 of this

type of bed. I'm not sure of the level of care that the senior is under; however, it is this type of care that was eliminated at that time. I'm not really asking for that care to be brought back into that facility full-fledged, I'm asking that the Department of Health -- and I also recognize that building belongs to the NWT Housing Corporation, it's not a building that belongs to the Department of Health -- but what I'm asking is, there's a palliative care unit in Hay River in the hospital there which is a very good care unit for the last days of individuals and the family is able to be in a very comfortable environment. Also, the majority of the care, even in the palliative care unit in Hay River seems to be provided by the immediate family. This is certainly the case in situations where you have elders that are either unilingual or speak mostly an aboriginal language, and the family comes and talks to them and so on during those times, and also eating mostly country foods so that the family is already preparing the food and so on. This building actually has a facility for the family to prepare the food there on site and they have the room. Everything is there. All that has to happen is to take one of those rooms or two of those rooms and convert it into a palliative care unit. I want to ask the department to look at that possibility.

I think that there are a couple of good initiatives there, no question about it; however, I think that the department should have thought of that when considering that this has been an ongoing issue for two years and perhaps longer.

I don't know if the previous MLA had brought this thing forward to the department, and I'm not, you know, I mean, I recognize that maybe nursing could be an issue; however, there are two local nurses that work in Fort Resolution, there are two or three local nurses that work outside of Fort Resolution, from Fort Resolution, and there's also family support for any time an elder or a person that's very sick is in the palliative care unit. The majority of the support, as I see it, comes from the family. I'd just like to ask the department if they would reconsider this plan and add something in the plan to build a palliative care unit in Our Great Elders Facility in Fort Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't think the clock was started over as well. Anyway, I'll leave that for my first question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I'll give you five minutes there. Ms. Lee, Minister of Health.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue goes back many, many years and I am aware that there have been a number of reviews done to see the suitability of this facility as a long-term care facility for elders, but I understand that it is not possible to be used that way, the way it was built. It was built by the Housing Corporation and I don't know what happened back then, but it was not

built with the planning required to use it as a long-term care facility or even a palliative care.

Mr. Chairman, I do understand what the Member is saying and this is an emerging issue or it is an increasingly important issue and it will become more and more important. I hear everywhere...I got that not only do we want to keep our elders close to home as much as possible, but especially in their last days or last weeks and months.

There are communities that are able to handle this and they are doing it more. Right now, the department is working with the Dene Nation on how to address palliative care in the NWT. I think the findings of that will be helpful.

Specifically to Resolution, I will look at the situation in Resolution again to see what we can do to accommodate an elder who wants to be moved back and receive palliative care. Some elders may be able to spend their last days and weeks in their own homes if there is enough supports there with home care and family support, and some elders may not be able to come back if they need intensive medical care. But there might be other elders that happen once in a while or...I don't think there's enough numbers there to even keep four beds busy, but I think this is something that we need to look at and I will commit to look at what palliative care service can be provided in Resolution. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** To be fair to Mr. Beaulieu, I'll allow him five minutes on the clock. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I know that I've abandoned the idea that that building could be used for a long-term care facility. The department's not prepared to make a commitment to hire nurses to run the facility to house four people. So, I mean, that is something that would be good. We have long-term people being housed elsewhere -- Yellowknife, Hay River and Fort Smith -- however, there doesn't seem to be a willingness of the department to look at this or it doesn't seem to be a possibility yet. I don't know, really, what the actual, you know, the obstacle...I just don't see this as something that we cannot get around. But, again, that's not what I'm asking.

What I'm asking for is something that we haven't asked for before, actually, and although it was being put in various ways, Our Great Elders Facility would be an ideal place to build a palliative care unit. Ideal. Like I said, there are four rooms. In Hay River, they took two regular hospital rooms and converted them into one palliative care unit. So there's an area for the family to just sit away from, you know, where their loved one is very sick in one room, and it's a very good unit. I think anybody's whose had to have somebody in the palliative care unit in Hay River will tell you that it's very, very

good. It gives the family an opportunity to take care of their loved one.

