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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	751
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	751
15-17(3) – Promoting Diversity in the Government of the Northwest Territories (Abernethy)	751
16-17(3) – Update on Creating a New Wildlife Act (Miltenberger)	751
17-17(3) – Climate Change Adaptation (Ramsay)	752
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	753
Revitalizing the Commercial Fishing Industry (Groenewegen)	753
Hay River Harbour Dredging (Bouchard)	754
Powers of the NWT Rental Officer (Bisaro)	754
Tenant Safety Concerns and Enforcement of Rental Officer's Orders (Hawkins)	755
Fort Simpson Sport North Award Recipients (Menicoche)	755
All-Weather Access to Aklavik Gravel Source (Blake)	755
Need for New School in Colville Lake (Yakeleya)	756
Completion of Forest Management Studies (Bromley)	756
Proposed New Wildlife Act and Hay River Reserve Profile (Nadli)	757
Working Together on Behalf of All Northerners (Moses)	757
Consumer Protection Legislation for Wireless Services (Dolynny)	758
Samuel Hearne Secondary School Graduation Ceremonies (R. McLeod)	759
REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	759
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	763, 774
ORAL QUESTIONS	764
MOTIONS	774
3-17(3) – Increased Support for Renewable Energy (Bromley)	774
4-17(3) – Extended Adjournment of the House to June 4, 2012 (Yakeleya)	784
SECOND READING OF BILLS	785
Bill 2 – Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2012	785
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	785
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	799
ORDERS OF THE DAY	799

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, May 31, 2012****Members Present**

Hon. Glen Abernethy, Hon. Tom Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Blake, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Dolynny, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Hon. Jackie Jacobson, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Moses, Mr. Nadli, Hon. David Ramsay, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:31 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Abernethy.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 15-17(3):
PROMOTING DIVERSITY IN THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, the Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to establishing a public service that is inclusive and representative of the population it serves. Today I am pleased to provide my colleagues with an update on initiatives currently underway to achieve this important goal.

Established in March 2010, the GNWT Advisory Committee on Employability provides advice on how government can promote, support and increase the participation of persons with disabilities. Working closely with this committee, the Department of Human Resources has developed a draft framework to guide efforts to promote the territorial public service as a place that welcomes people with disabilities and ensures that our workplace remains inclusive and accessible.

To support this work, the Department of Human Resources recently surveyed government employees on issues and attitudes related to employees with disabilities. The survey results are currently being tabulated and we expect to receive them by the end of June. The results of the survey will provide us with more accurate baseline statistics and correct a long-standing gap in our data.

Ten disability awareness training sessions for employees were held throughout the Northwest Territories this spring, including five in regional centres. Ninety participants took part in these sessions and the feedback has been very positive. The department may offer more sessions in the

future if employees continue to indicate a need for this training.

The Department of Human Resources is also rolling out a poster campaign to be displayed in government workplaces across the territory to promote disability awareness and inclusion. The posters highlight information on various types of disability, challenging people with the slogans "See the Abilities," and "Look Beyond Disability." These posters also provide information about the GNWT Advisory Committee on Employability and highlight the message that the GNWT is an inclusive workplace open to all people, providing choices and opportunities to people from all communities.

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to facilitating an equitable and inclusive hiring process. Applicants with disabilities are encouraged to identify any accommodations they need to eliminate barriers in a job competition. A diversity officer is available to provide support and advice to prospective employees throughout this process.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by referencing the powerful statement delivered by Mr. Cornelius Van Dyke during the last Elders Parliament. Mr. Van Dyke spoke about a barrier-free and inclusive society, the challenges faced by persons with disabilities and the measures that government can take to eliminate systemic barriers. In the words of Mr. Van Dyke, "when one of us is diminished, it diminishes all of us."

The Government of the Northwest Territories shares Mr. Van Dyke's vision. We remain committed to eliminating systemic barriers to employment and ensuring that our territorial public service is an inclusive employer open to all and representative of the population we serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 16-17(3):
UPDATE ON CREATING
A NEW WILDLIFE ACT**

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, wildlife is valued by all people in the NWT and contributes to our well-being and

economy. A new Wildlife Act is needed to effectively manage wildlife in the Northwest Territories. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has prepared a draft of the proposed new Wildlife Act for public review and comment. This draft was developed with extensive input from Aboriginal organizations, wildlife renewable resource boards, residents, industry and other stakeholders.

To ensure everyone has the opportunity to provide additional input into the proposed new Wildlife Act, ENR is continuing a robust public engagement and consultation process. To date, the following steps have been initiated:

- Community and regional public events and open houses are being hosted across the territory to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to get information on the proposed act, ask questions and provide comments.
- A meeting with Aboriginal government leaders has been set for June 19, 2012.
- Public information materials, including a plain language version of the draft Wildlife Act, fact sheets, posters and frequently asked questions have been widely distributed and posted on the Internet.
- A dedicated website, nwtwildlifeact.ca, has been created to ensure that all public information materials and event schedules are easily accessible on-line.
- A Stakeholder's Wildlife Act Advisory Group has been established with representatives from industry, tourism, outfitters and resident hunters to allow these stakeholders an opportunity to review the proposed act in detail and provide recommendations.

To help shape the final version of the act, we strongly encourage the public to make their views on the proposed Wildlife Act known.

Mr. Speaker, with this feedback, it is hoped we can introduce a new Wildlife Act during the upcoming fall session.

A new Wildlife Act with broad understanding and support will ensure wildlife is conserved for the benefit of all people in the NWT. I look forward to ongoing collaboration and cooperation between everyone involved.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 17-17(3):
CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak about the Department of Transportation's efforts to adapt to climate change.

Wherever you look in the Northwest Territories, you will see impacts of climate change on the transportation system. The Dempster Highway is settling more as permafrost thaws. We are getting more freezing rain in the South Slave, so we need to put more sand and gravel on our highways. The opening of the Tlicho winter road has been delayed due to warmer weather. More flights have been cancelled in Inuvik due to frost buildup and the loss of friction on the runway. Airlines are using more glycol in Yellowknife to de-ice aircraft. Water levels are increasingly unpredictable, making it more difficult to maintain ferry landings. Coastal community resupply is hampered by changing ice conditions and sustained high winds.

We are active on many fronts to adapt to climate change. We continue to build bridges on the Mackenzie Valley winter road to extend the operating season and offer greater access to the communities. We have introduced ice spray technology to build ice faster and open river crossings earlier. We use ground-penetrating radar to determine ice thickness when we are choosing the routes of winter roads. We built an expanded glycol retention area at the Yellowknife Airport and changed highway maintenance shifts to ensure more efficient coverage and improved highway safety with better response time during inclement weather.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation is doing research to better understand what the future impacts of climate change may be and to develop strategies to adapt. It is our business to know how climate affects our infrastructure and operations. It pervades all our efforts, be it planning, design, construction or maintenance. However, climate change adds a new level of uncertainty. What happened in the past is no longer necessarily the case in the future, and there are gaps in our knowledge.

The best way to gain knowledge and improve our ability to adapt to climate change is through partnerships and collaboration with other GNWT departments, other levels of government, scientists, the private sector and other stakeholders. Under the federal government's Building Canada Plan, we have allocated \$1.85 million for research and development. With this funding we have carried out a climate change risk assessment for the transportation system. We have assessed the vulnerability of Highway No. 3 between Behchoko and Yellowknife. We have developed a protocol for assessing the vulnerability of airports. And we are currently working on a Climate Change Adaptation Plan that will be completed this summer. It will inform how the department will manage the key short- and long-term risks to the transportation system resulting from climate change and how to take advantage of the opportunities.

