



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, May 19, 2010****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:39 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Welcome to our guests in the gallery today.

---Applause

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 36-16(5):
POVERTY IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in February, this House passed a motion calling on the government to develop a comprehensive anti-poverty strategy for the Northwest Territories. This motion also noted the need to work with key stakeholders to develop a definition of poverty and to include measurable targets and mechanisms for cross-departmental coordination.

As Members know, addressing low income in the Northwest Territories is a complex matter that is linked to social, economic and cost of living conditions that exist in our communities.

Poverty strategy from jurisdictions in Canada often focus on activities that improve education and literacy, support people in finding employment and continue to improve access to child care and other factors that create barriers for individuals trying to improve their living conditions. The reality is that several of the strategic actions that have been advanced during this Assembly have been designed with similar objectives including strategic activities aimed at:

- improving skills for living and working;
- supporting economic diversification and working to maximize benefits from development;
- expanding programming for children and youth;
- encouraging healthy choices and addressing addictions;

- taking steps to address factors that impact cost of living;
- undertaking activities to improve shelter; and
- ensuring support for families and individuals in need.

These actions build on many existing programs that are aimed to address low income and focus on the underlying causes of poverty. Our programs to support individuals in need are based on the Income Security Framework which emphasizes that programs should be designed to help ensure individuals in greatest need are able to meet their basic requirements for food, shelter and clothing and are in position to participate in community life.

Mr. Speaker, we are prepared to undertake the work required to develop an overarching discussion paper that would address issues of defining and measuring progress on poverty, summarize current programs and strategic direction related to reducing poverty and identify areas for further action.

This work cannot be done alone. We will establish an advisory committee with representatives from key stakeholder groups that will help guide this work. In addition, we will need to develop approaches for broader input from residents on issues associated with poverty. We also need the advice and input of Members of the Legislative Assembly and we need to ensure significant interdepartmental cooperation to reflect the complex nature of the subject matter.

I believe that this government's priorities and actions are already focused on addressing the underlying causes of poverty. However, our fiscal environment requires us to continually examine our approaches to ensure our resources are being used in an effective manner. I am hoping that the work we are proposing will help identify areas where we can improve on our current activities. Thank you.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 37-16(5):
2010 NWT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT –
SPECIAL BIODIVERSITY REPORT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today I will be tabling the NWT

State of the Environment Report – 2010 Special Biodiversity Edition. The report celebrates the value of biodiversity and is part of the Northwest Territories contribution to the 2010 International Year of Biodiversity.

The State of the Environment – Special Biodiversity Edition presents the latest findings on the status and trends of biodiversity, ecosystem integrity and the status of traditional knowledge, growing trends in the sustainable use of biodiversity and trends in threats to biodiversity. The report is in collaboration with the Government of Canada, the Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (NWT), the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, the Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, the Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board and the North Slave Metis Alliance.

This initiative, as outlined in the department's framework for action, will help keep residents and decision-makers informed on the state of biodiversity in the Northwest Territories. Compared to other places in Canada, the Northwest Territories diversity of plants and animals is essentially unchanged. However, disturbing trends such as widespread declines in some bird species are of concern.

Biodiversity is the web of life. It is the diversity of plants and animals that make the NWT's forests, tundra, mountains, lakes, rivers and skies their home.

Biodiversity in the NWT is a combination of healthy ecosystems, the variety of our northern species, and the sustainable use of our genetic resources. A loss of biodiversity can threaten the health of people and the ecosystems that we live in.

The environment is of great importance to the people of the Northwest Territories. Residents are fortunate to have clean air and water and productive forests, land and wildlife, but pressures on the environment, including climate change and fragmentation of our landscape, exist and must be monitored and mitigated. Loss of biodiversity reduces nature's capacity to adapt to a changing environment, reducing its ability to provide the vital services we require to survive. By monitoring the changes in biodiversity we can be better prepared to mitigate them and adapt to a changing environment.

In response to the United Nations' 2010 Biodiversity Targets, the report is divided into six sections: status and trends of NWT biodiversity, ecosystem integrity, status of traditional knowledge, sustainable use, threats to biodiversity, and a section on planning, programs, and partnerships for the future.

The Northwest Territories continues to meet the 2010 United Nations' Biodiversity goals and targets. The State of the Environment – Special Biodiversity

Report provides the required information to help us understand the complexities of the NWT's biodiversity, how it's changing, and why. Up-to-date revisions to the full NWT State of the Environment Report are available on the Department of Environment and Natural Resources website and will continue to be updated annually. We invite communities, aboriginal organizations, industry, and interested individuals and groups to review this report.

In honour of 2010 as the International Year of Biodiversity, I hope this report helps teach NWT residents and all Canadians about the importance of biodiversity in our changing environment. By monitoring and reporting on the status and trends of biodiversity we can better mitigate environmental changes so future generations can enjoy a healthy and prosperous future.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 38-16(5):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
TOURISM INDUSTRY

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last weekend our territorial parks were opened to the public in every region except Inuvik where those parks will open on June 1st. This kicks off the summer tourism season here in the Northwest Territories. We will also celebrate NWT Tourism Week from June 7 to 13. With these events taking place and with this being the last session until the fall, I think this is an appropriate time to highlight the importance of the tourism industry to our Territory.

That importance is demonstrated in dollars and cents. Last year tourism contributed \$130.3 million to the Northwest Territories economy. It is also demonstrated by the fact that tourism is a sector that can be viable in all 33 of our communities. With the right idea, enthusiasm, and hard work, tourism can succeed almost anywhere.

The fact that tourism can be viable anywhere makes it an important contributor to the 16th Legislative Assembly's goal of diversifying our economy and providing all regions and communities with opportunities and choices. In every corner of the Northwest Territories there are wonders to be seen and experienced that you won't find anywhere else. These wonders provide business opportunities for our residents.

Tourism is also a renewable, sustainable business sector. It takes advantage of some of our greatest attributes: our people, our unique culture, our beautiful scenery, our wildlife, and our traditional arts and crafts. These attributes have staying power. We can depend on them year after year.

The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the importance of our tourism industry. That is why we are investing \$5.5 million into the industry this coming fiscal year.

We are supporting the industry in both big and small ways. The big ways can be seen in our efforts to promote the Northwest Territories as a place to visit during the 2010 Winter Olympics and Paralympics Games. It can also be seen in the programs like the Tourism Diversification and Marketing Program, which provides funding for Northwest Territories operators to enhance or expand their products and operations in this competitive and ever-evolving industry.

The Government of the Northwest Territories supports the tourism industry in many ways, including regional product development workshops and the Marine Safety Training courses. Last year these courses were delivered to 59 tourism operators and their guides. As well, we have provided assistance to improve infrastructure across the Territory such as the conference facility in Inuvik, airport signage and displays in the Sahtu.

Mr. Speaker, the success of our tourism industry relies on the success of our partnerships with tourism operators. The board and staff of Northwest Territories Tourism share with the Government of the Northwest Territories a commitment to the development of the industry and I would like to recognize this important and valued partner, which promotes the Northwest Territories through their marketing activities. We appreciate their ongoing engagement and commitment to keeping the tourism industry vibrant in the Northwest Territories.

Of course, no mention of our tourism industry would be complete without tipping our caps to the hardworking men and women who make up the Northwest Territories tourism industry. The determination and strength of these individuals have built our industry, and they are not only valued businesspeople, but also ambassadors of the Northwest Territories, bringing the warmth and wonder of our Territory to the world.

Mr. Speaker, as we enter what we hope will be another busy summer tourism season here in the Northwest Territories, I ask all the Members of this Assembly to join me in saluting our tourism industry and the men and women involved in it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 39-16(5):
INTEGRATED COMMUNITY
SUSTAINABILITY PLANS

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to share

with my colleagues the great success stories about all 33 community governments in the Northwest Territories.

As Members know, the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs is the lead department working with community governments to implement the requirements for funding under the Canada-NWT Gas Tax Agreement.

One condition of this agreement is that all 33 community governments in the Northwest Territories complete an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan, or ICSP, by March 31, 2010. The ICSP includes a community strategic plan, as well as three sub plans: a capital investment plan, a community energy plan, and a human resources plan.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that all 33 community governments successfully completed and adopted their ICSPs by the required March 31, 2010, deadline.

As we all know, good planning is an essential requirement for success. Through the development of an ICSP, a community government has created a roadmap that outlines where it wants to go and how it is expected to get there.

Between November 2009 and January 2010, 26 of the 33 community governments worked with MACA and its partners, the Northwest Territories Association of Communities and the Arctic Energy Alliance, and attended regional workshops to assist with the completion of their ICSPs. The workshops were deemed a great success. The remaining seven community governments took the initiative to work with external consultants with expertise in the field, and also completed their ICSPs by the March 2010 deadline.

Mr. Speaker, because of the hard work of all 33 community governments to complete their plan by the required deadline, I am pleased to inform Members that the Gas Tax Agreement will flow \$60 million to community governments in the Northwest Territories over the period 2010-11 to 2013-14. During this period, community governments will be putting their hard work to use and in implementing their ICSPs.

With the success of community governments in approving their ICSPs, they are now better equipped to focus on priorities, analyze their opportunities, and implement any needed organizational or operational changes. The ICSPs will also provide community governments with information to correct any poor performing areas, give a clear sense of direction to community government staff, and provide a frame of reference for their budget.

To support community governments with the implementation of their plans, MACA and the Northwest Territories Association of Communities,

the Arctic Energy Alliance, and the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories will support communities with the ongoing development and implementation of their existing ICSPs, and will assist community governments in facilitating larger community engagement and citizen involvement. MACA and its partners will also provide technical advice and assistance related to all aspects of ICSPs; engage partners, both government and non-government, to advance broad community goals and strategies; and assist community governments with required tools and resources.

Mr. Speaker, with completed strategic plans for all 33 community governments, a clear path forward has been laid out that will bring great results in the areas of capital infrastructure development, increased energy efficiency and the investment in building local capacity, which is an integral part of the 16th Legislative Assembly's priorities to create sustainable, vibrant and safe communities for all residents of the NWT. Congratulations to all 33 community governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 40-16(5): SUMMER STUDENT HIRING

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify my response to Mr. Hawkin's question regarding summer students yesterday in this House. There are two categories for hiring summer students. Summer students are provided with hiring priority between April 15th and August 31st.

The first category is students hired within the progressive experience and relative experience programs. These programs are specifically designed to provide students with job experience related to the student's field of study where the emphasis of the job is on providing relevant work experience.

Priority 1 is an indigenous aboriginal student and priority 2 is an indigenous non-aboriginal student or resident disabled student. No priority is all other student applicants.

Mr. Speaker, the second category is students hired outside the progressive experience and relative experience programs.

Outside the Progressive Experience Program are jobs that fulfill a specific departmental need but are not necessarily related to the student's field of study.

Staffing priority is granted to the designated groups specified in the Affirmative Action Policy. Priority 1 in this category is considered an indigenous aboriginal student or an indigenous aboriginal person (non-student). Priority 2 is an indigenous

non-aboriginal student or resident disabled student or an indigenous aboriginal person (non-student) or resident disabled person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF NEW CHIEF AND COUNCIL IN LUTSELK'E

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to take this opportunity to recognize a new chief and council of Lutselk'e. Chief Antoine Michel and a new council were officially sworn into office on May 7, 2010. Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to speak with Chief Michel about various issues and projects in Lutselk'e. We talked about many things we want to see for Lutselk'e. It was especially good to hear that he wants to improve programs and services for the people of Lutselk'e.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Michel has been the Lutselk'e First Nation chief in the past and more recently a councillor at Lutselk'e First Nation. He has a strong background in local politics, and is also a lifelong resident of Lutselk'e and has seen the community through many changes. During our discussion, Chief Michel mentioned that he wanted to see a new productive relationship with the GNWT and would like to see the Lutselk'e First Nation become more involved with delivery of GNWT programs and services.

Mr. Speaker, in Lutselk'e, the First Nation is a local government and the only government. In addition to overseeing programs and services in Lutselk'e, they must also be involved with equally important issues outside the community within the Akaitcho Territory Government. One can say they are doing double duty. Often many people don't realize that of the chiefs.

With respect to a new band council, the community elected Gilbert Abel, Ron Desjarlais, Terri Enzoe, Ron Fatte, James Marlowe and Emily Saunders. Of the six council members elected, only Terri Enzoe was an incumbent.

Mr. Speaker, the new chief and council represents a new direction and leadership for the community. However, at the same time, they acknowledge the work of the previous chief and council. They look forward to continuing the good work that they have done.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Michel would welcome the opportunity to foster a positive working relationship with the GNWT for addressing the various community issues and concerns. I look forward to working with Chief Michel and his new council. I am

travelling there next week to meet with them. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Chief Michel and the Lutselk'e Dene First Nation Council. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DEMOLITION OF DEH CHO HALL
IN FORT SIMPSON

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided]

Mr. Speaker, this summer the Deh Cho Hall in Fort Simpson will be demolished. The building that dates back to the late 1950s has housed many different activities over the years.

The Deh Cho Hall was originally named the Lapointe Hall. It was part of the residential school system. Many Northerners were students at this facility. Until recently it was the home of the ECE support office and the Open Door Society. It also housed Aurora College, and several other local organizations benefited from that space. Most notably, I should add it was the John Tsetso Memorial Library, which still needs a home. It is a monument to the past and a symbol of the era of residential schools.

Many aboriginal people have been working on healing in order to find closure to their personal residential school experience. It is a very interesting parallel that as reconciliation is about forgetting the past, taking down the Deh Cho Hall seems to be a way of literally taking down walls and shaking off the past. Taking this building down is a means of moving forward. On one hand we are removing a legacy and on the way out creating new positive ones.

Fort Simpson did get a new ECE administrative building to house all our education needs and is now becoming a central place. The demolition is turning out to be a huge employment opportunity. A local company, Nogha Enterprises Limited, has been awarded a contract to demolish the building. This contract will provide 25 jobs to the community and these jobs will give a lift to our economy. They will have the ability to learn new skills, and employability in other areas.

Every time I hear about new jobs in Nahendeh, I know that constituents and the community will be happy. This will remove a very big building and change the face of Fort Simpson, and I am hopeful we can use the space for new future infrastructure. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
GNWT POLICY OF PUBLIC TENDER

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Monday morning I was contacted by a constituent who was very concerned about a recent Department of Health public tender. Their business received a fax Friday afternoon from Inuvik Health to which they only noticed Monday morning and, by the way, Mr. Speaker, it closes this Thursday. To understand this situation and appreciate the complexity, I will describe it this way.