Now, this individual that I speak of did pass away in the palliative care unit. So it seems to me that there wouldn't be a whole bunch of extra requirements in order to convert this to a palliative care unit. I don't think you'd need more than the complement of nurses that are currently in Fort Resolution. I think that in most cases the elders are taken care of by their family in their last days.

I guess it's okay to look at building a palliative care unit, but I would rather that they built a palliative care unit. Right? Instead of just looking at building a palliative care unit. So, again, I want the department to, I guess, commit or explain to me the obstacle of why they can't build a palliative care unit in Our Great Elders Facility in Fort Resolution. Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** As the Member mentioned, this is the first time that the community has asked this in this way. I know that the issues that we've been dealing with since my time here has been wanting to use the facility as a long-term care facility, elders facility, and my understanding is that the way it's been built does not meet the standards to be a 24-hour care.

Now the Member is asking a different question and I am willing to commit to looking at whether it's possible to have a palliative care unit in that facility and what is required to deliver that. I guess we do need to look more at what we mean by palliative care our elderly will be in. Anybody who's in that palliative care situation have all kinds of different health needs and conditions that need to be addressed and if they can be supported there, we should look at ways to do that. There might be some who may have to get their palliative in the intensive hospital setting, so for those people that would not be possible, but we will look at whether palliative care can be delivered in one of the units there. Thank you.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** I thank the Minister for that response. In another area of community health programs I've been trying to figure out how to get handi-vans into the communities of Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution. There are many people that have mobility problems in the communities and some of them have their homes already adjusted by the NWT Housing Corporation to remove the barriers. In other words, constructing some barrier-free or renovating homes to a barrier-free state, to put ramps in and open up the doorways and lower the cabinets and so on and so forth. However, those individuals are having mobility issues outside the home. Earlier, one of the Members indicated that people are housebound. Some of those people are housebound and I can provide some names.

In these communities there are some supports in place where individuals can be picked up by handi-

vans, taken to the stores and so on. I've been told that purchase of the handi-vans may be a capital item that falls under the responsibility of the communities. I've been saying in the House that there's not enough money in the capital plans under the New Deal for individuals to pick up what is clearly within the responsibility of the communities, let alone something like this, which I question if it is actually the responsibility of the communities and maybe not the responsibility...I mean, maybe should be the responsibility of Health.

Just for the record, I'd like the Minister to advise me if it's possible that handi-vans can be put into the community health programs capital plan for both communities of Fort Resolution and Lutselk'e and if not, why not.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** That provision of handi-vans to communities in the way that the Member described it is not currently a Health and Social Services program or I don't believe a program under any government department. The Member has raised this and also the Member from Hay River South raised this and I have heard the need for this in some other communities as well. We, as a Legislature, could talk about making that as a policy and set the guidelines as to how that would work, but as it sits now transportation of that nature is being done by community governments. I believe where those services are available they're being done either by municipal government or by community groups. So that's where it stands now and I agree with the Member there is not a policy on that. We don't have program funding for that and in order to do that, not only do we have to come up with separate funding but also we need to look at some of the policy work about doing that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would request the committee's indulgence to go back to page 6-4. My apologies; I had to step out when we were on that page.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Does committee agree we go back to page 6-4?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand my colleague Mr. Abernethy had a number of questions in the area of the Stanton Master Development Plan and the status of Stanton Territorial Hospital and I wanted to ask some questions again about that master plan. I guess I haven't gotten a level of satisfaction on why that plan appeared in subsequent capital plans to the tune of 60-some million dollars at times and last year disappeared from the capital plan. Again, it's nowhere to be found in this capital plan and I fail to

understand how a department and the hospital could receive a technical assessment report that was done in 2004 that called into question a number of the building systems, code requirements and things of that nature, and we need some substantial capital dollars to be spent at that hospital.

Here we are and the government hasn't got that hospital on its capital plan. The Minister talks about it being back in the planning process and developing a plan, but, from where I sit, the department's had seven years and counting to come forward with a workable plan. To say that whoever was planning it came forward with this grandiose \$250 million plan, well that's the government's responsibility to take those people who were planning that and go back to the drawing board. I don't think it takes seven years to do that. If you go back to 2004 it's been five years.