Also this summer, the department will evaluate rehabilitation techniques for roads constructed on warm, ice-rich permafrost at four test sections on Highway No. 3 between Behchoko and Yellowknife. In the fall we are organizing a workshop on how to keep our winter roads sustainable as our climate changes. The department will also consider how to optimize our maintenance operations across the highway system, including Highways No. 6 and No. 7, to deal with climate change impacts.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Transportation sits on two Transport Canada sponsored networks of expertise, one on permafrost and the other on Arctic waters. Their objective is to foster northern expertise and conduct research necessary to provide Canada and the three territories with the capacity to manage transportation infrastructure in the context of a changing climate. Over the next four years, we will be conducting a number of additional studies to expand our knowledge base.

We are also sharing our knowledge and experience through the development of best practices guides that other governments can apply. Through the Transportation Association of Canada and the Council of Ministers Responsible for Transportation and Highway Safety, the department has collaborated on a Best Practices Guide for the Construction, Maintenance and Operation of Winter Roads, and a Best Practices Guide for the Construction of Transportation Infrastructure on Permafrost.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is important that I acknowledge the efforts of our front-line staff. It is operators and maintainers that are responsible for ensuring the safety of the traveling public and maintaining levels of service while contending with and adapting to the impacts of weather and climate change on a daily basis.

Mr. Speaker, the challenges of adapting to climate change are daunting. We will continue to promote research and development, cultivate partnerships, incorporate climate change in all decisions, improve communications and share best practices to meet these challenges ahead. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REVITALIZING THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up in my Member's statement today from my colleague from Hay River North's statement the other day on the commercial fishery, something that's also very dear to my heart.

Mr. Speaker, the strength of our economy is diversity, and as a government we have no trouble responding with lots of resources to big-ticket industries like oil, gas and diamonds. Today I want to talk about a resource that has too long been virtually ignored.

On our doorstep, literally, we have a world-class product and potential for an amazing commercial fishery. Its renewable, it's sustainable and its harvest has virtually no negative environmental impacts, but the industry continues to shrink. There's a quota for almost two million pounds of fish and we only harvest about 200,000 pounds per year. The market mechanism which we seem married to indefinitely is dysfunctional and detrimental to the well-being of those participating in the industry. I hope the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation is listening.

So, Mr. Speaker, I have an idea to revitalize our commercial fishing industry. A few months ago I heard a fisherman being interviewed in Twillingate, Newfoundland, who had been involved in the commercial fishery down there in ocean waters, but the cod stocks had dwindled to the point that he could no longer participate in that. If we can't find people locally and in the Northwest Territories to do this – it's hard work, not everybody wants to go out and do this – but people who already know this industry, we should have a campaign to advertise, or to go down to Newfoundland where people have been involved in a commercial fishery their whole lives and then invite them to come back here.

When we didn't have diamond cutters, we went to Armenia to get diamond cutters over here so we could keep our secondary diamond processing industry going here in the Northwest Territories. Surely we could figure out a way to attract some commercial fishermen to fish our Great Slave Lake out here to create some industry.

It could be an industry that's worth \$10 million to our economy here in the Northwest Territories, but we can't figure it out. We keep looking to a handful – and God bless them – of aging and getting-more-tired commercial fishermen that are out on this lake. There's a handful of them. Do you want to be part of the marketing corporation? Don't you? They take votes.

Hey, let's think outside the box here. Let's look at the industry as it sits there and let's find a creative way to revitalize it, and if that means going to Newfoundland and recruiting some people, let's do it. Let's get 'er done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HAY RIVER HARBOUR DREDGING

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Spring is now over. The ice is gone from our rivers and now we're starting to see more activity around the Hay River industry around the water.

Hay River is a natural transportation hub. It is the starting point for barges and tugs that go down the Mackenzie and supply goods throughout the Northwest Territories. The harbour is important to the commercial vessels, commercial fishing and recreation users. As well, we have a Coast Guard based there.

The federal government once dredged the harbour clear of silt that comes down the Hay River. In 1994 the federal government stopped dredging in the Hay River harbour. Growing sandbars now obstruct the mouth of the river, making it difficult to navigate the waters for large ships and commercial fishermen. The lower water basin also contributes to the potential flooding each spring in Hay River.

Industry is also interested in dock maintenance as well as dredging. Industry and fishermen are having difficulties getting their ships docked. Residents of Hay River are seriously concerned about the impacts of the sandbars. Without good access to the harbour, industry in Hay River is being limited and residents are at risk. We need to resolve this issue sooner than later.

I have to repeat: Dredging is needed in the Hay River. It helps maintain our valuable harbour space. It ensures open passage for commercial vessels. There is new proven equipment, technologies and expertise available out there. A dredging program would also bring opportunity to build community capacity and use local contractors.

The federal government still has jurisdiction over NWT waters. The Government of the Northwest Territories must pressure its federal counterparts to own up to their responsibilities. The Government of the Northwest Territories needs to consider the Hay River harbour when it plans to spend money in Hay River.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
POWERS OF THE NWT RENTAL OFFICER

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up today on a statement I made earlier this week regarding changes to the Residential Tenancies Act. The powers of the NWT rental officer as outlined in the act are sadly lacking. Amendment to the legislation to improve on those powers is needed.

The rental officer's job is to help landlords and tenants with disputes, and most problems can be

worked out privately. The rental officer will encourage you to do that wherever possible. In some cases, though, agreement cannot be reached and the rental officer must make a unilateral decision regarding a dispute. It's something that he does very well.

The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation website describes the NWT rental officer this way: The rental officer is given many of the powers formerly held only by the courts. The rental officer provides information, mediates, and acts as a judge as circumstances warrant. In cases where parties cannot reach agreement through mediation, the rental officer must hold a hearing. At this point in the process the rental officer begins to act like a judge.

Unlike a judge, the rental officer's decisions are not binding on either party in the dispute and can be ignored by either party. The only recourse for a complainant is to take the matter to court. As I've said often before, the courts are not a viable option for many of our residents. In the minds of many of our residents, it's not a cost-effective avenue for dispute resolution.

A recent editorial in News/North commenting on a landlord/tenant dispute stated, "That a Supreme Court judge needs to be asked to ponder the validity of a rental officer's order seems like a terrible waste of time and money. We can understand why there is an appeal process, but as it stands now, the advantage is with large landlords with deep pockets to hire lawyers so they can fight complaints." It goes on to say, "A mechanism should be there for the order to be enforced. If that means the territorial government hands the rental officer the power to summon a sheriff after a month of non-compliance passes by, then so be it."

That recent refusal of a landlord to comply with the rental officer's decision raises many questions. Who foots the bill for court time? Who pays for the judge? Should a minor matter as a fence dispute have to go to court? Should it cost those involved so much time, money and distress? Who is being served by this protracted process and how are they being served?