The tender was faxed to this office Friday, May 14th. The fax was examined on Monday morning, May 17th, and the tender closes on May 20th. Simply put, this business is only allowed four business days to reasonably respond to a complex tender. So is it reasonable, or is it fishy, Mr. Speaker? I'll let the public decide on how this process will roll out.

However, if the problems stop there I'm sure we can simply chalk this up as an oops or an oversight. But when you read the tender document, a chill of unfairness starts to roll down your spine. When you read the details of the 13 pages of request on the tender document you will see that they use one name of a local competitor against another here. The Department of Health uses the spreadsheet of a local business, which can only cause you to wonder who actually wrote this tender, but if it only stopped there, the story would probably end. But, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health then uses specific product numbers from this one local business in their public tender, which really can only be attained from this private business. So how is that fair competition?

As opposed to using industry standards and product names that everyone knows and understands, like Johnson and Johnson and Phillips as an example, they decide to use product numbers, descriptions and product names you can only guess came from one company. Mr. Speaker, if you get into the product description now, the wording is very vague and ambiguous, which causes you to be forced to guess on what the Department of Health reads.

So if you're a northern business and you want to compete on this public tender, you actually have to call your local competition to ask them for pricing so you can compete. Is that fair? I would definitely say not. Mr. Speaker, again, it causes me to wonder what's going on.

Mr. Speaker, this process is kind of a strange stage of many things that arise and surface as to what is really going on. Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister of Health and Social Services is forced with only one option which, I brought to her attention, is to cancel the tender, issue it fairly and make sure northern competitors aren't competing each other in such an unfair, blatantly biased manner, which I think brings

disrespect to this government and it can be corrected today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PROPOSED CHANGES TO SUPPLEMENTARY
HEALTH BENEFITS POLICY

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to speak today about the proposed changes to the supplementary health benefits. I'll begin by stating that I am encouraged that Premier Roland and Cabinet Ministers actually were listening to what Regular Members and the public were saying about the proposed changes.

We're looking now at a joint working group formed between Cabinet and Regular Members to come up with a plan to move this forward and I appreciate Cabinet wanting to work through the issues with Regular Members. I'm hoping for positive results from this effort. In the spirit of consensus government we do need to work together.

However, I do remain sceptical of the timelines. We have an opportunity before us to get this right and make decisions based on solid analysis. As a government we cannot afford to deliver a haphazard, inferior product for our residents. It will be up to us to ensure that it does get done right.

Having the ability to move the implementation date until after Members come back here in October will give us the opportunity to question the Cabinet. For me this is very important as it will give us the ability to ask more questions on behalf of our constituents. September 30th was solely a political date intended at avoiding another round of questions. I want to thank those Cabinet Members who agreed with having some flexibility.

Over 3,000 Northwest Territories residents signed one petition or another voicing their displeasure with the actions of government in regard to this policy. We had over 150 protesters in front of the Legislative Assembly. A motion passed unanimously in the recent Elders Parliament. A motion passed at the recently held NWTAC. Hundreds and hundreds of e-mails, letters and phone calls from concerned residents. And finally the government has listened.

Politics is a serious business. I recall a former political science professor of mine stating that in politics there are two things you cannot fool around with. The first is health care and the second is education. If you must do so, it will require much finesse and diplomacy. To date we haven't done this. Can we not find a way forward without unnecessarily infuriating the public? The first step in this process is listening to people.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. RAMSAY: In her handling of the issue, the Health Minister has shown a propensity to be narrow minded and not listen to the arguments put forward by Members on this side of the House, and I want to go on record today as saying she has got to improve her listening skills. Thankfully some of her Cabinet colleagues understand what consensus government means and what it means to listen to the Regular Members of this House and the public of the Northwest Territories. I want to thank them for that.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NWT ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I should thank the Premier or chastise him for stealing my statement today.

Just before Christmas a group of concerned, socially conscientious organizations came to the Legislative Assembly and gave us all a Christmas present. It was a gift of 14 reports detailing the causes and effects of poverty. In addition to their presentation, the group had but one request and, to quote them, "All we want for Christmas is an end to poverty."

Just this past weekend the NWT Association of Communities passed a resolution which urges the GNWT to proceed with the creation of a strategy for eliminating poverty. It's a follow-up to a motion to develop an anti-poverty strategy passed in this House on February 11th. As the Premier mentioned, it's a motion which asks the Premier to initiate discussions with the Anti-Poverty Alliance Partners and requests a response to the motion in 120 days.

In a Member's statement in February I made the following comment: that present, the one made to the Assembly, an end to poverty for members of the alliance and for our residents is one that this government needs to start work on. I was going to upbraid the government for not having done anything, but now, some 90 days after the motion, I'm very pleased to hear that the government is ready to move forward towards an end to poverty. But I have to wonder how the government will provide the requested comprehensive response less than 30 days from now if we are only just starting the process.

As the Premier also mentioned, all Members, Regular and Executive alike, acknowledge the huge impact that poverty has on our residents. The effects are evident in our schools and in the overloading of our health care system. Poverty in the NWT is exacerbated by our isolation, the high cost we pay for food, shelter and fuel, our housing shortages and inadequacies, and just the logistics

of living in the North. To counteract those effects, our government spends quite literally hundreds of thousands of dollars on income support programs for our residents.

An effective anti-poverty strategy will be financially beneficial to the GNWT as it will reduce the dollars needed for income support programs. Our people will be better off. The GNWT bank balance will be better off. We all win in the long run.

The Premier spoke of establishing an advisory committee, but I feel that's not enough.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: We have an offer of assistance from community partners to develop an anti-poverty strategy and it's a great opportunity that must not be ignored. We have organizations concerned for the welfare of NWT residents willing to donate their labour and advice and considerable experience to this project, but we must engage them in a meaningful manner. They want to work, not advise, and we have to take advantage of that.

I will have questions for the Premier at the appropriate time.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF GRADE SIX STUDENTS FROM HAY RIVER

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to use my Member's statement today to welcome the Grade 6 students, teachers and chaperones from the Princess Alexandra School in Hay River. Recognition of visitors in the gallery is supposed to take less than 15 seconds, but Members' statements are two and a half minutes, so I'm going to take my Member's statement to recognize them. I would very much like to welcome them here and I do apologize if I do not pronounce your name right.

Teachers today: Rita Moizis and Jennifer Tweedie. Students: Kaed Blake, Novi Bordeny, Tia Buckley-Cayen, Nick Buth, Tristan Cross, Ashley Felker, Dawson George, Amber Lamalice, Meagan Loutit, Josely Mabbitt, Robert MacLeod -- and if you're ever interested in politics, you'll have a very good chance of getting into Cabinet.

---Laughter

Shanise -- and I suggest you get a picture taken with two other Robert McLeod's here -- Shanise Mandeville, Shalaine Moore, Larissa Nekurak, James Pennell, Janna Roach, Uzair Sipra, Kira Tatti, Will Tonka, Danna Webster, Don Wilson, Bret

Allinott, Anastasia Antony, Michael Beaulieu, Arry Bertrand, Russell Bouvier, Susie Chambers, Chelsea Dumas, Kendra Gaede, Sara Gibbons, Tristan Graham, Rachel Harder, Alex Huang, Christian Laboucan, Darwin Lawrence, Jared Leblanc, Kierra Mandeville, Jaymar Marzan, Daniel Melanson, Elliot Pinto, Ruby Lee Powder. Our chaperones here today: Rodger Blake, Allan Buth, Doug Lamalice, Linda Antony, Kelly Allinott, and Cheryl Melanson.

And I'd also like to recognize my constituency assistant and thank her for her help in organizing this today: Wendy Morgan from Hay River South.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON BUSINESS INCENTIVE POLICY AND LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENTS

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is dealing with the Business Incentive Policy. I think there's a major problem with the policy. I'll just go through some of the principles of the policy that are supposed to be applied.

The Government of the Northwest Territories adheres to the following principles when implementing the policy: the government referential practices should maximize benefits for the residents of the Northwest Territories to the government policy and procedures; should enhance the Northwest Territories business environment, ensuring sustainable economic growth; and the policy should not prejudice any present or future self-government treaties or land claim-based rights.

I have a problem with (3). I believe that this policy undermines the land claim agreements and undermines the whole objective of the land claim agreements to have stable and subsistent businesses in the land claims agreements. Ensuring that we have self-relying people and self-relying communities by making capital investments to develop the economic liability of those businesses to be sustainable, when you have businesses located in two communities... I'll use the illustration of Inuvik. You have two hotel companies in Inuvik. One is owned by the Gwich'in Development Corporation in partnership with a company. They spent \$12 million to put this facility in place. Now we're finding out that the Government of the Northwest Territories is only using one hotel for government employees, which is the Mackenzie Hotel. For one reason or another they are not using the Gwich'in business in Inuvik. This totally undermines the whole principle of land claim agreements.

Why should aboriginal companies invest their monies in the Northwest Territories to provide an economic benefit to their benefactors by these types of businesses? Yet again this shows the disregard for land claim agreements, land claim corporations, from doing business in the Northwest Territories, especially in the Inuvik region.

I don't know what it is, but it seems to me there's a line drawn in the sand and this government is doing everything it can to undermine those land claim agreements and the Gwich'in Tribal Council and these business arms by trying to do business in the Northwest Territories.

This has drawn a wedge in regard to the aboriginal business...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krutko, your time for your Member's statement has expired.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. KRUTKO: This totally undermines the whole concept of land claim settlements in the Northwest Territories and for aboriginal groups to develop an economic base so they can provide for their benefactors and the people in communities so that we are able to be self-reliant people. When this type of practice is done by the government to undermine those land claim agreements, the policy itself is in question. This policy, as far as I see it, shouldn't be put forward to the implementation of the land claim agreements and see how it draws up to the land claims agreements. Are they exactly undermining those agreements by these types of policies?

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON WORKING GROUP ON SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH BENEFITS POLICY

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday in the House the Minister of Health and Social Services announced that the Legislative Assembly has created a working group of Ministers and Regular Members to assist in the review of specific items that Members and the public would like to have reviewed prior to the implementation of the new Supplementary Health Benefits Program. The intent of this working group is to improve upon the program that the Minister has already presented.

According to the press release from yesterday afternoon, the working group will consist of three Regular Members and three Ministers, one of which will be the Minister of Health and Social Services.

For the record, I am supportive of this group. I have a significant amount of confidence in my Regular Member colleagues as well as any additional Ministers that are appointed to this committee. I believe that they will listen to what Regular Members and the public have to say and attempt to incorporate those comments and concerns into any future direction that the Minister of Health and Social Services may take. I'm supportive of this group and I'm optimistic that this could result in a new Supplementary Health Benefits Program that is in the best interest of all people of the Northwest Territories.

However, I am concerned that the Minister is limiting the discussion to three key areas: personal third-party coverage responsibility, which is important; approaches to limit employer and individuals from dropping third-party insurance, which is also important; and the issue of accumulated high cost and capped threshold, which once again is also important.

These are clearly areas which need to be addressed. However, I feel that addressing these fairly could necessitate the need to modify much of the Minister's current plan. This could mean that other areas outside of the scope of the committee must also be considered. As such, the Minister must be open to making changes to all aspects of the plan if the committee directs her to do that. If the Minister is open to these, this process could easily work and result in a fair and equitable supplemental health care plan. If past predicts future, I'm worried that the Minister will remain committed to her existing plan.

I encourage the Minister to have an open mind and listen to and work with this working group. No options should be disregarded without reasonable consideration.

Lastly, I'm concerned with the implementation date presented by the Minister yesterday. Yesterday the Minister indicated that a program will be implemented on or before November 1, 2010. On or before means that the Minister may, or could, still implement the program on September 30, 2010, as she originally intended, which is prior to the next sitting of the next Legislative Assembly. To me, this could undermine the intent and good work of this newly established working group.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage the working group to take the time needed to do the work required and develop a reasonable and appropriate Supplemental Health Benefits Program. Mr. Speaker, it's more important that we get it done right as opposed to get it done right now. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
LACK OF RESIDENT SOCIAL
WORKERS IN TULITA

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for three years there has not been a resident social worker in Tulita. How can that be? Don't you think or feel that people should have help and support when they need it? Don't you think or feel that all communities should have a solid social safety net? Don't you think that three years is just too long, far too long to not have a social worker?

People in my home town of Tulita deserve better. Every community in the Northwest Territories deserves better. Right now people are thinking when this government or our board follow through on their commitment to get a social worker in Tulita, or better yet, how about giving the responsibility to the communities to get their own social workers, because all we get are excuses as to why we don't have a social worker there today. People are having to deal with tough issues over the phone or having to wait a long time until the social worker comes to the community.

How can anybody have trust in such a system? It's a system this government has put in place. We created this dependency and now we abandoned them. I believe we must allow the community to take control of this position, because here's what a representative of the Sahtu Health and Social Services Board told me or implied to me: We can't put a social worker in Tulita because they'll get culture shock, there's no housing available, you have to maybe even fly a worker in and out of the community of Norman Wells. He also implied that if we had a social worker that went into Tulita, the spouse got a job in Norman Wells, so we can't split the family up. Well, how about helping the people of Tulita being front and centre? Shouldn't that be the most important consideration, Mr. Speaker?

We need a resident social worker in Tulita right now. Mr. Speaker, don't you think communities like Tulita should be treated equally and fairly by this government when it comes to the health of our people? Or don't you think 1,995 days without a resident social worker is long enough? Would you accept any more excuses, Mr. Speaker? Please help us.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION
COMMISSION POLICIES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to relay the personal experience of

a constituent whose unfortunate workplace injuries have resulted in a two-year odyssey of frustration, delay and uninformed support.

In September 2008, my constituent suffered a workplace accident resulting in severe damage to his ribs and spine. He is left with six to nine permanently detached ribs, nerve damage and great chronic pain with no hope of surgical correction. He can never again resume full duties and must make the choice between pain and debilitating narcotic medication.

He has experienced an apparently endless series of applications, highly legalistic processes and tribunal appeals with inadequate case support and denial of access to legal advice. He's even had to pay fees for access to his own records. Along the way he's waited, at times, for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission medical advisor's determinations and learned that according to the compensation standards of WSCC policy, his psychological pain is the basis for compensation but not his physical pain. In the end, he has been offered lifetime compensation equal to 5 percent of his former earnings.