I'd like to know who is planning this Stanton Master Development Plan and exactly where it's at and whether or not we can expect to see the Stanton Master Development Plan come back in some form or another before the life of this government is over in two years. I just haven't gotten any reassurance from the Minister that that's going to happen. She wants us to work with her. I'm wondering what do we have to do to make that happen, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Meade

**MS. MEADE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you again for the question. First of all, we are in the throes of planning. We are working very closely with Stanton and the physicians. The issue is Stanton is a territorial hospital; what services need to be in there, what services should or shouldn't the Territories be looking at outside of the jurisdiction and what services could be moved to the community. Some progress has already been made on that. For example, moving out to the Dementia Centre, setting up a primary care and looking at what services can be used. Stanton's design will also be designed around the use of further supports out to the small regions. So the use of electronic health records, TeleSpeech and telehealth helps physicians and other specialists in Stanton to provide services and support to those regions, to those other authorities and communities so that services will not need to come in to Stanton, but this is a work in progress.

The landscape has also changed very quickly and recently in health care, so now any master plan has to consider major issues like infection control, laboratory access, which has happened in the last couple of years in Canada. That's very different than the technical assessment, and I'll speak to that piece in a moment.

So the plan that came forward, certainly -- and my Minister has spoken to this previously -- did not

address both the current and future needs and a master plan cannot just be about the building design. It has to be driven and lead and designed around the program services, as well as patient flow and maximizing efficient use of the existing envelope as we do any rehabilitation. It will be a very complex renovation of any facility, given that it's an acute care facility, and we have to be able to stage this. So some work is already done as far as moving some services and realigning them, and the department is working with the authorities on that as well as being supported by our colleagues in other departments.

The technical assessment actually was also from 2004. It is separate to the master plan. That is an assessment of the major components and systems of the facility, not unique to the Stanton Hospital. That work, then, was done over the last five years inclusive of money that's pending, I believe \$2 plus million in the current fiscal, for some completions in the major systems and components. So the master plan will drive what type of facility and how we can best use the existing envelope around what services need to be and what Stanton needs to be delivering in the future. In any hospital, look at a master service delivery, it's very complex because of the number of decision-makers and providers. So physicians, the nursing staff, how you actually maximize and use your ORs and your emergency all becomes a piece of that.

I believe that it was committed earlier that this was a piece of work we intend to have finished over the course of the next two years, but as we are moving ahead and those programs are starting to move out and it does fit with the Minister's initiative around the Foundation for Change. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MR. RAMSAY:** We had, at the committee level, I'm not a member of the Social Programs committee, but we had an opportunity to have the Minister before the Social Programs committee I believe it was close to a year ago and the issue was raised about the capital plan and why the Stanton Master Development Plan wasn't there. The Minister at the time stated that she would do her best to get it into the capital plan and it's not there. I understand what the deputy minister is saying, but I want to know -- let's say it doesn't come forward in two years -- ultimately who is going to be held responsible for that plan not materializing, because, like I said, it's been seven years.

I mean, things change. It's a moving target in health care, things change every day. So if we keep waiting, there's going to be new technologies coming forward, there's going to be new innovative ways of doing things, there's going to be new service delivery models eventually. I mean, we'll never have something nailed down if we keep saying, well, things are moving, things are

changing. Of course they're changing, but what we need to do is get a major infusion of capital dollars into that hospital?

I want to know today who we can hold responsible if it doesn't happen. Is it the Minister? Who is actually working on this plan? I'd like to be clear on that. Who is working on the plan today? I said this in the House the other day: if the department and the authority cannot get the work done that's required, let's bring somebody else in to help them get the work done, whether that's Public Works and Services or somebody else. If they need the horsepower, let's bring that in and let's get this done and I'd like to see it happen by the end of the life of this government, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In an earlier response to the Member from Great Slave, I committed, based on the question, that within the life of this Assembly, Stanton would be ready to be moved back into the capital planning process. Thank you.