It wouldn't take much to make the necessary amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act to provide the rental officer with the power to make his decisions binding and to provide justice without going to court for tenants and landlords who have won hard-fought battles. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TENANT SAFETY CONCERNS
AND ENFORCEMENT OF
RENTAL OFFICER'S ORDERS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to use my statement much in the same manner as MLA Bisaro has just done. I'm going to use it to paint a bit of a narrative, a story, because we have a situation here where cars appear to be more important than people. Cars appear to be more important than safe access that's lawfully written into the law. It's a story about cars and where safety of women is certainly being overlooked. Cars seem to be more important.

This ongoing dispute between the UNW and its tenants seems a bit of a shame. You've seen the widely spread media reports, some of course very interesting, others very scary. The fact is, what we're seeing is nothing happen other than frustration by the tenants who even in one case actually had to take the law in their own lands, who may become a victim of the law not being enforced.

We have a situation here where powers cannot be enforced. They're being fettered by process, process without follow-up and enforcement. We have tenants who have safety concerns. We all knew the UNW has long since been a champion and has a productive legacy for fighting for the rights of others, for what is good, what is fair. I cannot understand myself why are they putting all that great history and legacy behind without building a partnership with their tenants over what really lies down to is safe access. Yet again, cars are being chosen over people.

The whole purpose, as my colleague has just said, of the rental office is about keeping disputes out of the courts. It's about a productive way to work between tenants and landlords. It's about ways that we can make things simple. The rental office and, certainly, their act really comes down to no teeth. I'm not saying they couldn't write an enforcement order. It's more an issue, in my view, that they can't enforce it, and that's a bit of the problem. We see going back and forth; we agree, we disagree, we agree, we disagree, and yet the landlord flirts with compliance but yet stalls even further.

How much longer will cars continue to be more important than the safety of women? I don't stand for what they stand for, thinking that cars are better than women. I think we should be fighting for the rights of safe access for these tenants and ask ourselves what is missing here in this Rental Tenancies Act. Quite simply, it's about the authority of ensuring that enforcement compliance does happen.

Later today I will be asking the Minister questions in this regard and asking him where does he stand. Does he support safe cars or safe people? Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
FORT SIMPSON SPORT NORTH
AWARD RECIPIENTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure in speaking about the three Nahendeh residents from Fort Simpson who received Sport North awards for their contribution to sport, recreation and performance, not only to Fort Simpson but throughout the NWT. This was detailed in the Deh Cho Drum today about... The two of them are actually a mother and daughter team, and they are recognized in different fields.

The first is Mr. Shane Thompson, who received the Sport North award for the Ruth Inch Memorial Contributor to Sport. The other is Ms. Val Gendron, who received the Delma Kisoun Memorial Community Contributor Award. It gives me great pleasure, once again, to congratulate them both for this important territorial award and recognition for their tireless efforts in advancing sport and recreation in Fort Simpson and throughout the NWT communities. Thank you for taking the time for volunteering throughout all this.

I have seen how hard they have worked and travelled to make life more fun and exciting for our young adults and children in Fort Simpson and throughout the North. They took the time to share their lifelong skills with them and to show them different positive experience. This alone, I have seen, has made an impact on their lives, for their future growth and their characters.

Also, a lady from Fort Simpson, Ms. Madison Piling won the Youth Female Athlete of the Year. I am proud to congratulate her on this important award in recognition of her effort and dedication in the speed skating field. She has shown the calibre of athleticism from our community and represented our NWT with distinction over the past few years.

I just wanted to make note that we have many youth in the gallery here, and I just wanted to say that you too can achieve any goal you want by having a dream and working hard towards it. Once again, congratulations to my constituents for this significant achievement, recognition and milestone in their life. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
ALL-WEATHER ACCESS TO
AKLAVIK GRAVEL SOURCE

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Aklavik is one of 10 communities in the NWT that have only seasonal access to a gravel source. Aklavik gets

about 23 tonnes of gravel per year from Willow River, which is 18 kilometres from town, or 27 kilometres if you take the Peel River channel. Every year the community builds an ice road to reach the gravel source. It can cost as much as \$3,000 per kilometre, plus maintenance. Gravel is stockpiled in the community during the winter months so it can be used the rest of the year. Pit operations, ice thickness and safety have to be carefully planned to successfully operate this road. Stockpiling isn't practical.

Sadly, global warming is limiting our winter road season, as mentioned by the Minister of Transportation earlier today. It seems that it will get worse in the future. Aklavik needs all-weather access to its gravel source. The gravel at Willow River is high quality.

Not only do we need it in Aklavik, we need good gravel to build the Inuvik-Tuk highway, and lots of it. That project would provide great opportunities to Aklavik, where the employment rate is close to half the NWT average. In the last 20 years it has rarely been above 40 percent. There are simply more people than jobs. An all-weather road would offer great opportunities for quarry operators, maintenance and servicing the community. There are no plans in this year's budget to start work on an all-weather road to Willow River gravel source.

In the last Assembly the GNWT was able to complete an all-weather road to Tuktoyaktuk's gravel source. This was a successful project that will bring lasting benefits to the community. If a project like this can be done in Tuktoyaktuk, it can be done in Aklavik. We need to get the Willow River gravel source into our plans. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEED FOR NEW SCHOOL IN COLVILLE LAKE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday we brought in a motion on early childhood development to show our concern that we want this government, our government, to focus on building a strong foundation for our future, whether it's training, funding or structures.

We are, indeed, challenged with a fiscal responsibility of keeping afloat in the waters of economic uncertainty. However, we have set our goals in the 17th and we must, by all means, do our best to get there. We are approaching the critical mass of which infrastructure projects will see the light of day within this government. So much, yet so little.

Today I bring to this floor in this House the wishes of the people of Colville Lake. The people of Colville Lake, their vision is to have a decent,

proper school. Let me tell you what all 54 children have to go through day in and day out these past years to get a decent education, and yet we expect our children to have this good education. All we need to do is see the Alberta Achievement Test results of how well our children are doing in our small communities.

In Colville Lake there are two buildings. There's a portable building and a log structure. That's their school. It's open in the building; there are no walls. In the kindergarten classes there are four grades in one room. It's difficult to teach children, I was told by the teachers, due to the noise and other activities going on in the same room.

There are FASD children who require different learning, teaching, and need a room just for themselves. There's no gymnasium in their school. Students have to carry their recreation equipment across town just to get into a gymnasium, and that's a small one.

Winter gets really cold, Mr. Speaker. The lack of space, the recreational equipment and school supplies are stored in sheds outside. Every space in the school is stuffed and there's no room. There are no planning facilities for the teachers to do their planning.

Children are expanding each year. As I said, there are 54 children, with six more coming next year. More issues are more important, but these are critical.

We are truly grateful to the government for putting in proper washrooms and facilities with running water. It's taken about eight years, ever since I became an MLA, to get this done. I'm asking for a new school. I was wondering, if it took eight years...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Yakeleya, your time for Member's statement is expired.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. YAKELEYA: It took eight years to get proper washroom facilities in our school. Could this be a measurement on how long a new school may be coming to Colville Lake? I want this government to examine clearly the benefits of building this school against the other projects when the time comes to determine which infrastructure projects we can take on in this government.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMPLETION OF FOREST MANAGEMENT STUDIES

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Conversion of our energy systems to renewables

supports development of a home-grown industry, frees our people from unpredictable and rising fuel costs and cuts greenhouse gas emissions. It provides major economic and employment opportunities at the community level. To pursue those benefits, we need a detailed understanding of the supply of forest resources and their sustainable use.