For help in navigating this maze, he has relied on the help of an excellent worker's advocate and now worker's advisor, who works flat out but lacks the expertise necessary to unsnarl many legal questions. As a result of my inquiries, the agency finally informed the commission that funding was available to provide legal advice with the Minister's approval.

His Appeals Tribunal hearing was in March and he's still waiting to hear the WSCC's reaction to the decision. While past WSCC statement and ministerial correspondence said the medical advisor determines the percentage of impairment as the basis of compensation, he's learned that actually this is just advice and can be varied according to circumstances, something else the commission didn't know or admit. He has now filed a human rights complaint to challenge the distinction between psychological and physical pain, and tries not to take too many of the pills that are the best comfort the WSCC seems able to give.

Mr. Speaker, when accidents happen in the workplace, workers are required by law to seek relief through the Workers' Compensation benefits and support system. They depend on the commission for help in their times of greatest needs.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: They depend on the commission for help in their times of greatest need. I have been impressed with this person's patience, dignity, intelligent approach and calm in seeking meaningful

relief. Because of his perseverance, he is often breaking new ground and doing so partly in recognition of the standard-setting impact he may have to help others that follow with similar issues. He continually asks the question: if this is what's happening to me, how many more people like me are there out there? That's a question I'll be looking into with questions to the Minister. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DARNLEY BAY PROJECT IN PAULATUK

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This summer in the Nunakput community of Paulatuk, Darnley Bay Resources Ltd, a mining exploration company based in Toronto, will be continuing their studies of ground surveys and taking seismic readings of the community, a section of potentially mineral rich land bordering Tuktut Nogait National Park. Similar to projects all across this Territory, this project has experienced slowdown due to the global economy. Fortunately, this project has again built some momentum and financing to move forward.

Nunakput needs this project. Paulatuk needs this project, Mr. Speaker. Nunakput realizes this project is still in the early stages. That's why we're getting involved to ensure that economic development projects such as these progress.

In addition, along with the development of this project, concerns of the community regarding wildlife and environment must also be protected. I believe Paulatuk could benefit socially and economically from this Darnley Bay project while maintaining and protecting the traditional way of life and the environment, Mr. Speaker.

As I mentioned previously, in our Nunakput communities, every year we go through the same thing: people having to leave the community. The primary reason is the lack of real jobs and opportunities in their hometowns. This is going to be a serious problem in the future. Our communities are going to places where we go for holidays in the summer. Communities are empty of our youth. This government needs to get active to assist remote communities with serious programs so jobs can be created for our residents that have to leave their homes.

One concern raised by a constituent is this government doesn't really care about small communities. The residents leave the communities just because of the federal transfers. All regions must be treated equally, Mr. Speaker. The unique conditions and the economic limitations are considered, while allowing resource and various programs all across the North. The unemployment situation in the communities is a serious issue and

we're failing, Mr. Speaker. The lack of opportunities for our youth in the communities of Nunakput, we're almost failing them too.

Mr. Speaker, creating jobs is the best way of having vibrant communities, but Nunakput needs job creation in unique and difficult challenges.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, this government must do more to assist regions to develop the capacity and infrastructure to attract industry, investment and jobs. This government needs to place more attention to resources in small communities and remote communities regarding economic development programs. Mr. Speaker, this program needs to develop a coalition of partners and stakeholders in the Nunakput region due to the unique set of challenges, and promote and coordinate a truly northern, regional and intergovernmental approach at rejuvenating our economy in Nunakput and all across the Territories in the small communities, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Premier at the appropriate time. Thank you.

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to recognize Mr. Ron Ostrom, director of marketing with NWT Tourism and also Janine Carmichael with the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, an organization powered by entrepreneurs. She is a representative for Western Canada. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Welcome everyone in the gallery today. I hope you are enjoying the proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 162-16(5): DARNLEY BAY PROJECT IN PAULATUK

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today in my Member's statement of Darnley Bay project and the lack of jobs in the communities, I have questions for the Premier. Can the Minister identify the actions that this government is taking to keep small and rural communities alive and growing? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We could probably take up the rest of the question period if I were to go into a lot of detail in that area. A number of things that we are highlighting, Mr. Speaker, a number of things that we are doing and one of the areas that we have been working on with Members of the Assembly is the electricity rate review and implementing our recommendations that will affect the commercial cost of doing business in our communities. The fact that within the Department of ITI, we have put more focus on small businesses in our smaller communities as well as traditional activities in that area, as well, to offset the cost of living. We have a number of subsidies in place that help people in our smaller communities with the cost of living; an increase, for example, of our Territorial Power Support Program. In this day and age, we know we have to do more but we are challenged with our ability from our side to implement some of these changes or enhance some of our services because our revenue base isn't growing. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, it is really good that we are giving 70 percent off to Sachs Harbour, finding a way to be able to buy some food in Sachs. It is such a high cost of living in the community. It is a good government. I am happy we work together. That is one thing. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister commit to working with the coalition of Regular Members to businesses and aboriginal partners to develop new strategies for small and remote communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the Member has actually highlighted another area this government has taken an initiative on. It is forming a committee, between Regular Members and Cabinet, on small and remote rural communities. I would say that would be an avenue that we could use if that group wants to seek some input as to what options they may be able to work on and present back to the Members of the Assembly. I think we have an avenue there. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, what success can the Minister point to for this government that we are making for families and youth that want to live in small, remote communities, or what should the Members expect to see from the government that will encourage families or the youth to remain in our small communities and not move to Yellowknife or Inuvik? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, there are quite a number of programs that we have in place that assist families in remaining in their communities; for those that are employed, our wage package as well as our northern allowance to help people stay in those communities. As well for those that our housing packages and our support

under Income Support is another area. The fact is we have enhanced our capital plan over the last number of years to try to get as much infrastructure into our communities and throughout the Northwest Territories. We have invested significant amounts of money as the Government of the Northwest Territories who try to level off the playing field, so to speak, of the cost of living in our smaller communities. One of our other things now we have expanded is on our Youth Employment Initiative, which will again allow support in our smaller communities. Thank you.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The wages are good for working for the territorial government but not everybody in the community has government jobs. There are about three or four jobs in each community. And income support is not enough. People are going hungry during the third week of every month. Mr. Speaker, all I am asking for the Premier is to see if we can work together to get work for the people up in the Beaufort-Delta in the small communities, with meaningful long-term employment with the diamond mines or the oil and gas section. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, a committee on Rural and Remote Communities is looking at how we do business as the Government of the Northwest Territories in a whole number of areas, and again, I am sure that that committee will be happy to pull their resources together to look at these types of initiatives to see what we can do.

Let's not forget, Mr. Speaker, for example, our capital plan, what we are doing to keep people in businesses operating in the communities of the Northwest Territories, our infrastructure program with airport expansions, renewal of many of our infrastructure habits. For example, in Tuktoyaktuk we did the access to the gravel pit, things like that. We have put money on the table to keep people working. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 163-16(5):
NWT ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess I found the timing of the Premier's statement today rather interesting. I get the impression that the pressure is on, Mr. Speaker, because we have a resolution passed by the NWT Association of Communities and recently the Premier, the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs and the chair of the Caucus were all recipients of not one but two congratulatory letters from two Canada-wide anti-poverty organizations.

One of the organizations said in the letter, the NWT is the first of the Canadian territories to prioritize anti-poverty and as such demonstrates leadership for the other provinces and territories who have yet to act, which is great. The other one says as well, we certainly strongly encourage the territorial government to commit to a process involving all key stakeholders that will result in a visionary, comprehensive practical plan for combating poverty.

Those things are great. The congratulations are welcome. I am really glad that we seem to be a bit on the leading. I would like to ask the Premier when Members on this side of the House and when the community partners, the Anti-Poverty Alliance people, can expect some action, the scheduling of a first meeting. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The area of the anti-poverty strategy, the work that needs to be done, as I just made a statement earlier, we are going to work on forming this group as well as set the time frames that we would need to respond by. We will go to committee members and Members of the Assembly to seek their input, as well, on some of the timing and how this should work. Right now we are very early in establishing the specific work plan and the membership of this advisory group. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Premier and we are early in this work, but I guess I have to say we are behind the eight ball, because we are 30 days away from a comprehensive response by the government. To the Premier, I would like to know what he intends will be the make-up of this committee. Will the Anti-Poverty Alliance members be an integral and respected part of this group? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, we are looking at across-the-board representation to seek membership in the advisory group. We will have representation from across the field of organizations involved in the anti-poverty work that happens here in the Northwest Territories. I don't have details to that but, again, I'm prepared to have our staff sit down and pull as much as we have together and have that presented to Members for their input. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I thank the Premier for that. I guess I would have to say that it is the Anti-Poverty Alliance that initiated this and Members simply accelerated the process to a certain extent. So I would hope that the Premier is going to get in touch with the Anti-Poverty Alliance. That was the request they put forward way back in December, after all. I sense that in some cases developing this strategy may not be considered a high priority, but there are, as has been noted, many reports which show the

correlation between poverty and living conditions. So I'd like to know from the Premier, he talks about getting things going and getting things started and we have no dates, we have no details, but what kind of a priority does Cabinet place on this strategy? And, you know, I'd like a bit of a shorter time frame than "soon." Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you. There are times when I take action and I'm told I behave like a dictator, and then there's times when I take the time to try to consult and I get told you're not doing it fast enough. So which is it? It's getting a little tiring at times. I'm not sure if I'm coming or going, depending on what Member is saying what in this House or in a meeting.

This is important work. The simple fact that it's at this table and we're going to put the energy and the resources and we're going to bring the people in to come up with something in the Northwest Territories that works for us here in the Northwest Territories, and I have to recognize the efforts of Members who have helped bring the Anti-Poverty Coalition together and present the work that they have. We're going to work with them, one of their representatives, or have a number of their team as part of the representatives, but unfortunately right now I'm being absolutely forthright here in saying that we're in the early days and to get that information I'll have the staff pull what we have together, present it to Members in committee, Social Programs, and copy other Members and seek your input and we'll put a two-week turnaround time to get some of that input from what we have now. As I say, it's very early, so there might not be much on the bones at this point. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Premier. I apologize if I got his blood rushing to his head, but I really am trying to....

---Laughter

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Oh.

MS. BISARO: I'm really trying to get some timing and some idea of when we might get progress.

Mr. Speaker, the Premier mentioned in his statement that the government will establish an advisory committee and I'd like to ask the Premier whether this committee will only advise or if we will actually be using the people who volunteer for this group to actually do some work for us and to speed things up. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you. The blood is always pumping.

---Laughter

Many would say I'm passionate about my work. Mr. Speaker, the area that we want to pull together and

the people together and the time frame, as I said, this is an important initiative for us. We're reacting and acting with the Members, in a sense, to pull all of this information together.

It is early for us in response. You know, I apologize if the Member feels we've been delayed in doing this, but we are here, we are moving forward with this. I say that with the opportunities before us we'll be able to pull a plan together and that's where we are right now, is the advisory group is to help us pull the plan together and once we have a plan then we have to talk about what we can implement, then we will pull the people together and hitch them up to the team and make them work. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 164-16(5):
WORKING GROUP ON PROPOSED
CHANGES TO THE SUPPLEMENTARY
HEALTH BENEFITS POLICY

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Premier in follow up to my Member's statement earlier today. First off I'd like to applaud Cabinet for taking this unprecedented move to develop a joint working group...

---Applause

...to find workable solutions on an issue that is clearly of significant importance to Members of this House and residents of the Northwest Territories. I strongly agree that working together on this is important and in the best interests of all people in the Northwest Territories. This is definitely a positive step.

However, I do have some questions on process. Mr. Speaker, the working group that has been established has an incredible opportunity and significant importance. Could the Premier commit that this working group will be given the authority to set real and official direction for future changes to supplemental health programs, and that their recommendations to Cabinet will be fully considered? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The area of the Supplementary Health Program and policy is of vital importance to residents of the Northwest Territories as well as to this government. Hence the number of times we've taken this back and reviewed it, and at this point worked with members of Priorities and Planning to come up with this approach to a number of initiatives within that program.

We have to start from a basis. The existing program as it is and the policy as it is, and the work that's been done to date, we've highlighted and worked with committee as to the key areas that we need to move forward on and I believe the Member raised those points in his Member's statement. But at the same time, we're also listening to the Members of the Assembly and when there's talk of parody with NIHB is one of those items that we seriously have to take a look at.

I would say that the working group, as it does its work, recommendations that come back will both go to members of Priorities and Planning, and Cabinet will take that work seriously and have a look at what can be incorporated, how can we amend this and make it work for the future. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you. I'd like to thank the Premier for that response. I really do appreciate that they're going to listen to the recommendations of the working group.

The second question is if the working group makes a recommendation that is contrary to the direction that the Department of Health is taking right now, can the Premier please ensure to us today that the committee's direction will be adhered to, or will the Minister actually have a veto over what the working group is suggesting or recommending?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you. The working group is that, a working group. The recommendations that would flow out of that would go through Priorities and Planning as well as back to Cabinet. Cabinet would have that ultimate decision as to what gets implemented. It's not a department has that final authority. It is a Cabinet position that would be taking to look at changes that would have to occur within that policy. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: Once again, thank you to the Premier for that. I'm also happy to hear that he's going to give Priorities and Planning an opportunity to look at that and make recommendations as well. I think it's important to the operations of the working group that the operations are transparent. Given that the Minister of Health and Social Services is responsible for the final design and ultimately the implementation of the Supplemental Health Program, it's important that she be open to recommendations from this committee. Based on that, I'm a little worried that if the Minister of Health and Social Services were to become the chair, it might be perceived in the public that this is a rubberstamp, which we don't want. We want this to be transparent and clear. I'm not saying that she's biased, but I'm concerned that that might be the perception. So would the Premier commit to assigning a chair to this committee that doesn't already have ultimate responsibility for implementing the recommendations of this working group, this new working group? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you. There are a number of occasions and I know the supp health policy has brought heated debate here into the Assembly, but no policy goes through under just one Minister.

The Minister, under department advisement and their work, brings forward a policy, goes through to Cabinet. Policy, as our protocol is, we hand it over to committee for their input and it comes back to Cabinet for potential other changes to the policy that gets sent out.

So in this case we have agreed to three Members of Cabinet and three members of the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning that need to get together and I believe they're trying to pull those people together before we leave the capital as session is drawing to an end. So they're trying to pull a work plan together and under their advisement we'll be looking for how that should be structured, if it's co-chair or if it's a chair. I mean, co-chairs are a possibility.