**MR. RAMSAY:** So I guess the Minister of Finance is going to take it on himself that this will be back in the capital plan. Again, I'd like to hear from the Minister or the deputy minister who exactly is responsible. Is it the authority, the department and how that works and who is actually developing the plan and is it going to be back in the capital plan again next year, Mr. Chairman? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Obviously eager to answer this one. As the deputy minister of Health I'm responsible to work with the authorities, Public Works and anyone else required, the physicians, to establish and bring forward for my Minister the plan on time and that would be a part of my accountabilities. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I guess all I can say is I look forward to that happening. It hasn't happened to date. So again, I'm going to hold my tongue. I just want to see it happen and I've told the Minister this. We need to work together and we need to get this back in the capital plan. I can't make that any more clear.

A couple of other things, too, I want to talk about and maybe this is part of the Master Development Plan, but the space utilization at that hospital and having administrative staff located predominantly on the third floor, we had talked previously about moving some of those administrative staff out of the hospital. It is a hospital, not an office building. We've actually gone to converting some patient lounges into offices and I think that kind of thing has to stop and we need to have the hospital be a hospital, not an office building. Again, I don't know the comment for the Minister. What are the plans

long term for the administrative staff located in that hospital? Thank you.

**MS. MEADE:** So absolutely all the use of the facility and what services should be included in the facility are part of the master plan. I think we do need to move services out of there and maximize it is an acute, whether that's the ambulatory and outpatient or some of the other services and we maximize that out. I think there is a plan, actually, to consider how they can move some of the administration and maximize that, but all of that service delivery inclusive of administrative and provider support will be in the master service program delivery that will design and guide the function of the plan.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** We're on page 6-4, health services program. Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. By the sounds of it, the deputy minister talks of a plan and I know there's been a tremendous amount of work done already, there's got to be the foundation of this Master Development Plan somewhere. I mean, we've spent money on it in years past, so there's got to be something there.

A couple of other questions, the Master Development Plan, will it include a discussion around the medical clinic, the Stanton Medical Clinic that's currently located outside of the hospital next to McDonalds? Is that part of the discussion as well, the clinical services that are provided? I know we're going to this walk-in clinic downtown in the consolidated clinic, but these are services that are provided outside of that venue, obviously, and I'm wondering what the future of that is going to be. Because I've talked to staff there, they're working in cramped quarters, they're overcrowded, they need more space to run the programs that they have there and we need more space there. I'm just wondering if I could get a comment from the Minister or the deputy minister on that. Thank you.

**MS. MEADE:** First of all, all services have to be looked at under the umbrella of the NWT system. So we can't just look at Stanton alone, we have to look at Stanton in the context of the community as well as the other communities and what services best fit in which infrastructure, but, more importantly, what services are best going to support the patient flow through the system. So redesign of any and renovation of any infrastructure or looking at space has to look at the context of how each piece fits in the system design. We are looking at the role of specialists and specialist clinics and how those can best be suited.

The other issue is we have to define the program. So, for example, a provider may be licensed to do a specialty, but the decision is who decides on how much and how broad that is. Orthopedic surgery can be A to Z. It is not always a high quality, safe or necessary to provide the full service in some places. So when we are looking at programs, we

are looking at the full gamut of programs and that will design the space. I understand they are tight, I think there are also efficiency measures and lean measures of health care delivery that can be looked at, and that will be included in our master review of service delivery and the subsequent master plans. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I am just wondering if the deputy minister could elaborate a little bit on the master plan for service delivery. It is the first I have heard of that. I know there is a Master Development Plan for Stanton, but I haven't heard of this master plan for service delivery and what that might encompass. I would like to hear a little bit more about that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**MS. MEADE:** I have to apologize, Mr. Chairman, I am in transition. I have been told I can only use my newbie card for another week but I do get my language mixed up from my old world. What I am referring to on the service delivery is under the Foundation for Change that was referenced by both the Minister of Finance and my Minister previously. We are looking at the right service, the type of service and how we are going to deliver that. That is what I am referring to and I apologize for mixing my language and my places, but I know I am here today. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you Ms. Meade. If we can move forward on this one. Page 6-4, Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, infrastructure and investment summary, \$4.174 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Moving forward to community health programs, Health and Social Services, activity summary, health services programs, infrastructure and investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$800,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** On to Page 6-10 Mr. Bromley

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I believe the NWT TeleSpeech project falls under this activity, Mr. Chairman. I see we have three phases to it and I believe we are not proposing to enter phase three. I am wondering what the status of it is, if we are on target for phase one and two in terms of deploying the activities we had planned and on budget. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** Thank you for that question. This is rolling out. I am going to speak first to the actual physical rollout.