The Biomass Strategy calls for work with communities to assess the potential use of biomass energy to encourage a stable and economic supply of NWT pellets in our communities, to build a combined heat and power community energy system and to identify viable business models to support these objectives. The strategy commits to evaluate and quantify sustainable wood resources around communities.

Completion of inventories and sustainability assessments are overdue. The strategy also commits to putting in place our first biomass combined heat and power community system, but where is it?

Detailed forest inventories are well underway in the South Slave and Deh Cho, but sustainability assessments have only been completed in the South Slave. A supply assessment has begun for Norman Wells, but information is lacking for other communities.

Private enterprise has proposed a wood pellet manufacturing plant for construction in the South Slave, though it's delayed for a year due to a lack of forest access. Access and known sustainable yields are key needs for viable businesses.

Feasibility studies are increasingly identifying opportunities of local biomass, both as heating fuel and for co-generation of electricity, but progress towards realizing these opportunities requires an improved foundation of knowledge and facilitation with access and supply issues.

The NTPC Minister announced the intention to complete a strategic plan for energy system development in the coming months. To show the way and meet the commitments of the Biomass Strategy, this plan needs to include a combined heat and power community energy system delivered on the ground.

For biomass to play a big role in a stable energy future, accessible feed stocks for such energy production are an essential element of this strategy. Despite the stated goals of the strategy, I note funding of the Biomass Strategy has been unconscionably decimated in the budget from \$1.55 million to a mere \$100,000 this year. More later.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PROPOSED NEW WILDLIFE ACT AND HAY RIVER RESERVE PROFILE

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] In the Northwest Territories we are all living in the Northwest Territories. This is what I'm going to be talking about. A lot of people are living in small habitats and these are some of the things I'm going to be talking about. In regard to Hay River Reserve, I'm going to be talking about these issues. Hay River is... [Translation ends]

...300 people. It is a beautiful community, especially at this time of year when the trees are so green. Dene traditions are strong and there's great interest on anything that impacts traditional lifestyles, such as the proposed new Wildlife Act.

People worry that the law will be yet another encroachment on their rights. Even though there's a reserve based on treaty rights, administration of the community is unduly complex. The territorial government is very involved in the community's bilateral relationship with the federal government. As they say, three is a crowd.

This is so important because the community has not benefited much socially or economically by being close to Hay River. Hay River's employment rate is about 73 percent compared to 44 percent on the reserve. It's basically the same as in isolated communities like Nahanni Butte or Fort Good Hope.

We have been talking about education, and about 35 percent of reserve residents have high school diplomas compared to the NWT average of 70 percent.

Like many other communities, housing is a major issue. More than 40 percent of homes are in core need, according to the Housing Corporation. That is true, but it's also true that the Housing Corporation still has vacant new houses on the reserve.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON WORKING TOGETHER ON BEHALF OF ALL NORTHERNERS

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today is World No Tobacco Day. Initially I wanted to speak to that. It was something that I kind of started my career of doing a lot of work on tobacco, creating legislation and some of the legislation that we brought to this House.

However, what grabbed my attention and got me thinking last night and today was the motion that we passed in the House yesterday. Members on this side decided to pass a motion to defer a certain budget within this government because we didn't think that government was acting in the best

interest of the people of the Northwest Territories. I'm not going to get into detail, but it showed some match and it showed that we're working together collectively to create something that's going to affect our people in the Northwest Territories. It's doing something that's going to invest so that future generations are going to be able to succeed. All the youth here today we are putting an invested interest into and into their futures and back home.

Last night I was thinking about this, this morning I was thinking about this, and we as the 11 Members on this side are not just going to sit back and let government dictate how this government is going to act. We saw a budget that came through that's, as mentioned, status quo from last year and previous budgets. We've got a lot of Members on this side; we've got a lot of Members who have been here for many years. We've had a lot of departments who are bringing forth the same business plans they've had the year before.

Yesterday I was really happy when I left work. It was a long day. We've gone through a gruelling process and we go through business plans and then we sit here and go through the budgets. If we don't look at those changes and try to make changes based on what our constituents tell us, then it never gets done. We pass a lot of motions in this House and sometimes all the hard work that our communities and people do, and they put the resolutions and recommendations to this government, and we pass a motion in the House and sometimes it just gets tabled and sits there. That's not going to happen anymore.

Yesterday I had a really good learning experience, and I was really happy how this government reacted and the quick response that we did get from government in further deliberations. Too many people worked too hard in our communities that when it comes to this floor, it needs to be addressed.

Regardless of whether we need Highway No. 7...(Inaudible)...water systems in the communities...

MR. SPEAKER: Order! Mr. Moses, the time for your Member's statement...

MR. MOSES: I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. MOSES: Obviously this is something that I have a lot of passion about and it's something that I want to bring to the attention of all residents of the Northwest Territories. Regardless of your gender, your sex, your age, your ethnicity, talk to us. They have to talk to us to make sure that we can move forward on this business. Like I said, regardless if it's Highway No. 7 or roads or health centres or schools, we are not here only to represent our own

constituents but the whole territory and all the people.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONSUMER PROTECTION LEGISLATION FOR WIRELESS SERVICES

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's a privilege to fall behind the "no-more" speech.

One common problem that many people encounter when they open their monthly cell phone bill is called "cell shock." Although not life threatening, it could have a disastrous effect on your pocketbook. This cell shock is a direct result from consumers being surprised with charges on services they were not aware they would be charged for or services they did not know would cost extra.

To counter, provinces like Quebec, Manitoba, Newfoundland and Labrador, and now Ontario are introducing consumer protection legislation to help consumers understand the costs and services of wireless service agreements. The ultimate goal of this type of legislation is to promote transparency and accountability in a wireless communication industry by capping the cost of cancelling a contract, by charging only a modest fee for leaving a fixed term contract, by notifying consumers of any changes to their contracts, getting consumers' consent in renewing, extending or amending their contract, allowing plain language in their contracts, to include all-inclusive advertised pricing for their cell phone plans, to not charge consumers for services while their devices are under warranty for repair, and will provide notice to consumer who are about to incur additional charges for exceeding service limits.

Although the Northwest Territories has limited wireless service and providers, telecommunication continues to grow and we will be seeing a higher percentage of the population who will count on this government to provide adequate consumer-related protection. This government's goal should be to provide greater clarity and fairness to all NWT consumers with respect to cell phone agreements and follow suit with a growing number of provinces that are taking the lead.

I will have further questions later today for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs as consumer protection legislation could be pursued through such department. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. McLeod.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SAMUEL HEARNE SECONDARY SCHOOL
GRADUATION CEREMONIES

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, on Saturday it was a very special day for a graduating class of Samuel Hearne Secondary School. Every year we have graduation ceremonies all across the Northwest Territories, but what makes this one extra special is it is the final graduation class of Samuel Hearne Secondary School, which is slated for demolition later on this summer.

Of the two schools we have in Inuvik, SAMS, was built, I believe, around 1959, and Samuel Hearne was about 1967. They are a significant part of the history of Inuvik. As a kid going to SAM School, which only went up to Grade 6, you couldn't wait to get to Grade 6 so you can move over to the big school in Grade 7.