Again, this is not a Minister or a department running the show. This is going to be a Cabinet decision as to what policy gets put in place at the end of the day and remind people even our last policy that was signed, it's the Premier-of-the-day that signs off on the policies. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Premier, and I appreciate all that and I understand what you're saying, it's just last night after the announcement came out I had some constituents and other residents of the Northwest Territories talk to me and I spent a lot of time defending what we're doing and that we're working together and are coming together to work as a working group to find some reasonable solutions.

One of the things that came up a couple times is some people don't trust, necessarily. What we're talking about is restoring public confidence. Unfortunately, some people have labelled this as Minister Lee's plan. I think to increase some transparency and return some public confidence, it might be better to have Minister Lee as a Member and not a chair. I'm just suggesting that it might be appropriate to appoint a different chair than Minister Lee. We don't know who the chair is, but if the Premier could make some recommendations that the chair be somebody other than the Minister of Health who will ultimately implement this program.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: I think this is one of, well, maybe not the first time, but rarely do we have brought up in the sitting of the Legislative Assembly who should be the chair of a working group or committee.

We will sit down, as I said. They are trying to pull the people together. If it's co-chairs that go through it, we'll go through it.

Since it's been raised about the work of a Minister, well, the Minister was directed to deliver some work. That work has been debated for quite some time. It's Cabinet overall that looks at those policies with input from Members. Again, the same process will be used. We will have to use the expertise that's in the field and, of course, the experience of Members as well to make sure that we develop a program that does work and is deliverable.

As for appointment of who the chairperson would be, I'm not prepared to say that at this point. I think we should get the committee together and get some feedback from them as to should it be one chair or co-chairs.

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

QUESTION 165-16(5):
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL
SERVICES TENDERING PROCESS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about a request for tender that went out to a local business. When you have a chance to read the documentation that went out for tender, there are 13 pages as the attachment of fine, detailed requests. But it's all vague and it all points to a catalogue of a local competitor. In my Member's statement I mentioned how I believe it's fraught with bias and I think the only respectable thing to do today is the Minister say that she'll withdraw this tender of goods that I've made aware to her and to issue a clean, clear, unbiased request. Would the Minister of Health and Social Services heed my request and withdraw this present tender and reissue a fair one that shows no bias whatsoever?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information I have is that this RFP went up on the website as is the process. This is the normal process. It went up on May 7th to be closed on May 20th. There were half a dozen inquiries about the RFP. The Beaufort-Delta materials management section noticed that one large supplier in Yellowknife did not inquire about this RFP and, in fact, the Beaufort-Delta Health Authority took it on its own initiative to fax the information to this large supplier a few days later, which is when this business got the fax. The information we have is that the process has been followed and there is no need to cancel this process.

MR. HAWKINS: It's interesting how the Minister paints the light as if it's been fair and open. To say it went on the web page, she is correct, but the fact is that the Inuvik Health and Social Services was chasing down this... Obviously it's clear that they were chasing down this business to participate in a public tender. But if you read the public tender, it says a specific company; we're using their catalogue and references and numbers. How does the Department of Health and Social Services expect them to compete fairly and openly with what clearly looks like a sole-source contract dedicated to one business only? How does the Minister expect that without it being withdrawn and treated fairly?

HON. SANDY LEE: The Member is correct that the detailed information on products were catalogue numbers. But we do have a situation where we've had a number of businesses responding to this RFP. It would be unfair to those businesses that are interested and have responded, to cancel the RFP now. The Beaufort-Delta Health Authority is aware that they need to do a better job of describing the products and they will do that.

We also have a situation where these are for medical supplies that need to go to communities of Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Ulukhaktok and Sachs Harbour, and they have to meet the barge deadline. So it is important that we do this for the May 20th deadline. The businesses out there still have the opportunity to respond to supply these products.

MR. HAWKINS: I think this is where the Minister clearly misunderstands the situation. This looks like nothing other than a sole-source. Clearly it says one supplier's name. Anybody who wants to compete has to call the local competitor and say, well, I need to understand what these local product numbers are. Are these catalogue numbers out of your book? Because they're certainly not out of any of the national suppliers' books, they're out of a very specific company's book. They also used the spreadsheet off this specific company where they have to go to to get pricing in order to compete. To pull this back and make sure that everyone's aware that they all know what they are at least working against would be the only way to do this. If it's anything but that, it seems wrong and unfair. Why won't the Minister admit to that and see it and treat it fairly by pulling it back and saying let's do this openly and honestly, make sure everyone has a fair chance?

HON. SANDY LEE: As I have indicated, since the RFP went up on May 10th, the staff reviewed the inquiries. On May 14th they noticed that one major supplier did not respond. They took it upon themselves to contact this business, so they wanted to make sure that everybody who could supply these supplies were contacted. I don't

believe there is a situation of a sole-sourced contract. There has been time to respond to that.

I do take the Member's point that the product description could have been done better and they will do that, but as I've indicated already, we do need to provide these supplies in time for the barge order. So we will improve the system, or the Beaufort-Delta knows to improve the system next time. They do need to go ahead with this tendering process.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Whenever I, in my 10 years of politics here, whenever I heard the phrase "I hear your point" or "I take your point," that usually tells me that someone's going to vote against me or speak against whatever I just said. It couldn't be clearer here today. The Minister has clearly dug in and is protecting and reaffirming a bad decision. And let's face it, that's exactly what it is, because it's a sole-source, no other way around it. Why do you think so many people were looking into how does this make sense?

The Minister wants to improve this situation. As she has made it very clear today, well, we'll do it next time. To heck with next time. Let's do it this time. Let's show some initiative. Will the Minister show initiative by improving the situation by withdrawing this contract and reissuing it fairly so that everyone can compete fairly?

HON. SANDY LEE: There is some public interest consideration here. We do need to supply, the Beaufort-Delta needs to supply the medical supplies to these four isolated or off-the-road communities. We need to meet the barge deadline. The tender was out for 20 days. The authority made sure that one major supplier that hadn't responded was contacted with the information so that everybody had a chance to respond.

Like I stated already, there have been a half dozen inquiries onto the website. The authority did more and went above and beyond to make sure the competition was fair.

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

QUESTION 166-16(5):
RESIDENT SOCIAL WORKER IN TULITA

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services as to when she thinks that the people in Tulita can receive a resident social worker in the community.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The residents of Tulita do have social services being provided there. I can't recall all of the details, but I do believe the person had moved to Tulita, but because either that person was promoted or there were some personal reasons. I would have to take the question under advisement and get more information on where that issue is. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the Minister and I did tour the Sahtu and one of our stops was in Tulita. We did have a talk with the grand chief and people of Tulita and we were advised of the number of excuses why we did not have today a social worker in the community of Tulita. One of the suggestions was how can we work out a solution that we can have a social worker. We have not had one in that community for over three years. We need a permanent social worker in the community. I want to ask the Minister if she's willing to look at some options in terms of how do we get one within the next couple of weeks.

HON. SANDY LEE: We did tour all of the Sahtu communities and there were a number of issues like this, because Sahtu Health Authority have combined duties of different positions and they've had to move positions around to make sure that they are able to use their existing human resource services to provide the services necessary. So I will undertake to take this question about the permanent social worker in Tulita and acquire more information on it and get back to the Member in short order. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: I certainly look forward to the Minister getting back to me in short order. Would the Minister look at possible time frames as to when we can expect a social worker to be in Tulita, having all the excuses being exhausted? When can the people in Tulita get a social worker in the community? How soon can the Minister get back to me?

HON. SANDY LEE: I will look into that as soon as possible and get back to the Member in the next few days. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the community of Tulita has offered some solutions in terms of getting a social worker into the community. Will the Minister be open to those types of suggestions from the people of Tulita to get a social worker in there, in terms of the solutions of certainly that position, as soon as possible?

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, I will check my notes from that tour and I will review the situation again and I will look at all options to see what is available

to us and the Sahtu authority, in consultation with the local leadership. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 167-16(5):
PROPOSED LOCATION ON
NEW HOSPITAL IN HAY RIVER

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have questions about the proposed location for the new hospital in Hay River. I'm not sure if I should ask my questions to the Minister of Public Works or the Minister of Health and Social Services, but let's go with the Minister of Public Works.

Mr. Speaker, we have, for many years, had a desire and a need for a new hospital in Hay River. This is something that, Mr. Speaker, yourself and myself over the years have worked on. We have had a little slippage. We haven't stayed right on the front of the line for this capital project. It's a very big project. It's an expensive project. Now we're down to starting to allocate the money for this. We're very happy about this, but we're not sure where it's going to be located. I guess my concern, Mr. Speaker, is that the unresolved issue of the location of the hospital does not result in any slippage, in terms of the schedule for the planning and construction of the new hospital.

So I'll ask the Minister of Public Works, does he know today where the new hospital in Hay River will be built? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hospital, as the Member has indicated, has been on the drawing board for a number of years. A lot of work and effort has been done by the community and by ourselves, as Public Works and the people at the Health department. A number of sites were looked at over the last while. There were a total of 29 sites that were proposed as potential properties that could be used to locate the new hospital. All these sites were looked at and reviewed and it was narrowed down to two sites: one at the current ENR facilities, or where the offices of ENR are currently located, and the other one was a new area called the Sundog site. A review was done. It was looked at and a team from... A number of people were put together to review. Some preliminary work was done, soil sampling and a cost analysis was done, and it was decided that the Sundog site was the preferred site for a number of reasons, and that was presented to the community of Hay River. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, from the information that the Minister of Public Works has been able to get from his officials and people who are looking into these proposed sites, can the Minister tell us today in the House that he is very confident that the Sundog Industrial Subdivision, as it's called, will have proper drainage concluded by then and that the choice of this site will not result in any delay in the start of construction of this? Because when you look at that site today, Mr. Speaker, it doesn't look very ready for construction. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member and myself did look at a couple of options that were proposed. The Sundog site has some concern over drainage. We have done some real preliminary soil sampling and analysis. Some further work has to be done and that will determine whether it's suitable. But we are fairly confident that this is going to be the site that will be able to accommodate the new facility. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, the MLAs for Hay River were involved in a process with the then-CEO of the hospital, Mr. Al Woods, and the public administrator of the hospital, of also receiving a lot of information about prospective sites for the new hospital. At that time I believe it was determined that the ENR/ITI site was the most suitable site. However, I appreciate that Public Works has done their homework and that there may be a better alternative.

Mr. Speaker, how does the proposed site of the Sundog industrial area, how does that take into account the issue of it being on the west side of the railway tracks in Hay River? People may think we don't get a lot of trains in Hay River, but we do get fairly regular train service in Hay River. How was that taken into account in the choice of that site? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We certainly can share the report that has been compiled with the Member. It takes into account all of the issues that are being raised, including some of the work that was done on cost analysis, a cost/benefit analysis. The site on the river where ENR is currently located would cost roughly \$4 million more to house the new hospital as we would not be able to co-locate, as the findings have told us, and we would have to move all the facilities off there and relocate and start anew with those facilities. But I'd be glad to provide that information in terms of what was taken into consideration with this new report. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said at the outset, my main concern is there be no slippage in the timing and the schedule for the construction of the new hospital. I think that the site or the location is

probably of a secondary nature to the timing, as far as I'm concerned. But, Mr. Speaker, at the same time, the proposed site that is the choice of the government, I guess, or the town -- I'm not sure who was mostly pushing that -- is an industrial area.

I'd like to ask: have the people of Hay River been consulted in any fashion in this, in terms of the public? A hospital is usually a place that's quiet. You don't think of it being right beside railway tracks and you don't generally think of it as being in an industrial park. I understand the footprint may be large enough that you'd be far enough away from your neighbours that it won't matter, but, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to know if the people of Hay River had any input into this. Also the fact that Woodland Manor, which is a seniors care facility, will be slated at some time to be retired and that that facility will also co-locate with the new hospital, if all those things are being taken into consideration, as well. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the municipality of Hay River was consulted. There were people from the hospital and people from the municipality that were involved. We do have a letter from the municipality that was signed off by the mayor, indicating that their preference for location would be the Sundog site. Our report looked at it on practicality terms, cost and other features that needed to be included in terms of what we needed to be part of this hospital and including further expansion. This was what the findings were. This is what was reported to us. Again, I will share that with the Member.

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

QUESTION 168-16(5):
ISSUES REGARDING WORKERS' SAFETY
AND COMPENSATION COMMISSION

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. Jurisdictions have enacted workers' compensation legislation to ensure every worker is protected when they suffer injury in the workplace, yet I can't help feeling my constituent would have been wiser to have a car accident with instant free access to legal advice, medical examinations and other services through his insurance company. Why does it take months for WSCC to move files when all that is needed is the prompt advice of its medical and legal advisors? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this particular case there were

decisions that were made. The constituent had had appeals on the decision. They went through the review process and recommendations have been made. I am not sure if they have been communicated to the constituent yet. Until I know for certain that they are, I have no comment on it any further. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, yes, that was a general question rather than specific to this advice. I am not aware that my constituent has been advised as per the Minister's question there. I want to preface my next question, Mr. Speaker, by saying that on the many occasions with this file I have had to contact the Minister I have received some assistance. It is just my point is I shouldn't be having to go to the Minister so many times for help. The WSCC used to have its own legal services providing advice to claimants but has backed off this support to provide only a worker's advisor. When its processes are so highly legalistic, why were claimants denied and why are they being denied the level playing field of legal services? Why did the Minister's office have to tell the commission legal service funds are available, something the commission itself didn't know and ask? These are typical sorts of things that I think should be done beforehand. Why is there not good communication on this? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, there is a worker's advisor that works closely with the workers and gets some information on their case. They do try and get some legal opinions for the injured workers. Communication has improved. WSCC has gone a long way in trying to improve the services that they offer to clients. We have 86 percent of our injured workers that are paid within the first 20 days but there is still the other 14 percent that we need to be concerned about. We are taking steps to address that and improve how we offer services to clients. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, thanks for the Minister's remarks there. We have a system where one agency polices the workplace, administers claims and makes the decisions, in this case, without knowing or admitting the discretion it has to vary recommendations of its advisors. What will this Minister do to actively, regularly and independently monitor the activities and judgements of the WSCC to put the injured on a more level playing field? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I did communicate and I get regular reports from the worker's advisor on the number of claims that that office is dealing with, and any outstanding claims we also get information on those. If we find that there is something there that I need to ask about, then I will contact the Governance Council or the president and make some inquiries and attempt to get some answers. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to those reports. Many of the delays my constituent experiences in this case, sometimes lasting several months in duration, have been because the medical advisor simply was not available. Surely this can be resolved by having an alternate advisor for when the medical advisor is unavailable. Will the Minister recognize the dire straits of injured workers waiting for decisions and commit to putting in place a mechanism to deal with absent medical advisors to keep the process moving forward? Mahsi.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, that is a very good concern. It is something I will commit to the Member that I will speak to the commission about trying to address and maybe have an alternate medical person that we can get medical advice from when a person is not there. That way, we won't have a delay in processing some of the claims. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 169-16(5):
COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT
RELATIONSHIP WITH MACA