Phase one and two are complete. There may be some minor adjustments at some sites, but in general this is moved out. The bigger piece is the change management and maximizing the use of

these tools, so we are also working with Education. I will tell you that on the change management, we still have some training and transition to do to maximize the use. This is a tool with great potential, but as far as the capital and physical, we are on target. Thank you.

**MR. BROMLEY:** The deputy minister has foreseen my next question. I note in the materials provided, that training is recognized as essential. I understand we are in the phase of getting the equipment out there and some of it updated and so on. Is the budget on target as well? Have the costs been what we expected? On the training question, it would be good to know where we are at. Obviously we would like it to be somewhat keeping pace with the equipment we are putting out there. Thank you.

**MS. MEADE:** Thank you very much. First of all, I can update that, yes, we are on target with the budget. This continues to be one we have to monitor closely. So phase one for 2008-2009 was the 14 health units and that is completed. Just this October we have started the evaluation of that target, just so we ensure that if we did pick up any issues in training on deployment, so that will guide the next two phases.

In November we are beginning the 16 additional health units and then as you see in this budget, for phase three, on the training, that is not a capital cost. That is operational and we are absorbing those costs and managing. We are using both the regional authority as well as our own and there are two components. There is formal training and then the ongoing site visitation as well as the department looking at how we can push out the use further. We are in close conversations with Education because we do think this is a tool we can use in many other areas, both in the health education and clearly in the counselling area. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**MR. BROMLEY:** My last question, again the deputy minister anticipated, is on evaluation and use of the system, which of course is related to all of the former subjects we have been talking about, but I am wondering if we are monitoring the number of cases, and I don't know what the parameters would be, but do we have a plan for evaluation and is that in place as we go along? Thank you.

**MS. MEADE:** We have just started this October the evaluation of the uptake or adoption of use, but the evaluation is actually one that is a work in progress. We will evaluate, but as we look and see growth, there will be areas that we can evaluate for future use, so we are going to be continually evaluating how we can push out and maximize these tools. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Again, thank you for those comments. Is it pretty even across the Territories or are there areas that we need to focus? Have we got that far in our assessment or monitoring of

things? Is there an area where we need to put extra focus in, a geographic area? Thank you.

**MS. MEADE:** First of all, I think that we need to look at the whole system, because this is a system that can be utilized far greater than I think we originally envisioned and it continues to evolve across North America how you can use these tools and how you can build on, so it is evolving. As far as areas where we may have some need to go back in, our technical units are going in, continually working and back and forth, and we discuss these even when I talk to CEOs about how we can maximize and where they need support. So can I tell you a region? No. This continues to evolve as we look at the use of the tools. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Thank you. Again, I have been reminded that we are dealing with capital here. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The information that we have here is that in terms of the communities that I represent, are all the telehealth services in place now and it can be used for the communities in terms of what it is intended for in terms of health care?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Ms. Meade.

**MS. MEADE:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. I am sorry; I don't have the information with me as to where the 14 and the additional ones that we have ruled out currently and continuing, but I can tell you that in two of the areas that the Minister recently visited in the Sahtu, both Fort Good Hope and Norman Wells, you had equipment in those health centres that was set up and starting to be used. Fully used, I don't think that any of us are fully using this tool, but they are up and ready to go in at least two of your health centres. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** We've certainly had some great debates in regard to improving our health care system through this information technology services available to us. I'm going to just ask the Minister of Finance in terms of worthwhile investment for us such as this here in terms of having this system available to us in the Sahtu because of the number of factors that make it quite difficult to have other services like the larger centres. I know and appreciate what the deputy minister said in terms of two centres that possibly could be used in this. I think it would be very beneficial to have the other centres also involved in terms of using this type of service. We invest a lot of money and continue to invest and I think that's a way we can also cut down on our medical travel, if need be, and look at how we keep people back in our communities rather than fly them out to larger centres. I'll ask the Minister.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Yes, I just want to say the deputy minister came with me to Fort Good Hope,