We had a lot of history in this school, as I said, and many friends that we met in the schools that we still call friends today. We were fortunate, we had people from all over the Beaufort-Delta, from the Sahtu, we had a number of people from Nunavut that went through the schools there, and a lot of them we still know quite well today. Five Members of this Assembly, I think, have gone to Samuel Hearne: Mr. Blake, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Moses, Mr. Jacobson and myself. Our two Pages are both from Samuel Hearne.

There's a lot of history that will be gone there. That part of that is over and starting next year we'll start a new era in the educational history of the children of Inuvik. We're looking forward to seeing all these children go through our education system and someday they can be in this Assembly talking about the number of classmates and friends that they've had in the new school.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all the graduating class, the historical graduating class of 2012, Amy and the rest of her classmates, congratulations and nothing but the best as you go forward. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. Mr. Nadli.

**Reports of Standing and
Special Committees**

COMMITTEE REPORT 1-17(3):
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE 2010-2011
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE INFORMATION AND
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to provide its Report of the Review of the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Information and

Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and commends it to this House.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Government Operations has reviewed the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Members would like to thank Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts for the report and for her appearance before the committee on February 14, 2012.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly whose primary role is to review and write recommendations on public bodies decisions related to the NWT Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act requires that public bodies demonstrate their accountability by making information accessible to the public while at the same time protecting the privacy of individuals. Seven review recommendations are summarized in this year's report. In most cases the public bodies concerned accepted the Commissioner's recommendations.

The Commissioner's past reports have also included recommendations to departments for changes to improve the administration of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. This year the Commissioner noted with frustration that most of the recommendations from previous years remained largely unaddressed. She, therefore, did not make new recommendations for legislative or administrative changes, but instead, listed those previous recommendations she considers most important.

The standing committee is seriously concerned about the government's lack of action on the recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the previous standing committee for improving access to information and protection of privacy in the Northwest Territories. The committee prioritized several of these recommendations in discussion with the Commissioner and is pleased to bring them forward to this Assembly.

Now I will pass it over to the deputy chair, Ms. Bisaro.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Recommendations

Information and Privacy Legislation for Tax-Based Municipalities

In the public review, the Information and Privacy Commissioner identified her long-standing recommendation for municipal access to information and protection of privacy legislation as her first priority. The standing committee ranks this

recommendation first on its list of legislative changes for government consideration.

As the Commissioner notes, the three northern territories are the only Canadian jurisdictions which do not have information and privacy legislation for municipalities. The Commissioner is receiving increasing numbers of inquiries from people who are concerned because a municipal authority has improperly collected, used or disclosed personal information. Municipalities, especially the tax-based communities, collect and retain significant amounts of personal information about citizens and employees. There is no recourse for citizens when this information is improperly used nor are there any rules governing citizens' access to municipal information.

One method of regulating access to municipal government information and protection of privacy is to include local governments among the public bodies governed by the ATIPP Act. Freestanding access and privacy legislation for municipalities is another option for consideration. Both of these mechanisms are used in other jurisdictions. For example, local government bodies are included in Newfoundland and Labrador's general access/privacy legislation and defined to include specific municipalities, while Ontario has a freestanding Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Previous standing committees have supported the recommendation to make municipalities subject to access and privacy legislation. The government's February 2011 response to the 16th Assembly's Standing Committee on Government Operations supported the recommendation in principle and acknowledged the importance of the issue. Nevertheless, despite the government's 2008 and 2009 commitments to identify options and develop a work plan, no work plan was advanced on this initiative during the 16th Assembly.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) cited implantation issues identified by community governments including capacity, cost and training as factors in its delay in moving forward with this recommendation. The committee notes, however, that the NWT Association of Communities has a standing policy on access to information and protection of privacy which supports the Information and Privacy Commissioner's recommendation to the extent of urging MACA to prepare a discussion paper and commence consultation with stakeholders.

The committee understands that small communities may not have the resources needed to implement access and privacy measures. At the public review, the Commissioner suggested that legislation be developed at least for tax-based municipalities. The committee concurs.

Members also understand that MACA has had limited resources in past years to undertake the necessary work. The standing committee maintains that it is time the government made this recommendation a legislative priority and found the resources to act on it.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories implement access and privacy legislation for municipalities in consultation with stakeholders and bring forward a bill during the first two years of this Assembly.

Completion of the Health Information Act

Health records are among the most sensitive types of personal information held by public bodies. The Department of Health and Social Services or regional health authorities were involved in seven of the 20 new access and privacy review requests that the Commissioner received in 2010-11, mainly complaints of breach of privacy.

The committee learned that the Commissioner is currently conducting a systemic review of the Yellowknife Primary Care Centre, or super clinic, which is her first review of this type. The Commissioner noted that patient information in this type of clinic is accessible based on staff roles – receptionist, nurse practitioner, laboratory technical, doctor. But that she is finding the amount of information accessible to all staff is significant.

Members also heard from the Commissioner that implementation of electronic medical records is advancing and the lack of legislation governing health information is a concern. In the Commissioner's view, patient control over health information is paramount. In the Commissioner's words, "information should follow the patient, but people should know where their information goes." The committee concurs.

Work on Northwest Territories health privacy legislation has been underway for the past three years. The new Health Information Act will establish a framework for the collection, use, disclosure of and access to personal health information. It is anticipated that the Information and Privacy Commissioner will be given oversight functions under this new legislation.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories complete work on the new Health Information Act, taking into account consultation with the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the principle of patient control over patient information, and bring forward a bill within the first two years of this Legislative Assembly.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I will pass the reading of the report to my colleague Mr. Dolynny.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to my previous colleagues.

Review of the Access to Information and Protection and Privacy Act and the Powers of the Information and Privacy Commissioner

As in her 2008-09 and 2009-10 reports, the Information and Privacy Commissioner recommended a general review of the ATIPP Act in this report. The 16th Legislative Assembly passed Motion 8-16(6) on May 18, 2011, in support of a review. That motion, moved by the Member for Nahendeh, read in part:

"Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly strongly recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories undertake a comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection Privacy Act, including an examination of access and privacy legislation in other Canadian jurisdictions and all past recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and bring forward a bill during the first two years of the 17th Assembly."

The government's response to Motion 8-16(6) states that the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT's) access to privacy office, within the Department of Justice, with one dedicated position, is tasked with researching, developing and implementing a wide range of policy tools and best practices. It was suggested that addressing these issues through the use of policy guidelines rather than legislation allows the GNWT to respond more flexibly to technological change.

While the committee understands the advantages of policy in responding to the rapidly changing environment, the ATIPP Act came into force more than 15 years ago. In several Canadian jurisdictions, access and privacy laws contain clauses requiring a review at a specific time (example: Nova Scotia) or at regular intervals (example: Newfoundland and Labrador at five-year intervals). There is no similar review clause for the Northwest Territories legislation.

The committee believes it's time for a thorough review, not only to ensure the act remains current and relevant, but also address outstanding issues that have arisen in practice as the act is implemented.

As noted in Motion 8-16(6), a complete review of the act will provide opportunity to reconsider all the Information and Privacy Commissioner's previous recommendations, recently amended access to information and privacy legislation in other

Canadian jurisdictions, as well as changes in information and communications technology.

A complete review of the act will also provide an opportunity for the review of the role and powers of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Consideration should be given, in particular, to empowering the Commissioner to make recommendations that are binding on public bodies, following her review of complaints related to the decision on access and privacy.