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I wanted to ask some questions about how the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs deals with communities in the Northwest Territories that find themselves in difficult situations. I want to ask the Minister, if a community is located in a settled land claim area where they have a community government act such as the Tlicho Community Government Act, does the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs treat that community any differently than they would a community outside a settled land claim area? Thank you.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. They do have some legislation in place. That legislation is clearly laid out what role MACA would have. So that is how we determine how we deal with those. With the other communities that are in the unsettled land claims, we do have GNWT legislation that governs our relationship with the communities. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, judging by the Minister's response to that, all community governments across the Northwest Territories, whether they are in settled land claim areas or not, have an obligation to follow Government of the

Northwest Territories legislations through municipal statute and if that is the case, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister what the role and function of MACA is when it comes to the situation currently at play in Behchoko. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we are concerned with the particular community the Member has mentioned. Our role is we have been asked by the community, the new community council, to come in and work with them on coming up with a plan to address all the financial issues that they are dealing with right now. They have asked us to come in and we have complied. Our officials are working closely with them right now to resolve some of the outstanding issues. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, I think that is good news. The department is taking an active role in this situation. Does the Minister have any idea of how long the department's involvement with the community government there in Behchoko is going to take place or is it an indefinite period of time or is it until the community is back on its feet? What is the time frame like? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, our involvement in this community will be until they are back on their feet again. We work with them to come up with a plan and they continue to follow the plan. That will be MACA's involvement. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In such circumstances, does the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs second somebody to the community government in Behchoko? How does that work? I just want to have a better understanding if there is going to be departmental staff on the ground in the community. Are they going to be downtown Yellowknife trying to help the community? I think they should be on the ground. If I can ask the Minister that question. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, our staff has been in the community on a regular basis working with the community. They will continue to do so until they come up with a plan to resolve all their financial issues. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 170-16(5):
BUSINESS INCENTIVE POLICY AND
LAND CLAIMS AGREEMENTS

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are directed to the Minister responsible for the Business Incentive Policy. It is in regards to my Member's statement and the principles that are laid out in the policy. Again, I touched on number three where it talks about the policy should not try

to dis the president and future self-government treaties or land claim-based rights. Again, I believe that under the land claim agreements and under what the government is going to be doing here in the Northwest Territories is working to develop a list of Gwich'in businesses in the Gwich'in settlement area through a Gwich'in business registry. Yet a lot of these businesses aren't able to take advantage of government contracts that fall under BIP, and also under the land claim agreement there's a provision that allows for consultation with the Government of the Northwest Territories whenever they're changing policies, procedures, by way of legislation. So I'd just like to ask the Minister responsible for the BIP exactly what the government is doing to ensure we're not prejudiced to those land claim agreements with policies that are working against the land claim agreements.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a government we have been negotiating MOUs on contracting with different aboriginal governments. It's under the auspices of our government policy. It's not a requirement of any land claim. We have had that checked out. There's been arbitration cases which have supported that aspect and certainly it is our preference to work with land claim organizations, aboriginal governments so that we can work together to provide for increased economic measures in all of the regions. We have had a memorandum of understanding on contracting with the Gwich'in which has expired, but we are continuing to recognize it and follow it in practice. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you. In regard to the policy itself, again, I noted in the policy that there are certain differences and I know that I used this scenario in Inuvik where you have three hotel companies. One is a private company, one is an aboriginal company and one is a southern company, but the Government of the Northwest Territories is only using one hotel with government employees to stay in Inuvik. So I'd like to ask the Minister if there's a way to appeal a decision or a process where you find that it has basically been encumbering other companies from doing business with the government and one company has a monopoly in that particular area where you have three businesses serving the same community and they're all treated different. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. I'd like to point out that the Business Incentive Policy has been in place since, I believe, the 12th Assembly and every government has tried to change it, without success. In this case, the Business Incentive Policy is a Government of the Northwest Territories policy. There's a requirement for this government to use

only BIP approved facilities. In the example the Member uses in Inuvik, there are three hotels. Only one of those hotels is a BIP approved business and that is why we are only using that hotel. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you. I believe that that is the problem with the policy when you have three companies in the same community. They've made a major capital investment in regard to the Capital Suites in Inuvik, I believe it was \$12 million that they put into it. The Gwich'in put in half of that, which is \$6 million, they own half the hotel and they are a local business. If anything, it's in the Gwich'in Settlement Region, but yet because of a 1 percent difference, they are being excluded from a policy that is, basically, you know... Is there a possibility of a Charter challenge? I don't know; maybe we should look at that. So I'd like to ask the Minister again, can this case be appealed under the land claim agreements in regard to being able to send certain aspects to an appeals tribunal to look at this thing and see exactly is it, I won't say illegal or legal, but does it prejudice the land claim agreements?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. In our view this is a Government of the Northwest Territories policy. It has no implications for land claims. In the example that the Member uses, I believe he's talking about the Inuvik Capital Suites. It's 50 percent owned by the Zheh Gwizu Limited and 50 percent by NewNorth Projects Ltd. The Business Incentive Policy is very clear as to the requirements for definition of a northern business and the Business Incentive Policy approval requires either 51 percent northern ownership or they be a grandfathered company, which has a minimum of 10 years operating in the North with resident managements, et cetera. So what I'm saying is that if we want to change it, we would have to change the policy. I don't think that we would be able to change it by appealing it on the basis of we're dealing with a land claims organization. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to request from the Minister to make an offer to meet with the Gwich'in Development Corporation, the Gwich'in Tribal Council on this matter. I believe the Minister will be in the Inuvik region for the petroleum show and I think that this matter has to be dealt with ASAP. Again, Mr. Speaker, the Gwich'in have been registered in that area going back 10,000 years. I think that if the people that originate from that area can't meet this government test of eligibility, I think we have a real problem in regard to how this government treats aboriginal people, especially in the Inuvik region and especially the Gwich'in.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. As I said in response to the first question, the Business

Incentive Policy predates land claims negotiations with the Gwich'in and we have a number of possible solutions. One is to change the policy. If the Members want us to consider businesses that have less than 50 percent ownership by northern business, then the policies can be changed. Otherwise, the ownership structure can be changed to increase ownership by northern residents, or, as I understand, NewNorth Projects is proposing to apply for BIP approval. So that's another way you can deal with it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 171-16(5):

SUPPORT FOR NEW CHIEFS AND COUNCILS

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I talked about the new chief and council for Lutselk'e. Recently the Deninu Ku'e First Nation in Fort Resolution, Metis Council, Deninu Ku'e Community Council held elections. As you know, each election brings new ideas, new personalities, along with some status quo. Mr. Speaker, sometimes this can be challenging and I have some questions for the Premier on that.

Can the Premier tell me what the GNWT does to support new councils, new chiefs, Metis presidents or even mayors to help the transition period from one community government to another? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The relationship we have with the band councils differs somewhat with the relationship we have with municipal councils because band councils are under federal legislation, but when it comes to the working relationship we're trying to build with them, we're open to helping with either transition, or, for example, we have a number of communities where the bands deliver the programs and services that municipalities would in other cases, and the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs would be able to sit down with them to go through the working arrangements, the processes that were in place prior to the election. On top of that at the regional level, from the regional leaders' table, I've committed to meet with the regional leaders as well as once a year to sit down with the regional leader and the chiefs of that region. So that's another avenue we have of building that working relationship.

Again, it's almost case by case. If the request is made, we would consider where we could be of assistance in the transition area and we'd be prepared to sit down with them at that point. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Premier what supports are in place for the GNWT

to assist these organizations, newly elected officials and their organization, with capacity building and training of the elected officials? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of areas where we could provide assistance and support when it comes to a new council coming into place. For example, financial advice could be provided to them. We also have board training available to newly elected leaders. As well, as I had stated earlier, about the contract municipal services. As well, through the School of Community Government, opportunities there to go and have staff training of that new council. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, has the GNWT developed a standard strategy to engage newly elected officials? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: We do have a policy and that is why, for example, the School of Community Government went into place and was developed to help our communities in the Northwest Territories build capacity and assist them in providing the necessary supports that they need in their communities. So that's the first thing that we have in place and it incorporates a number of the training initiatives and supports along those lines.

The one difference is because bands are under the federal legislation there's a slightly different arrangement there, but we still extend much of the same services. I'd have to get a little more detail and provide that to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The time for question has expired; however, I will allow the Member a final supplementary question. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the GNWT, we work on several projects with the communities whether it be a community council or a band council. Does the GNWT have a plan that updates all of the newly elected officials soon after their election on the initiatives and projects that are occurring in those communities? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: My understanding is an offer is made to a newly elected chief and council or a newly elected municipal council as well. In the area of band councils, we work under their direction in the sense of when they're ready to make the request or accept an offer that's been made. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 5 on the Order Paper.

---Unanimous consent granted

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you honourable colleagues. Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to recognize three great leaders from the birthplace of ice hockey in Canada, Deline, Sahtu: Danny Gaudet, government negotiator, Chief Raymond Tutcho, and president of the land corporation, Mr. Peter Menacho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Written Questions

QUESTION 13-16(5): GROWING FORWARD PROGRAM FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment and they are in relation to the Growing Forward Program administered by his Department.

Would the Minister provide the following information for the previous two fiscal years as well as the current fiscal year 2010-2011:

1. How much funding has been made available and how much was accessed from this program?
2. What amounts of funding have been distributed under the Growing Forward Program and who were the recipients whether it was a business, individual or non-government organization? Could this information be further broken down by community?
3. How is this funding allocated to each recipient? More specifically, how was the funding calculated and designated? What formula was utilized? A base funding approach or other means? Also, provide specific allocation rationale for each individual case so that the justification for each allocation can be accounted for.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 14-16(5): COST OF MACKENZIE GAS PROJECT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Finance.

What have been the costs by year during the term of the 16th Assembly to date and budgeted for this

fiscal year for activities relating to the Mackenzie Gas Project including such costs as:

- a) preparation for and participating in Joint Review Panel and National Energy Board proceedings;
- b) travel and receptions by Ministers with MLAs and officials;
- c) staff positions and contractor services; and
- d) communications planning, promotional events, publicity and advertising.

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

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

---Unanimous consent granted

Oral Questions (Reversion)

QUESTION 172-16(5):

RECLAMATION OF PIT IN FORT MCPHERSON

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are to the Minister responsible for Transportation in regard to the Frog Creek pit. As we all know, it is a pit that has given the government free access for a number of years under the land claim agreement. Its term is almost up in a number of years. I'd like to ask the Minister, is this government budgeting money to do the reclamation of the pit? Since the Government of the Northwest Territories was the sole user and as part of the agreement that gave the government free access, it also included that they also had to do the reclamation of that pit. So I'd like to ask the Minister exactly has this department budgeted for the reclamation of the Frog Creek pit between Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, all sites that are used for construction of facilities, our transportation links fall under certain rules and responsibilities and if reclamation is part of our responsibility then we will certainly look at it. In this case, I'd have to go back and see who the owner of the pit is and whose responsibility that would fall under. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, there is already a Frog Creek development and reclamation plan that has been done between the Department of Transportation and the Gwich'in Land and Water Board. I believe this policy directs the government

to do that. They've already developed this. It's a heavy document.

I'd like to ask the Minister, in light of the time limit that is coming close here where the government's free access will be lapsed and where they're going to start having to pay to use that pit, I'd like to ask the Minister, can you ensure that you are following the pit management plan, but more importantly, ensure that this government sets aside dollars for the reclamation of that pit prior to leaving that pit in regards to the free accommodation that you had for a number of years?

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, obviously we have a plan, since the Member is holding it in his hand. Mr. Speaker, I'm not familiar and I can't say with any certainty what the actual plan for investment in this pit will be. I'd have to look at the situation, talk to my officials, and see where and when reclamation will be looked into and provided for for this pit. If that falls under our responsibility, then that will be part of our plan. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons I also raise this issue is because the residents of the communities are concerned that a lot of material is leaving the pit with no monitoring and also a lot of these are government contracts. Again, there has to be a better job of monitoring this site and, more importantly, the possibility of having some gates or something in place. I know that the government doesn't like that, but I think we have to do something to protect the remaining gravel resources that are there. So I'd like to ask the Minister, in light of the pit management plan which identifies certain obligations that people have when they go in there, and to ensure that this government is upholding those obligations in the plan, I'd like to ask the Minister if he would also look into that to ensure that they are abiding by the plan and, more importantly, stop the people from basically misusing that pit. Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I will certainly commit to doing that.