but I was in Tulita, Deline and Colville with the Member before that; before her time. We saw telehealth equipment in all of the facilities. The Sahtu was one of the first ones for a rollout. The staff there were excited and preparing to use that. I should caution that the whole plan is in process in all three stages, but right now a lot of staff are dealing with H1N1 issues that might delay the rollout a little bit. I hope the Member is willing to stand up. The Sahtu is all fully equipped in all four communities. Nice TV, with wheels.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Can't argue with TV on wheels. Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's good to know that the Sahtu is fully equipped and we're ready to go here. I wanted to ask the Minister, I know there's an issue here we need to deal with in all the Northwest Territories and this may cause some delays in terms of getting this information up and going for us. This is something that we can look forward to. I certainly know that this is very important for our people here. They have seen it. They like it. I hope we're not, that we can, for our region have this available here for our centres, like any of the small communities that do not have nurses or have limited access to physicians. Could this be something the Minister could pay a little closer attention to in terms of having this up and going in light of having to deal with the flu that is coming around the corner here?

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Yes, we fully intend to maximize the use of that equipment. It is more suitable for our small communities. Not only the telehealth, but also DI/PAC equipment will be in all of the small communities too. I just want to know that, and I do need to tell the Members that H1N1 right now is the number one priority and we have had to employ human resources who would not normally be dealing with public health issues in the department and in the regional health centres to address it. Everybody is fully geared up to deal with H1N1, but the telehealth machines and DI/PAC and electronic health records system is rolling out really nicely and we will do everything we can to fully maximize that, because it would really benefit and help us to deliver our care.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** I certainly look forward to the day when I can walk to any health centre station in the Sahtu and see that this operation is fully in place and implemented and the people know how to use it. That will be a plus for this government here to look at improving our health care centres in our smaller communities.

I would ask also if part of this whole information investment here that we're using is also our health centres on line with the new system on medical records. Is this something that is also in place in our health centres? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Mr. Chairman, the plan is to roll it out to all of the communities, but right now we are doing a pilot project to iron out the use of the program and make sure the confidentiality issues and all of the data gathering and keeping are safe. So we still are in the process of finalizing that, but certainly the plan is to have it out to the communities. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Chair, again, I would ask if the Minister sometime would -- maybe it's already been provided -- provide kind of a plan as to which communities and regions are going to be on the list for the rollout of this project here.

The last point I had, Mr. Chair, in terms of this information here...It's been a long day, so I just can't remember. I lost it there. So I will have to leave it. I am having a senior's moment, Mr. Chair. I will leave it at that for now.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** I believe Mr. Yakeleya was asking if you could provide the information so that he could have that in his hands. Minister of Finance.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Okay. We are on page 6-10, Health and Social Services, activity summary, program delivery support, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$1.954 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Now we turn back to department summary, page 6-2. Health and Social Services, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$6.928 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. Does committee agree that we have concluded the Department of Health and Social Services?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko):** Agreed. I would like to thank the witnesses and Mr. Minister. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witness out. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to report progress.

---Carried.

I will now rise and report progress.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SPEAKER:** Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please? Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering

Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

---Carried

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

### Orders of the Day

**PRINCIPAL CLERK OF OPERATIONS (Ms. Bennett):** Orders of the day for Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
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 1-16(4), Extended Adjournment of the House to October 26, 2009
  - Motion 2-16(4), Standing Committee on Social Programs Review of the Child and Family Services Act Terms of Reference
18. First Reading of Bills

19. Second Reading of Bills

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

- Tabled Document 1-16(4), NWT Capital Estimates 2010-2011

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 17:46 p.m.