Recommendation 3

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories undertake a comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the roles and power of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and bring forward a bill during the first two years of this Assembly.

A comprehensive review should, as well, address two other previous recommendations highlighted in the Commissioner's 2010-2011 report, namely: a review of the fee structure attached to the request for information under the act for clarity of wording, consistency of application, and the cost for individuals compared to other Canadian jurisdictions; and the inclusion of a provision in the act which would give the Information and Privacy Commissioner the discretion to expand the limitation period for seeking a review of the access to information request.

Educating Children About Privacy in the On-line World

The committee strongly agrees with another Commissioner's outstanding recommendations, 5. c), that "more must be done to educate our children and provide them with the knowledge they need to protect themselves while they work in the wired world." Training on on-line privacy risks, including but not limited to, predators, phishing, scams and identity theft should be added to the Northwest Territories school curriculum starting in Grade 1.

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends the Department of Education, Culture and Employment develop curriculum for Grades 1 to 12 regarding the protection of privacy in the on-line environment, in consultation with the Information and Privacy Commissioner for implementation in the fall of 2014-15.

Progress Report and Implementation Plan for Recommendation

The 16th Assembly's Standing Committee on Government Operations supported many of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's recommendations for legislative change and other

government actions to improve access to information and protection of privacy in the Northwest Territories, through committee reports and motions in the House. The present committee respectfully requests a report by government on all the committee recommendations presented in the House between 2008 and 2012 pursuant to the committee's annual review of the Information and Privacy Commissioner's report; progress on the part of government in addressing each of these recommendations and what the government intends to do in 2012-2013 and subsequent years to implement recommendations that remain unaddressed.

Recommendation 5

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a progress report and implementation plan for the committee's recommendations concerning access to information and protection of privacy presented in the House between 2008 and May and June 2012, before the fall 2012 session of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I now recommend that we go back to the committee chair, Mr. Nadli.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Nadli

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Conclusion

The Standing Committee on Government Operations respects and appreciates Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts' work to implement and improve access to information and protection of privacy in the Northwest Territories. The committee looks forward to real progress in this field over the course of the 17th Assembly.

Recommendation 6

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

MOTION TO RECEIVE
COMMITTEE REPORT 1-17(3)
AND MOVE INTO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
CARRIED

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Frame Lake, that Committee Report 1-17(3) be received by the Assembly and be moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is nondebatable.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE REPORT 2-17(3):
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE
2010-2011 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT

MR. NADLI: Mr. Speaker, the Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to provide its Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report and commends it to this House.

Introduction

The Standing Committee on Government Operations has completed its review of the 2010-2011 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report. The committee would like to thank Ms. Mary Pat Short, chair of the NWT Human Rights Commission, and Ms. Therese Boullard, director of human rights, for their appearance before the committee on February 13, 2012, on the 2010-2011 annual report.

2010-2011 Annual Report

Mary Pat Short of Fort Smith, Rita Mueller from Behchoko, Roger Wah-Shee from Yellowknife, Yacub Adam from Yellowknife and William Turner from Yellowknife were members of the commission during the year. The standing committee observed that one membership has been revoked, while the terms of three of the four remaining members conclude on June 30, 2012.

In 2010-2011 the director of human rights received 352 inquiries, about half of which originated in Yellowknife. There were 22 new complaints of discrimination on grounds prohibited under the Northwest Territories Human Rights Act. Nearly three-quarters of new complaints alleged discrimination in employment. Disability had the highest number of complaints – nine – as it has been for the last six years.

The standing committee is deeply concerned with the high number of complaints of discrimination on grounds of disability. The committee appreciates the Human Rights Commissions' work to educate the public on the rights of persons with disabilities, including a new brochure on Human Rights and Disabilities and a workshop for employers on their duty to accommodate. The committee believes that the Government of the Northwest Territories should lead by example in following the act and recognizing the human rights of persons with disabilities.

Recommendation

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories continue its efforts

to recruit and accommodate workers with disabilities in the public service and report on these efforts to this House within 120 days.

The Human Rights Commission received a 2010-2011 base funding increase of \$50,000 to launch a multi-year pilot project in which it became a party to all complaints referred for hearings to the separate and independent NWT Human Rights Adjudication Panel. There are few inexpensive legal supports in the NWT for human rights complainants going forward to hearings. The purpose of the pilot project is to ease the burden on self-represented parties by ensuring that all relevant information is before the adjudicator. The standing committee commends the commission on its pilot project, which will assist in the fair and effective administration of the act, and supports its continued funding.

2011-2012 Work Plan

During the public hearing, the committee learned that an increase in inquiries from communities follows commission visits. The standing committee strongly supports the NWT Human Rights Commission's plans for informing more NWT residents of their rights and responsibilities in 2011-2012, especially residents of smaller communities. The commission planned visits to Norman Wells, Deline, Paulatuk, Behchoko, Lutselk'e and Fort Smith during the 2011-2012 year. The standing committee urges the commission to visit as many communities as possible each year, and to expand its workshop offerings to smaller communities as well as regional centres.

The committee also heard, with interest, that the commission will establish a "teachers' corner" on its website. The Human Rights Commission has done a great deal of work to develop a Social Studies Curriculum Guide and learning activities to accompany the publication "Know Your Rights." The standing committee is pleased that these resources will be made available on-line, and encourages the commission to maintain and expand its presence on the Internet and in social media in all official languages in future years.

Conclusion

The standing committee applauds the Human Rights Commission's 2010-2011 report and looks forward to progress toward its vision of "a North at peace with its diversity where everyone is safe, confident and respected on their journey."

MOTION TO RECEIVE
COMMITTEE REPORT 2-17(3)
AND MOVE INTO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
CARRIED

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Committee Report 2-17(3) be

received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

---Carried

Committee Report 2-17(3) is moved into Committee of the Whole.

Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to recognize Grade 6 students in the gallery today along with their chaperones and teachers. Two of the teachers I'd like to recognize are Mrs. Rita Moizis, Ms. Jennifer Tweedie, and students – and bear with me, colleagues, as we go through these names quickly, and students can stand – Austin Cayen, Braiden Charlton, Jason Griffiths, Jarret Larkin, Sylvia Lockhart, Mackenzie Mandeville, Elizabeth Nimegeers, Jasmine Norn, Kenneth O'Connor-Moran, Davida Patterson, Jeramiah Pierre, Sonia Roach, Jayda Sabourin, Sean Smith, Ethan Walsh, Abby Webster, Megan Wood and James Beaulieu. Welcome. Thank you.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome Grade 6 from Hay River as well. I have the rest of the list: Angela Boutilier, Ally Carston, Marisa Carter, Michaela Crook, Fiona Huang, Aimee Jacobs, Gabrielle Kirby, Shelby Lawrence, Madison Loutit, Aaron Mackie, Taylor Maurice, Savanna Moore, Shania Pierre, Donny Seaton, Nicholas Smallgeese, Tyrell Wilgosh. Also three chaperones: Mr. Mike Wilgosh, Mrs. Tara Kirby and Mr. Jamie Smith. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for joining us today at lunch and thank you for all the organizing to help with the event for the Grade 6 class.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. It was my pleasure. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me a great pleasure and honour to welcome a number of my family members who are here this weekend to celebrate my son's Grade 12 graduation. We have the matriarch of the Dolynny clan, my mother, Mrs. Vivian Dolynny; my younger brother, Mr. Stacy Dolynny from Sherwood Park, Alberta; the cute one next to him is my little niece Alexia; her big brother, Logan Dolynny; behind my mother is my sister-in-law who is here from Grande Prairie, Alberta, Darcy Zackowski; sitting next to her is my father-in-law, Mr. Grant Zackowski; the cute