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

QUESTION 173-16(5):

NWT ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke earlier about the statement by the Premier. You caught me off guard; I have to find my notes. I wanted to follow up with the Premier on the intent of the advisory committee and the work that is going to be done relative to an anti-poverty strategy. I guess I was remiss in my initial remarks in not congratulating the Premier for his statement and for actually bringing forward that we are going to finally be doing something. I would like to express my

appreciation and I think the appreciation of the Anti-Poverty Alliance for that. I would like to put a bit more of a box around this particular project. If the Premier could advise me if it is a goal of he and the Executive and of this Assembly, I hope that we would have an anti-poverty strategy by the end of this Assembly. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated in the opening comments with this advisory group, we want to look at developing a discussion paper that would address the issues of defining and measuring the progress on poverty and also look at pulling together our current programs in developing strategic direction to reducing poverty and identify areas for further action. We are hoping to have that done within the life of this Assembly. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, that is good to hear. I am really pleased. The goal is to have something by the end of this Assembly. That is great. I do want to reiterate that I feel we have, particularly through the Anti-Poverty Alliance partners, a group of volunteers that are ready to work. I am a little concerned by sort of the process that the Premier is describing that we are going to be advising. We are going to be developing a paper. We are going to be consulting. We are going to be measuring, providing direction and then maybe implementing. It seems to be a very long process and I think we are making things too bureaucratic. I would like to know from the Minister whether or not we can kind of shorten this process and basically make a working group instead of a bureaucratic advising and developing and measuring group. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, we need to come up with a paper that this Assembly could look at and direct as to what could be implemented as we go forward, looking at this initiative and what then could be undertaken for implementation and then get down to work in that area once the Assembly has agreed that it would be wise to move in these areas. There have been times before in previous Assemblies, as well, where a working group was established and some great work done, but when it comes back to this Assembly, there aren't the resources to do the implementation. It is important that we don't get too far ahead of that side of the fiscal equation as well. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, I do agree that we definitely will need resources to probably do some of this work, but I would hope that we are not going to not do the work because we are worried about getting the money. One of the things that the Anti-Poverty Alliance group suggested was that the very first thing we needed to do was to develop a definition of poverty. We do not have one. I guess I

would like to ask the Premier how we can develop a discussion paper if we don't first develop a definition of poverty. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, that is why the discussion paper. That would be one of the first areas that we would look into, is what the definition would be, because there are many different definitions out there used by... Even all the different jurisdictions have different levels of definition when it comes to the anti-poverty strategy that they do have in place if they do. That is one of the first pieces of work that we would have to do once we have pulled this group together. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That is my point, that we do not have a definition and there are many across the country. I don't believe that we can develop a definition by discussion. I would like to ask the Premier again if we could have a working group to identify a definition of poverty first and then develop a discussion paper to try and figure out the strategy. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I don't know if splitting hairs on definition of what the working group versus advisory group. We do agree that is one of the first pieces of work that needs to happen. Once we have that, then we can set about to doing the rest of the work that is required to pull this together and present something to Members of the Assembly. The advisory group, as we established it, would be able to look at that initially and then we could put the rest of the resources and pull in the work together. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 174-16(5):

HOUSING CORPORATION EVICTION POLICY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently, a single mother had been evicted from a property in one of the residences in Yellowknife Centre. They were evicted by the landlord. I guess it was under the support of the local Yellowknife Housing Authority. When you delve into this situation a little further, you find out that this single mom was evicted without any due process or official notice. Mr. Speaker, in essence, normally when you evict someone, you make sure you go to the rentals office and you get the Supreme Court order and the rental office oversees that process. It is there to help the landlord and it is also there to help the tenant. In this particular case, there was no process followed. My questions specifically will be to the Minister of the Housing Corporation. I would like to know would he, in this particular case -- recognizing that there was no due process fulfilled

in this particular case, a woman with a child has been unfairly evicted -- look into and reverse the process by withdrawing the department's application for eviction to make sure maybe this mom and this child can get home today rightly where they belong? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not the corporation's doing. This is something that is the local housing authority. We have delegated the authority for these types of decisions to the housing authority. I will commit to the Member that I will review it. However, we tend to let the housing authorities tend to their business and only will get involved if we feel that there is a need for us to do so. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, just by chance, the woman who has been evicted, her mother happens to be sitting in the gallery here today. The Minister clearly says the Housing Corporation will only get involved if they feel the need to. Mr. Speaker, I want to hear from the Housing Corporation Minister, does his department support illegal evictions, which is exactly what is going on here today? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to give my opinion on that, but I will tell him that there is a process that is in place. The LHOs do follow the process and that is why we are at the stage that we are at today. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, when I spoke to this grandmother, the mother of this person who was evicted, one of the first things I wanted to know was where is the paperwork to have you evicted. Where is the paperwork that supports this business to show up at your door, throw you out on the street and say, but we have a piece of paper that says you have to leave now, and there was none. There wasn't a single piece of paper to justify that. Mr. Speaker, does the Minister of the Housing Corporation not see that as a significant issue to take action on or is he just going to wait and let the local Yellowknife Housing Authority manage through this in a way that they clearly have? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I will make some inquiries to be sure, for the Member's comfort, that all processes were followed. I will commit to the Member that I will follow up on that. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am just curious. By what policy or what ministerial authority can this Housing Minister guarantee every single process was followed? Thank you.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The subject of evictions is one that we've been hearing a lot about lately. There is a process that all the LHOs go through to carry out the evictions. They start with termination notices and it goes from there. The LHOs have their policy that they abide by, and for the most part they are the authority. They do have that authority. We do hear from a number of constituents who feel that they've been unfairly treated. We've followed up with a lot of the LHOs to get some answers for some of the questions that they had. I've committed to the Member in this particular case I will follow up and be sure that all the processes were followed as it's laid out in the LHO's policy. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 175-16(5):
INITIATIVE TO TRANSITION
VOLUNTEER OPERATIONS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier and I'd like to start by just mentioning that in the early days of this Assembly, Members got together and identified the need to move all of our volunteer initiatives into a single place under the Department of the Executive. I think this was raised by my colleague Ms. Bisaro yesterday. There was considerable emphasis and agreement put on this and the Premier did respond, but unfortunately it was only done in part. Will the Premier commit to completing this move to get all our volunteer initiatives into a single office in the Executive, to complete this move so we can prevent the divided and ineffective effort that we've had so far to date on volunteer initiatives? Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We did do the work as highlighted by the Member and looked at the funding pieces in trying to strategize on how we could better work with the NGOs throughout the Northwest Territories. We haven't gone to a central office because a lot of the supports that would be required we'd have to go back to the departments anyway to get a particular support. So I'd either have to build up my office staff so that they could go directly to other Ministers to get that information. We haven't gone forward on that step. Of course, every year that we do review our business plans, recommendations made by Members will be taken into consideration if in fact we should re-initiate that piece of it and see how that would work and what resources would be required to help implement it. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I don't disagree with really much of what the Premier said. The difficulty is that there are still pipes that are preventing this getting done and this government has been very

ineffective at dealing with that. I'm trying to get some effective action out there. Right now there's a questionnaire that's been put and being distributed and it is extremely simplistic and highly unfocused. Was this all that came out of our so-called main effort that took us two years to complete the conference on volunteerism? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you. No, that's not the only thing that was done. Our funding situation, working with the department, with the Financial Management Board, to come up with a new program, it touched a number of places. We've looked at the volunteer sector versus the NGO sector, because there is a difference there. One gets a contract to do work, one volunteers in their communities. So there is a difference there. Trying to pull it all together is part of what creates some of our problems, is trying to decipher just what role needs to be in place and how it should work within departments. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. Volunteer groups are desperate for some real assistance with capacity and liability issues and training. This requires an informed person, an informed person with some funding who recognizes the critical need for the third sector, the volunteer community. Would the Premier commit, or at least look into, perhaps commit to looking into establishing an outreach office within the Executive that puts in place just such a qualified person and funds to serve that desperate need that we're hearing about? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you. If the Members of this Assembly feel that we should put that as an initiative and identify it in our upcoming business plans, I'm prepared to work with the Members of the House on that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Your final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I very much appreciate that commitment. I'll look forward to seeing that in the business plans. I think it's something we did talk about during the very first stages of this Assembly when I think the proposed initiative was \$10,000, an extreme embarrassment to the people of the Northwest Territories. I know the department did finally put a slight bit more together, but it's talking about the issue, it's not doing. We are coming to the end of our term, so I'll look forward to seeing that in the business plans. I'd like to understand that Cabinet realizes the role of the third sector and I'd like to hear the Premier's recognition of the role of the volunteer sector in our society. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you. We recognize the volunteer efforts, that's why within the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs they work with the volunteer sector throughout the Northwest Territories and many of us in this

Assembly have done time in a sense of committing ourselves to our communities, whether it's coaching, whether it is helping at events, activities and sporting events that help drive our communities and keep them alive and well, in a sense. So we recognize that. That is why we do have some efforts within a number of departments that continue to support the volunteer sector, and I'll put this one back on the Member. He looks forward to seeing it in the business plan, I look forward to a letter from Members of the Assembly to say that they would like to see that actually in the Executive business plan, and then we can go from there. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 176-16(5):

NEED TO DEFINE VOLUNTARY SECTOR

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Premier in follow up to the questions from my colleague Mr. Bromley. I think one of the biggest problems that we have with finding ways to support the voluntary sector is the fact that I don't think that we have a clear definition of what the voluntary sector is. You hear some people talk about pure volunteerism and I hear people talk about NGOs. Quite frankly, the voluntary sector is a combination of the two. I think that would help us an awful lot. So I was wondering if I could get the Premier to commit to working with some of these volunteer organizations and NGO organizations to come up with a definition of what the voluntary sector is so that when we're talking about it we can be talking about one thing and, therefore, focus the attention on the voluntary sector as required. Thank you.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this point within the Executive and within the departments, we've done what we can at this point. I just responded to a Member to say that if Members of this Assembly want us to do further work in there, let's put it in writing I guess is one way to do it. Too often we make a commitment and find out that it wasn't supported by enough of the Members of the Assembly and we end up backing down or it doesn't get completed. In this area of finding a definition, I'm sure we could look at doing something like that, and again, through the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs that would be the first place to start because that's where our support for volunteers is placed. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 177-16(5):
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL
SERVICES TENDERING PROCESS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Listening to the Minister of Health and Social Services' answers regarding that tender problem I talked about, she kept talking about the urgency to make sure this goes to the Beau-Del communities and I certainly wouldn't want to see any significant delay. But, Mr. Speaker, last year we had a delay of a particular project in the community of Inuvik because, of course, we had a group, they wanted to come forward and express not being able to fully participate and yet we have a similar circumstance where we have a group, a business, that would like to fairly compete in an extremely biased situation. Mr. Speaker, would the Minister of Health and Social Services, realizing that it's not unusual to have a delay in a tendering process, recall this tender and allow everyone to fully participate in a fair and open way that's clearly unbiased? It's already leaning towards one particular contract. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in this area and when you're talking about contracting practices as a government as well as board authority and the Department of Health and Social Services, this government has tried to come forward in the past with board reform initiatives to help streamline that authority and decision-making process, and that was rebutted and we put that back on the shelf. So we have a process in place right now of dealing with authorities and their contracting. Yes, there are contracting practices in place and the appropriate department would follow up with that and the Minister is committed to do some background there. But let's not muddy the waters in the sense of what is required medically for delivering a service on the ground versus building infrastructure in timelines that would be required with that in this sense. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I'm glad the Premier is rolling in on this issue, because I'm glad to see someone's taking it serious. The fact is, when the Minister says we've been contacting -- yes, as of yesterday, the first time they've made any effort to get back to this company. They placed repeated calls to the contact on the tender of request to no answer, only until it's brought to the Minister of Health and Social Services' attention, when the clock is ticking.

Mr. Speaker, the only honourable thing to do is to pull this contract back, pause it and tender it in a fair way that doesn't show the competitor's inventory numbers, product numbers and product descriptions. Anyone else would call this biased,

but I don't know how the Premier feels about it. Will they pull it back?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, once again, as a government we tried to pull an initiative together that would streamline the boards and agencies across the Northwest Territories and our relationship and the authorities we do have in place. The Member wants to get into a specific here and have us step into this area. We are monitoring it. The Minister stated that she has contacted the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority to raise issues with the way this was dealt with and to correct any issues that may have been there. But it also went out in a public manner, other companies have put in their responses, and I don't see how bringing a level of one contractor into this Assembly... Do we want to get into their prices and compare their prices? I don't think we want to do that and get into that level of details.

The specific issues have been responded to by the Minister. We have contacted the board in that area and we would have to take it under serious advisement to see if any other steps should be taken. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, this Premier spends a long time trying to get to the issue and the issue he says, you know, we don't want to get into the prices or discussion about the other contractor, but that's exactly what Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services did. That's exactly what they're... They're using the measuring stick of another company to say compare your prices by their order catalogue and order fairly, Mr. Speaker.

If it's so important to do this fairly, why is Health and Social Services chasing this company now to say will you tender? My goodness, Mr. Speaker, all I'm asking for, simply, that somebody take this serious and show that they mean business in a fair and open way, pause the contract, which is not an unusual business practice when something's awry, and we make sure it's issued in a fair, competent way that people can compete in a fair, competent way. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the fact is, it's the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority that issued this contract that has responded to those that have replied to that tender process. In fact, I understand six companies have put in responses. So it's been dealt with in that matter.

The principle, I think, as the Member says, now the Department of Health and Social Services should step in and direct that this contract be pulled. Again, let's go back to the principles of the issue. We'd have to look at what we could do if there was an obvious flaw or break in our practice and process and see if that was necessary to do. The other one is are we quite so prepared to step into authority business when it's convenient for us to do so case

by case instead of dealing with the real issue of what we try to do overall as a government on board reform. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Your final, short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I remind the Premier that the Minister is ultimately responsible? That's what I'm asking for, is the Minister step in, stop protecting a bad decision, stop justifying a bad decision, and stop managing by the rear view mirror by saying we'll look into it after it's done. Because you know, by that time it's long past. Mr. Speaker, it sets up a reputation of bad governance, bad contracting.

Mr. Speaker, I don't really want to hear about board reform. I think it's a red herring and a waste of this Assembly's time. The question really comes down to, and I ask the Premier, will you look into pausing this contract, making sure each competitor has a fair way to respond and compete on this particular project, because it seems nothing but fraught with mistakes and shame. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I know the Member is very good for raising a lot of rhetoric in this House and continues to do so. On the serious side of the equation, there are roles we play in this Assembly, there are directives that are given, and there are initiatives that can be taken. If we feel that the authority has mismanaged in its business, then we would have to take a more serious look not just at one particular case but the overall authority management and decide what needs to be done. If it is a continuance or a reoccurrence, was there oversight on this?

It was, in fact, as we heard earlier today, it was the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority that saw a company not respond to its public tender process and went to them directly to say are you going to put in a response. So it seems like what they tried to do is reach out to include even more companies in the Northwest Territories and now it's being raised in this Assembly as being inadequate.

What I will do, Mr. Speaker, is sit down with the Minister to see what information they have on this particular case and see what has taken place and what options may be available to us if we decide to do anything further on this. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 178-16(5):

EVICTION NOTICES IN COMMUNITY OF DELINE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have 11 days until families -- 12 families, I believe -- are going to receive eviction notices having them move out of their homes in Deline. Mr. Speaker, some of these families have children that are going to school. Right now there is

no homeless shelter in Deline and the inadequacy in the Sahtu is a high percentage, according to the 2009 NWT Housing Survey report.

I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services, the Minister responsible for Homelessness, what type of plans are in place once these people receive their eviction notices and they're asked to leave their homes. What plans do we have in place in terms of helping these people who are going to be homeless?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Health and Social Services is always there. We are the ones that receive people who, next to income security, are in need of us, so we will be there to help them. I'm not familiar with the details of the families, but if the families were evicted and they were in need of our services, our workers will be there to help them. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, in 11 days... I know the Minister communicated with me that the local housing authority along with the tenants are trying to work out some repayment of the situations. However, the fact of the matter is that they have eviction notices signed off that families have to get out of the house, basically, and these families are, again, looking forward to seeing where they go. I know the Minister has indicated being there for the people. How, in this small community of Deline, will we look after 12 families that are going to need shelter? Because that's going to cause other problems in the future.

HON. SANDY LEE: My understanding is that if any of those residents could arrive at a repayment plan with the Housing Corporation, their eviction notice could be set aside, and those repayment plans can be for very modest amounts. So if that were to happen, that would avoid eviction.

Mr. Speaker, our staff do work with the Housing Corporation and other agencies to come up with a plan to help if it's necessary. I would be willing to make sure that our staff in the region knows and sees what resources they could provide. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 1-16(5): REPORT ON ON-LINE PETITIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures is pleased to provide a report on On-line Petitions and commends it to the House.

Introduction

A petition is a formal written request from one or more people to the sovereign, the government or to Parliament. The right of the subject to petition the Monarch for redress of personal grievances has probably been exercised since Saxon times. It was recognized in the Magna Carta. The Bill of Rights of 1688 restated that right in unambiguous terms: "...it is the right of the subjects to petition the King, and all commitments and prosecutions for such petitioning are illegal." In times of limited political rights, the public petition was an important way for those who had little parliamentary representation to have their complaints heard. Today, public complaints can be brought to the attention of Members through the media and questions asked in Parliament. Petitions are usually a part of a broader campaign used by community groups to raise public awareness. Petitioning may not result in immediate action, but it can help to form a public opinion which may ultimately bring about change.

The rules of the Legislative Assembly in the NWT identify the formal requirements for petitions. The rules related to petitions are attached in Appendix A. These rules indicate that the signatures of at least three petitioners are needed on a page containing the petition statement. This has been interpreted to mean handwritten signatures. A Member presents the petition with a brief statement. The government tables its written response to a petition within a set time period.

Petitioning is also an activity associated with many nations and institutions, not just legislatures. Petitioning has also moved to the Internet, Facebook and other new media. Petitioning has become global, collaborative and not exclusively directed at Parliaments. Across the NWT, the use of computer and communication technologies has expanded significantly. Students text and blog from the Arctic Winter Games and Northerners use satellite telephones to report emergencies. Use of new technologies and new media are part of everyday life in the NWT. Petitioning, even in the NWT, has new possibilities.

In May 2009, the MLA for Yellowknife Centre made a Member's statement about on-line petitions. In that statement, he advocated for the consideration of on-line petitions by the Legislative Assembly. On June 4, 2009, Motion 23-16(3) was proposed by the

MLA for Yellowknife Centre. During the debate on that motion, an amendment was proposed and carried. The motion was also carried. The following is the final wording of the amended and adopted motion:

Referral of On-line Petitions Issue to the Rules and Procedures Committee:

WHEREAS the Rules and practices of the Legislative Assembly do not allow the presentation of on-line petitions;

AND WHEREAS the population of the Northwest Territories is spread over a vast geographic area;

AND WHEREAS in this day and age many people are using on-line and electronic means for communications;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that this Assembly directs the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures to undertake research in order to determine the consequences of allowing on-line petitions to be used in its parliamentary process;

AND FURTHER, that the research and analysis pay particular attention to the concerns regarding security issues and identification challenges.

This report is in response to that motion and the subsequent discussion among committee members. The review that our committee undertook was not a "technical" review. It was not a formal "needs assessment" or a "business case" analysis, or an evaluation of website applications. It was a review by non-technical people, who know how to use their BlackBerries and navigate the Internet and were asked to examine the use of on-line petitions by the Legislative Assembly.

Basic Features of On-Line Petitions at Other Legislatures

There are many on-line services and Internet websites supporting petitions. This review examined how other legislatures support on-line petitions. Many Legislative Assemblies now include on-line petitions among their supported activities. This includes some of the state assemblies in Australia and in a couple of jurisdictions in the United Kingdom (Wales, Scotland). The British Prime Minister's website (10 Downing Street) is a very active on-line petition site.

The common features of the legislatures and their inclusion of on-line petitions were identified, as follows:

- the petition is closely associated with the Legislative Assembly website;

- the service allows individuals to start and encourage a petition that could be presented by a Member of the Legislative Assembly;
- the service provides support and monitoring to the petition so that the petition wording meets the requirements of the Legislature;
- often there are flexible timelines associated with the length of time a petition can be shown on the website;
- often there are more options available for reviewers and signees, such as providing comments and feedback to the petitioners;
- the websites provide easy-to-use instruction and information about petitions; and
- Members then respond to these petitions in their normal manner for that Legislature, as if the petition were completed with original signatures on paper.

Security and Privacy

On-line petitions differ from a hard copy petition because of their ability to connect with many more people, including many people from outside of the NWT. The rules of the Legislative Assembly do not indicate any residency requirement, however, it is understood that the needs and wants of residents of the NWT would be most important to the MLAs.

- The website would provide information that Northerners are the primary, but not the exclusive audience of a petition;
- The website would require the name and address of every person who "signs" the petition. Only the name and community (if northern) or country (if outside of the NWT) would be displayed;
- A limited number of entries for each "IP" address would be permitted. This would prevent one person from signing the petition many times. "IP" stands for Internet Protocol. A computer's numeric address on the Internet is referred to as an "IP" address;
- The support service to the petitions website would review the signatures in order to eliminate obviously false names and multiple entries; and
- For the purposes of presentation in the House, only the number of northern "signatures" would be identified.

Technology and Support

The committee members learned that the technology used to support an on-line petition seems to be standard technology, included in many website applications. The committee members understand that the set-up of an e-petition structure could be managed by existing in-house skills. The function is not highly specialized and will not require

substantial new investment. Committee members have not discussed this activity with any representatives of the GNWT Technology Service Centre.

Some employees' functions and assignments, such as the website administrator, may have to be modified. Some tasks might be managed in-house or some might be managed through a contract with a service provider. Legislative Assembly staff would have to develop some information material about the use of the website, such as how long a petition remains on the website and authorization and monitoring procedures. It should be noted that there is very little staff time assigned to the support of petitions at the present time.

Recommendations

Committee members cannot predict whether access to on-line petitions would create a significant increase in the number of petitions. This could result in a significant increase in the volume of work required to support petitions. There may be technical glitches that committee members cannot predict. For those reasons, committee members recommend the implementation of a pilot program to test the use of on-line petitions for the Legislative Assembly. This would allow staff to identify work changes, costs and implications for existing rules. There would also be time to implement some communications efforts to promote the awareness of the on-line petitions function. An evaluation prior to the 2011 General Election would be ready for the new Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly so that they could determine whether to continue with this practice. Throughout the period of the pilot project, the normal rules of the Legislative Assembly would remain in effect and Members would continue to be able to present petitions that include handwritten signatures.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Legislative Assembly approve the implementation of an On-Line Petitions Pilot Program to allow for the presentation of petitions from the on-line petitions' website associated with the Legislative Assembly website to be operational during the period of October 1, 2010, to June 30, 2011.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the Clerk's office undertake the evaluation of the pilot program after June 30, 2011; and further, that the evaluation be provided to the Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE
REPORT 1-16(5) AND MOVE INTO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
CARRIED

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Committee Report 1-16(5) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. There's a motion on the floor. The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and move Committee Report 1-16(5) into Committee of the Whole for today.

---Unanimous consent granted

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

COMMITTEE REPORT 2-16(5):
REPORT ON THE USE OF LAPTOP
COMPUTERS AND HAND-HELD
ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures tabled Committee Report 3-16(3), Report on the Use of Laptop Computers and BlackBerry Devices, in the Legislative Assembly on February 11, 2009. This was the first report to examine a number of issues pertaining to the use of portable electronic devices by Members of the Assembly and committee staff in the performance of their duties. The report reviewed the practices in other jurisdictions as well as the purpose of portable communication devices. The report recommended that Members be allowed to use laptop computers during Committee of the Whole proceedings for the winter 2009 sitting of the House and that an evaluation of laptop usage take place at the conclusion of that sitting. This recommendation was accepted by the House, with Committee Motion 3-16(3) being adopted on February 19, 2009. Committee Motion 3-16(3) also stated that communication devices cannot be used by a Member who has the floor and that a Member who has the floor must have his or her laptop computer closed.

At the conclusion of the winter 2009 sitting, the committee contacted each Member of the Assembly to solicit their opinion on the use of portable communication devices. The committee tabled Committee Report 8-16(3) on June 1, 2009,

and on the same date Committee Motion 49-16(3) was adopted in Committee of the Whole. This motion allowed for the continued use of laptop computers during Committee of the Whole proceedings for the balance of the 2009 calendar year and called for a further evaluation in 2010. It should be noted that the use of electronic devices continued to be prohibited by any Member who had the floor.

On May 26, 2009, the chair of the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, Mr. Robert Hawkins, introduced the matter at Caucus for further consultation. Direction from Caucus indicated that Members agreed with the use of laptop computers and other hand-held communication devices during Committee of the Whole proceedings. Members also agreed that portable communication devices were not to be used by a Member who has the floor and that a Member who has the floor must have his or her laptop computer closed.

Following the direction provided by Caucus, committee members then reviewed the rules governing the use of laptop computers and other electronic devices in other jurisdictions. The results of this review are attached as Appendix A to this report. In Canada, 10 of 13 legislatures allow the use of portable electronic devices during some part of their proceedings.

As a result of the reviews and consultations with Members, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures respectfully makes the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that Members be permitted to use laptop computers and other hand-held electronic devices only during Committee of the Whole proceedings;

and further, that laptop computers and other hand-held electronic communication devices are not to be used by a Member who has the floor;

and furthermore, that a Member who has the floor must have his or her laptop computer closed and/or his or her hand-held electronic device turned off.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that any electronic device used in the Chamber must be on silent mode at all times.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the use of laptop computers and hand-held electronic devices continue to be administered through the sole

discretion of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly or the Chair of Committee of the Whole and if the use of any electronic device is deemed to impinge on the decorum of dignity of the House, the offending Member may be ordered to discontinue use.

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures recommends that the guidelines governing the use of laptop computers and hand-held electronic devices be set out in a document entitled "Direction Regarding the Use of Electronic Communication Devices in Committee of the Whole" and that the document be attached as an appendix to the Rules of the Legislative Assembly.

And that concludes the report, Mr. Speaker.

MOTION TO RECEIVE COMMITTEE REPORT 2-16(5), REPORT ON THE USE OF LAPTOP COMPUTERS AND HAND-HELD ELECTRONIC DEVICES IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND MOVE INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CARRIED

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Committee Report 2-16(5) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and move Committee Report 2-16(5) into Committee of the Whole for today.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Item 13, reports of committees on review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. McLeod.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 51-16(5):
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
INVESTMENT CORPORATION
2009-2010 CORPORATE PLAN

TABLED DOCUMENT 52-16(5):
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
INVESTMENT CORPORATION
2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled Businesspeople Working for Other Businesspeople, Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Corporate Plan 2010-2011, and NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Annual Report 2008-2009. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 53-16(5):
NWT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT, 2010
BIODIVERSITY SPECIAL EDITION

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories State of Environment, 2010 Biodiversity Special Edition. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 54-16(5):
PART I VICTIMS' ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE
2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Part I 21st Annual Report of the Victims' Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories, 2009-2010. Mahsi.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 55-16(5):
TRANSCRIPT OF CBC PROGRAM SPECIAL
REPORT TUESDAY, MAY 18, 2010 ON
SUPPLEMENTARY HEALTH BENEFITS

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table the transcript of a CBC special report dated Tuesday, May 18th, 2010, at 7:40 a.m. on the Supplementary Health Care Program, an interview between Steve Morgan, a health policy analyst at the University of British Columbia and Joslyn Oosenbrug of CBC.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 56-16(5):
REQUEST FOR TENDERS DATED
MAY 2, 2010 FROM BEAUFORT-DELTA
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

TABLED DOCUMENT 57-16(5):
NWT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITIES
2010 ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS SUMMARY

TABLED DOCUMENT 58-16(5):
NWT ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITIES
2010 REAFFIRMED POLICIES SUMMARY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three items I would like to table. The first item is a request for tendered goods issued by the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services and it has the detail I referred to today.

The second item, which is a package of two, is the NWTAC has their 2010 Adopted Resolutions Summary. There are 12 of them. I won't bother to read each one in today.

And, the NWTAC 2010 Reaffirmed Policy Summary, and I have all their motions here as well as a package. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 59-16(5):
YOUR HEALTH BENEFITS: A FIRST NATIONS
GUIDE TO ACCESSING
NON-INSURED HEALTH BENEFITS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table document Your Health Benefits: A First Nations Guide to Accessing Non-Insured Health Benefits.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Yakeleya. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Motions

MOTION 9-16(5):
P3 CANADA FUNDING SUPPORT FOR
BEAR RIVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION

MR. YAKELEYA: WHEREAS the Bear River Bridge project has been put on hold pending the identification and approval of a federal funding source;

AND WHEREAS the Department of Transportation is continuously examining federal funding programs that could provide financial support for the construction of the Bear River Bridge;

AND WHEREAS the department has completed a breakdown of costs of construction of the Bear River Bridge as well as a cost-benefit and regional impact analysis of the Mackenzie Valley Highway extension that includes a bridge over the Bear River;

AND WHEREAS the federal government has demonstrated interest in supporting northern infrastructure projects and recently announced funding for project description reports for the Mackenzie Valley Highway extension;

AND WHEREAS the Bear River Bridge would increase access to the Sahtu region for the purposes of exploration, tourism and economic development;

AND WHEREAS the Bear River Bridge would help area residents adapt to climate change as the ice road season shortens and ice is weaker;

AND WHEREAS the Bear River Bridge would reduce the cost of transport into the region thus enhancing the livelihood of many Northerners and reducing the cost of living in the Sahtu which is a primary goal of the 16th Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the commitment to the Bear River Bridge project could be a legacy project of meaningful value;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Assembly directs the Minister of Transportation to seek federal funding via the P3 Canada Fund for this important piece of infrastructure in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MOTION TO AMEND MOTION 9-16(5),
P3 CANADA FUNDING SUPPORT
FOR BEAR RIVER BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to make amendments to Motion 9-16(5).

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Motion 9-16(5) be amended by deleting the word "directs" from the resolution portion of the motion and insert the words "strongly urges."