one at the top is Mr. Matthew Zackowski; and I'd be remiss, Mr. Speaker, if I didn't give great homage to my lovely and gorgeous wife, Cindy Dolynny.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to welcome two representatives from the Status of Women Council for the NWT, Ms. Lorraine Phaneuf and Ms. Annemieke Mulders. Welcome to the House, everyone.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to recognize the students who are with us today from Princess Alexandra from Hay River. It's always great to have students in the gallery. There are 35 students, three chaperones and two teachers. Welcome. Enjoy the gallery.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize two Pages we have in the gallery today from Inuvik, Ms. Angie Edwards and Ms. Tamara Gordon, along with their chaperone and my constituency assistant, Ms. Leah Ipana. Welcome to the Assembly.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize two constituents in the gallery today as mentioned earlier, Lorraine Phaneuf and Annemieke Mulders, both with the Status of Women. This time, too, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to use this opportunity to recognize the Hay River Grade 6 class. I've not seen a better behaved or better dressed group of students in a long time. I think that should be recognized. Lastly, I too would like to acknowledge my colleague Daryl Dolynny's family who are here for the graduation of his son, Tanner Dolynny. By the way, he's valedictorian this weekend, so congratulations.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. I would like to welcome all visitors here in the public gallery. Thank you for taking an interest in our proceedings here today. For the Grade 6 students, we had a really good lunch. I enjoyed your company. Safe travels home today and don't spend all your money at Wal-Mart.

Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 59-17(3): REVITALIZING THE COMMERCIAL FISHING INDUSTRY

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions follow up on my Member's statement today and it is about the commercial fishing industry on Great Slave Lake.

Mr. Speaker, I have stood to speak of this many times in this House, but it's time for some innovative and creative action on the revitalization of this fishery. I would like to ask the Minister responsible if the department could take action to bring some new blood into this fishery. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fishery on Great Slave Lake is primarily an export fishery where the prices and the majority of costs are determined according to global markets and circumstance. Certainly with the advance of the Canadian dollar and the global economic downturn in 2009, we've seen a decline in fish sales to the U.S., which is predominantly, I believe, 60 percent of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation's audience or market, is in the United States. It makes up 60 percent. The FFMC has seen a 30 percent reduction in sales since 2009, so those are issues that are outside of our control, but I understand what the Member is saying about other opportunities. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are so many opportunities to market our fish outside the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and as the Minister knows, just about every other jurisdiction in Canada has now left the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation. They mishandled their opportunity to market fish on behalf of the freshwater fishers in this country and in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and the Northwest Territories. In my opinion they did not do a good job. We could market all the fish from Great Slave Lake to one desk, to one buyer to be distributed, but our government has never taken on the initiative to do that. We need to help the fishermen. The fishermen are doing the best they can but when asked if they want to leave Freshwater, when they're not being presented with another alternative that would give them any kind of comfort or confidence that their fish would have a market to go to. Why can this government not find a market on our own outside of Freshwater so that our fishermen have a market for the product that they could develop here?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The reality is the fishermen remain in Freshwater Fish Marketing

Corporation and involved in that organization. As a government, the Government of the Northwest Territories has been supporting the commercial fishing industry in the Northwest Territories for well over 30 years. We provide money on an annual basis to operate and maintain an office in Hay River. We have a \$225,000 support on an annual basis to help fishermen in the territory. In response to the decline in marketing initiatives and sales, we've also come up with \$550,000 to help support local fish and meat processing in the Northwest Territories so that more fish can get into local markets around the NWT.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I have the greatest respect for the commercial fishers that are out there on this lake trying to carve out a living commercial fishing, but the fact is there's only a handful of them and there's two million pounds of fish could be taken from that lake on a sustainable basis. I know about the Take a Kid Trapping but what about take a kid fishing? What is this government doing to create interest in that commercial fishery as an industry and to get more people involved in that industry as fishers, if not from the North then from other places?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Certainly there would be other markets out there, but today those fish are being marketed by FFMC. The Member is correct; 90 percent of the fish being marketed by that organization today come from Manitoba. Northern Ontario and Saskatchewan just recently pulled out in April. There are going to need to be some decisions made here as we go forward to help support and market fish that are caught commercially here in the Northwest Territories.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We had a comprehensive plan to revitalize the commercial fishing industry. It is an industry that is here on our doorstep. It is renewable. It is sustainable. We need to get more people involved. We need to find a better market. Will the Minister commit to undertaking an initiative to see that happen within his department?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The goal of this government is to diversify the economy here in the Northwest Territories. Certainly we're going to take every opportunity to do that. I'd be more than happy to work with Regular Members to look at commercial fishing here in the NWT to see what we can do. If we can do things differently and make a difference and grow that industry here in the Northwest Territories, that's something I'm interested in. I know there's a number of Members across the floor that are interested in doing that. We can put our best effort into that.

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

QUESTION 60-17(3):
TENANT SAFETY CONCERNS
AND ENFORCEMENT OF
RENTAL OFFICER'S ORDERS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I said in my Member's statement today, there seems to be a bit of a crisis out there where cars are more important than the safe access that some women want and deserve to their apartment building. That seems to be a real shame. I tried to highlight that narrative in my Member's statement. I'll have questions to the Minister of Justice about what he will be willing to do.

In this particular case my question is: What remedies are now available to the enforcement order of a rental officer when a landlord or tenant, as in this particular case, has trouble getting the order enforced and followed through by the landlord as issued by the rental officer?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The rental officer has powers and authorities as identified within the Residential Tenancies Act. When a dispute occurs between a tenant and a landlord and cannot be resolved through mediation or discussion, the rental officer does have the power to make an order. Once filed with the court, that order does have the power of the courts. If one of the parties disagrees with the order, there is a right to appeal. The right to appeal is the cornerstone of the Canadian justice system and that cannot be ignored. When an appeal is filed, the Supreme Court has a couple of options. They can allow the appeal, dismiss the appeal, or change or cancel the order. If following the appeal the order is upheld, actions can be taken to make sure that the landlord and tenant comply with the order. Where an order has been made and is not under appeal and is not followed by one of the parties, a person or corporation can be charged with an offence. If found guilty, a person is liable to a fine of \$2,000 and a corporation of a fine up to \$25,000.

MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate that canned answer because it really structures part of the problem. The thing is, the rental office is really meant to be something simple. Somebody can go in, they have a dispute, it's ruled on one way or the other whether they like it or not. It's about follow-up and commitment on these particular orders.

We have a situation where the appearance of the order is not complied with and they continue to

have trouble with that. That brings us to the question. The rental office has no follow-up power and enforcement power. Why do we need to send people to court? Why don't we review the situation within the act?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The department is reviewing a number of issues with the legislation that were raised by the rental officer. One of the issues that was not raised was this particular issue about the powers and the orders and the enforcement of those orders.