AND FURTHER, that Motion 9-16(5) be amended by deleting the words "for this important piece of infrastructure in the Northwest Territories" from the resolution portion of the motion, and inserting the words "for the construction of the Bear River Bridge".

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion as amended. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to just again state very clearly that this piece of infrastructure would certainly help the people in the Sahtu region in terms of the benefits that I have read out in the motion. More importantly, because of the climate change that's happening in the Northwest Territories and the safety issue of the residents who are coming in and out of the Sahtu using the ice road, also that will help us with our economic opportunities in terms of longer periods for oil and gas exploration or any other types of exploration that could be happening in the Sahtu, and that the Department of Transportation continues working with the region and this government here to seek out various sources of funding that could see the construction of the Bear River Bridge.

I want to thank my colleagues here for giving me the opportunity to put this motion on the floor and bring attention to it as we talk about the importance of legacy projects in the Northwest Territories. We have some experience now with the Deh Cho Bridge and certainly we would use some of that valuable experience in terms of how we go forward in terms of P3 projects in the Northwest Territories.

I think people in the Sahtu, people in Norman Wells, people in Tulita certainly want to see the Bear River Bridge completed, see the...(inaudible)...have some light. All the plans were in place having this project; however, due to funding increases, we just had to put the plans on the shelf. Now it's there, it's ready to go. We just need the funding and the will of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the Government of Canada and certainly we can see this happen. I want to say that this is one project that we look forward to in the Sahtu. I want to thank my colleague, Mr. Hawkins, for supporting this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion as amended. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is an honour to work with my colleague Mr. Norman Yakeleya, MLA for the Sahtu, on this motion, Mr. Speaker. It is always exciting when we can work on nation-building motions.

I believe this is a good project for the North that can help develop access and wide-ranging benefits for the whole area. Mr. Speaker, this is a significant project that could help the cost of living in the Sahtu. I think it would be one of those projects that would make the difference there. Mr. Speaker, it will also open up opportunities, as it says in the motion,

to help tourism, exploration and certainly economic development that gets sidelined during those breakup and freeze-up seasons, Mr. Speaker. I think this could do well for that community.

Mr. Speaker, in short, I really like projects that will change the lives of people for the better. I think that this is an important piece of infrastructure that will go a long ways towards building that legacy infrastructure we like to refer to as the Mackenzie Valley Highway. I think as we build piece by piece, we can help connect communities to ensure that we all continue to benefit from those types of projects.

Mr. Speaker, just in closing, I just want to emphasize that it is always a pleasure to work with my colleague. I think we can do well. I would like to certainly see Cabinet support this motion. As I know, deep down in their hearts, they do support it. It is about time that we build some of those bridges on these initiatives and this will be one of them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion as amended. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will support this motion cautiously because I also have been pushing for the Peel River Bridge. I think that we also have to look at other infrastructure in the North. I know that we have to connect our highway systems to communities and I think also realizing that we have to ensure that public infrastructure, whenever possible, should be formatted to some sort of a P3 process. I know that there is a program that is out there. The project is over \$50 million. I think that this project gets that.

Again, I would just like to stipulate that I would like to also notify the government that they also should consider other projects such as the Peel River Bridge and also the bridge on the Liard. I think that we have to realize that at some point, a lot of work has been done in those areas and especially in regards to the letter I received from the former Minister of Transportation, Mr. Yakeleya, who basically stipulated that he was seriously looking at the Peel River Bridge and seeing what we can do on that one.

It is a good Minister committed to helping out. Again, show us that if there is a will, there is a way. There have been commitments made. I have submitted letters to the Premier along with letters of support from the Gwich'in Tribal Council, looking at a P3 from the Gwich'in Tribal Council in Fort McPherson. I think we also have to work with other communities on these projects. I just want to point out that this project should not be a stand-alone. It should also look at other legacy projects. Again, I will support the motion cautiously.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion as amended. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I want to say I appreciate the Member's efforts for working towards moving this project forward. I also recognize the Member for Yellowknife Centre for thinking outside of Yellowknife Centre.

Our Government of the Northwest Territories has been working quite hard to move the desire to have the highway done, the Mackenzie Valley moving forward. We certainly have been taking the planning of doing so very seriously and continue to make that a priority for us. We have now moved forward towards doing the project description reports for a number of sections on the highway. There are still a couple of agreements that we are working towards including. This is a very significant step forward to achieve the vision of developing and building a Mackenzie Valley Highway.

I want to say I am very pleased with the cooperation and involvement of all the land claim groups and of all the aboriginal businesses that have taken the time to talk to us along the proposed highway route. Of course, the Bear River is a very important portion or part of the Mackenzie Valley Highway. I don't think anybody is going to disagree. We certainly support the arguments and the benefits noted in the resolution, and the construction and the operation of a bridge across the Bear River will bring a large variety of benefits to Tulita and other communities in the Sahtu. The construction of the bridge over the Bear River will result in earlier openings, which is always a problem for us, and a later closing of the Mackenzie Valley Winter Road. We recognize this portion of the winter road as a bottleneck and causes problems on an annual basis.

However, we also have to recognize the cost of the Bear River Bridge has been pegged at \$60 million at last count and we certainly need Canada's commitment to provide the necessary resources to build this bridge and also to build this highway. As a department and as Minister, I have personally raised this issue a number of times for funding with the federal government in meetings with Canada. The project was proposed for funding with the Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund. It was also proposed again under the Building Canada Plan and more recently under the federal stimulus funding. Unfortunately, the significant cost to construct the bridge was a challenge to actually move this project forward.

So the department officials, DOT, will be discussing P3 projects or potential P3 projects as the Bear River Bridge motion moves forward. We will certainly take the opportunity to talk to them. We believe there's a meeting set up fairly soon in

Yellowknife with those officials and we will be meeting with them as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. To the motion as amended. I will allow the mover of the motion closing comments, if you wish, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Members in the House here again to allow this important piece of infrastructure for the people of the North and the people of the Sahtu to come to the table to have some discussion to see what kind of avenues are available to us to start putting the steel together to have the Bear River Bridge up and people actually don't have to be concerned about using eight kilometres of winter road every year in the Sahtu, especially around Tulita and Norman Wells and other communities that do use this crossing.

I want to thank the efforts of the Ministers to see where we could put this piece of infrastructure in place so we can actually see the construction of the bridge.

I also wanted to say to my other colleagues that there are other important infrastructure in the North that we have to build, as Mr. Krutko outlined in his comments in terms of the Peel River. I have a letter and my name is on it to him. I wanted to say I certainly support other Members in terms of infrastructure they want to go to their region. I know how important these types of infrastructure are to our people outside of places where they already have bridges and accesses. It's very important to our people. Our lives actually depend on it. So thank you very much for allowing this motion to come forward.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Motion is carried as amended.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 9:

AN ACT TO AMEND THE TOURISM ACT

MR. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Tourism Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Tourism Act has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project; Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits; Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits – What We Heard; Bill 5, Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act; Committee Report 1-16(5), Report on On-Line Petitions; and Committee Report 2-16(5), Report on the Use of Computers and Hand-Held Electronic Devices in the Legislative Assembly, with Mr. Krutko in the Chair.

Consideration in Committee the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, I call Committee of the Whole to order. In Committee of the Whole we have before us: Tabled Document 4-16(5), Tabled Document 30-16(5), Tabled Document 38-16(5), Bill 5, Committee Report 1-16(5) and Committee Report 2-16(5). What is the wish of committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee today would like to deal with Bill 5 first and that's it for today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay, with that, we'll take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to break, we agreed to deal with Bill 5, Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he will be making any opening comments. Minister of Education.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I am pleased to introduce Bill 5, Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act. The purpose of this legislation is to provide a modern statutory framework governing the apprenticeship and occupation certification programs in the Northwest Territories, and to repeal the existing Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment commissioned a review of the apprenticeship, trade and occupations certification system in 2006 with a view to identifying those aspects of its programs that need to be revised to promote apprenticeship and occupations

certification in the Northwest Territories. The program review resulted in recommendations respecting changes to the act to strengthen the apprenticeship and occupation certification programs offered by the department.

This bill provides an updated regulatory framework from which the administration of the Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Program in the Northwest Territories will be supported. The bill is substantively similar to the existing act, but does:

- a) restructure and clarify substantive provisions so that the legislation is easier to use and read than the existing act;
- b) rename the statutory officer "Supervisor" as "Director," provide for the director to delegate powers or duties under the act, and clarify the wording respecting the director's duties and powers;
- c) clarify the composition of the Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupations Certification Board and change the term of board appointments from two years to a term of up to three years;
- d) expand the regulation-making authority for occupations certification;
- e) increase the maximum fine for failing to comply with the act from \$500 to \$2,000;
- f) replace provisions dealing with local apprenticeship advisory committees with a broader provision allowing for the appointment of committees that can provide advice to the director on both apprenticeship and occupations certification matters;
- g) replace a provision requiring parties to a proposed apprenticeship contract to provide information required by the supervisor with a regulation-making authority that would deal with requirements within the Apprenticeship or Occupations Certification Program to provide specified information when required by the director; and
- h) repeal the existing Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act.

I trust that the members of the committee will agree that the proposed bill represents a significant improvement in the manner in which the apprenticeship, trade and occupations certification programs are regulated in the Northwest Territories.

I would be pleased to answer any questions the Members may have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time I would like to ask the standing committee that reviewed the bill if they have any comments. Mr. Tom Beaulieu, chair of Social Programs. Mr Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Social

Programs conducted its public review of Bill 5 on Monday, May 17, 2010, in Yellowknife. Committee members thank the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill. Committee also heard a presentation by Mr. Manual George regarding Bill 5 and would like to thank him for taking time to present his thoughtful comments.

The bill repeals and replaces the Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certificate Act. It provides a framework for certification of apprentices in designated trades and trainees in designated occupations.

Following committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 5 to the Legislative Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Committee did identify a minor typographical error in Bill 5 and Mr. Bromley, a member of Social Programs committee, will be introducing a motion at the appropriate time to correct the error.

This concludes committee's opening comments on Bill 5. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he would be bringing in any witnesses. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Chair.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I have with me to my left Mr. Dan Daniels, the deputy minister of Education, Culture and Employment; and also Blair Barbour, legislative policy advisor, to my right; and Ian Rennie to my far right, legislative counsel. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Welcome, witnesses. General comments in regards to Bill 5. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't sit on the Social Programs committee so I haven't had very extensive knowledge of what this repeal and revision specifically pertains to. One thing I would like to ask of the Minister, and I guess this is a general comment but I will explain a situation related to apprenticeships that I would like to get some clarification on and then I guess the Minister can tell me if this has anything to do with the consideration that is before the House now and was before the Standing Committee on Social Programs.

Mr. Chairman, not every formal training session for the various apprenticeships is available in the Northwest Territories thus it requires people to seek some of their theory training outside of the Northwest Territories in neighbouring jurisdictions; I would suggest most often Alberta. I would like to know, I guess, if any thought had been given to streamlining the processes between Alberta's legislation on apprenticeships and what the Northwest Territories has in place.

One area where it is different, I might suggest, would be in how the hours are calculated and accumulated and when those hours of work need to take place between the various years of apprenticeship. It is my understanding that in the Northwest Territories, the hours accumulated that go towards the certification in a trade can be accumulated, for lack of a better word, they don't have to be at a time... Okay, if you need X number of hours between year one and year two, that is how it would be in Alberta, but in the Northwest Territories apparently you could accumulate a lot of hours that could then be allocated to various years of the apprenticeship training. That has an impact on apprentices in the Northwest Territories. Just that difference and I am sure there are other differences as well.

I guess my question to the Minister and his staff is whether or not, though any of those kinds of efficiencies or compatibilities with a neighbouring jurisdiction where a lot of NWT residents receive their certification training, whether or not any of those things were considered. Thank you, Mr. Chairman

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I will refer that question to my deputy since we are getting into more detail of operations of apprenticeships. At the same time, we do have a good working relationship with the Alberta board. Dan can elaborate more on the process as well. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Deputy minister, Mr. Daniels.

MR. DANIELS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The typical hours of work that someone has to have as they move through the different levels would be about 1,800 hours of work a year before they move into the next level of training. Now, of course, we have different arrangements. We work closely with other jurisdictions to coordinate the availability of training, whether it is in Alberta or other jurisdictions like Manitoba or B.C., depending on where the training might take place. But this proposed bill doesn't really address some of those factors that the Member is asking about.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Chairman, so that whole issue of specific number of hours, that would be worked in a year in order to advance to the next level within the apprenticeship training is not something that would be outlined in legislation. It is something that more might be in policy or regulation. Would that be correct? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, my understanding is that it is part of the regulation. Mahsi.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Chairman, that is probably another matter that could be taken up at a different time and in a different venue, but I can tell you that the differences between what is required in Alberta where many of the apprentices from the Northwest Territories, sometimes there is an opportunity for apprentices to continue to work in Alberta while they are taking their training down there because there is only a few short months between theory sessions at NAIT or something like that and the way that their hours are accounted for is different and does create an issue. But I will say that this is probably not the time or the venue for that discussion. I will find another opportunity to discuss that. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate Mrs. Groenewegen about the questioning. I will certainly be prepared for that. We will do some research in that area and find out more detailed information in that respect. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): General comments. Detail? Does committee agree that we will go clause by clause of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We are moving on to page 1, clause 1.

---Clauses 1 and 2 approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 3. Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 6-16(5):
BILL 5, APPRENTICESHIP, TRADE AND
OCCUPATIONS CERTIFICATION -
TO AMEND A TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the English version of sub-clause 3 of Bill 5 be amended by striking out "an certificate of competence" and substituting "certificate of competence". Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is being circulated. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 3 as amended.

---Clauses 3 through 22 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): To the bill as a whole as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that Bill 5 as amended is ready for third reading?

---Bill 5 as amended approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With that, I would like to thank the Minister and witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses out.

What is the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

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

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I will 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 Bill 5, Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act, and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted, and that Bill 5 is ready for third reading as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder for that? The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Orders of the day for Thursday, May 20, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. 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 10, Reinstatement of Federal Funding for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2010-2011
 - Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2010-2011
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Tourism Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project
 - Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits
 - Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits - What We Heard
 - Committee Report 1-16(5), Report on On-Line Petitions
 - Committee Report 1-16(5), Report on the Use of Laptop Computers and Electronic Devices in the Legislative Assembly
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 5, Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupations Certification Act
 - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, May 20, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:38 p.m.