However, recognizing the concerns of my two colleagues as well as people throughout the Northwest Territories, I have directed the Department of Justice to look at possible issues relating to the enforcement of orders under the Residential Tenancies Act. In this review we need to determine that there are actually issues that can be addressed through the legislation or whether there are some other means to address these enforcement issues. They will be looking into that.

I'm hoping to get back to committee with some sort of analysis and report, as well as the Member, this fall. I will take that to committee and we will have a discussion and we'll figure out where to go from there to improve this service in the future so that this type of thing doesn't happen again.

MR. HAWKINS: I'll thank the Minister for scooping my third question, which ultimately only left me with the fact that is it anticipated that there will be amendments coming forward this fall? I'm just trying to get a sense of what he was after. Ultimately this issue needs to be reviewed. It sounds like that is what he was about to do. I want to make sure that it gets reviewed in a timely way so that we don't put other people at risk. Is that what he's saying? That he'll bring forward amendment to regulation changes that can be implemented immediately?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I agree completely. We want to make sure that this type of thing doesn't happen. What I'm committing to do is providing a bit of an analysis and report on what can be done to make sure that orders can be enforced and how they can be enforced. I'm not sure that's going to require a legislative amendment. It may be policy, it might be regulation. We will do that research and analysis. We will bring it to committee. We will present it to committee and seek direction from committee and the Member as well. We will seek direction on how we want to move forward on that. It may be legislation; it may not be legislation. We will do something.

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

QUESTION 61-17(3):

NEED FOR NEW SCHOOL IN COLVILLE LAKE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to recognize my colleague from Tulita and Kelsi Taylor, two Pages here. I forgot to say that. I want to ask the Minister of Education questions on the Colville Lake School. I want to ask the Minister where within his department, how soon could the people in Colville Lake look at the possibility, amongst the many other projects that we have in the Northwest Territories, that they can look at maybe a planning or discussions on building a new school for Colville Lake.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Colville Lake School has been addressed in the House on numerous occasions. It all depends on the allocation of students. We currently have, as the Member has indicated, 55 students. It's allowable up to 62 students. At the same time the Member is asking when we can discuss this. The opportunity would be when we're going through the capital planning process. We put forward any requests on capital infrastructure if it's a real critical need for the Northwest Territories. We compile those capital planning and then decide from there which is the most priority for the Northwest Territories. There will be opportunity to do that during this Legislative Assembly.

MR. YAKELEYA: In the Colville Lake School it's very difficult for the teachers to give the best attention to the students. Where in the capital planning process that the Minister can see that the Colville Lake students can have a chance to say yes, we could possibly get some planning studies done to put us on the capital planning projects to have a new school. Where?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: This is an opportunity. We're listening to the Member. We need to go through the process of selecting those individual capital projects that are important to the Northwest Territories. If we have a capacity of 62 and we have 55 students in there, that's an area we're also looking at. We're closely monitoring those schools, Colville school and Trout Lake and other schools that have been brought to our attention. We're going to work with that as part of the planning process for capital planning. Discussion will take place as to which priorities we should focus on. That is the process that we need to follow within the GNWT.

MR. YAKELEYA: I want to ask the Minister who in this government would need to be convinced when you go to Colville Lake. I challenge any Member here to bring their students to Colville Lake, attend the school in Colville Lake, and see if that will help them get a new school. There are four classrooms

in one building. There's no privacy. Even though that number is there the Minister is rattling off, doesn't quite fit the people in Colville Lake. Who within the longest system needs to tell the Minister that we need a new school in Colville Lake? This is not acceptable. Who do we need to convince?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The process itself is through the divisional education council, through the superintendent working with the principals and delivering that through the chairperson on to my attention as part of the process itself, then putting it into the system as well. Compiling with all the other capital projects. It is this Assembly that decides on those capital projects and we'll continue to push that forward. The most critical needs in the Northwest Territories.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people in Colville Lake want to know – at some point they were told that they were going to get a new school – why was that bumped from the capital planning project and they brought in the portable building. Why was that bumped in Colville Lake and they missed out on having a new school?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I don't have any information on why, but we should focus on as we move forward. If this is part of the capital planning project, then we should pursue it and that will be a discussion that we will be having in this House as well.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

QUESTION 62-17(3):
IMPACTS OF FEDERAL CRIME BILL
ON NORTHERN JUSTICE SYSTEM

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to make some questions today for the Minister of Justice on the document that he tabled a couple days ago, Analysis of Federal Bill C-10, Safe Streets and Communities Act: Impacts on the NWT Department of Justice. I didn't get a chance to go through it in detail yet, but just some stuff from the conclusions that were mentioned. He's talking about if our institutions should become full capacity, what is his plan with this impact on the justice system? What is his plan for inmates if they can't get into our institutions?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the report, it identifies that we think we might see as many as 11 positions or 11 people in those facilities over a year, at a whole year duration, not actual days, which will put additional

pressure on the facilities, absolutely. Right now we have an opportunity, given that we have Nunavut inmates as well as federal inmates in those facilities, and our first step would be to stop taking Nunavut inmates, which would leave us room for northern inmates. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: I forgot to mention, I just wanted to thank the Minister for tabling the document so that our public and our residents get an opportunity to see this and see the impacts that it's going to have on our government and our communities.

In the conclusions, the Minister mentioned that there might be an extra pod for the North Slave Correctional Centre, as well as maybe the construction of a proposed women's facility. When we were going through the process of Arctic Tern in Inuvik, can the Minister commit to looking at that facility, the Arctic Tern facility again and maybe, possibly making the right adjustments to it so that we can open it up should we need not construct a new building but use existing infrastructure, which we always preach about. Can the Minister answer that question? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: The most recent technical report on the Public Works and Services building still indicates that there are limitations to that building to be used as a secure facility for corrections purposes. That building has been turned over to Public Works and Services who will do some remediation work on it and have it ready for some disposal. Somebody will be able to use that building. Unfortunately, it can't meet the criteria or the conditions for a secure facility.

We do need a female facility. The female facility we have in Fort Smith is not meeting the needs. It needs to be upgraded, and it is in the list of facilities that need to be reviewed and, hopefully, constructed over the life of this government. But we still need to have those discussions. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: The estimates that he's got in this report are \$32 million for the North Slave Correctional Centre, and then he's got another \$35 million in his conclusions for another building. We've got existing infrastructure out there and we have to look at how we can use those so that we don't always put money into capital.

With that said, there's also going to be an increase of, he states that more people are going to be wanting to appeal their sentences, so it's going to put more stress on our legal aid system, which is already exhausted enough. What is his plan for the legal aid system should people start appealing their sentences? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Right now we have just completed the drafting of a new Legal Aid Act, which will be coming in front of committee soon, hopefully. We've also been having discussions in Cabinet and with committee about enhancing or

providing some additional resources to the legal aid unit, and we will continue to have those discussions and find a way to enhance the services being provided in that area. Thank you.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Knowing what he knows here and the report that's in there, can the Minister provide Members on this side of the House a detailed plan of how he's going to start implementing the effects of this report that he put out, a plan that's going to allow us to know what's going to be coming in future business plans? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: We only have 36 minutes and I don't think anybody wants me to use that entire time up. What I'd like to offer is I can certainly meet with committee to go through some of the things that we're planning and build upon the discussions that we've already had on the business plan and walk through some of the details of this report. If the committee wants that, I am happy to provide the Member and committee with a little bit more of a briefing on this topic. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 63-17(3):
ENFORCEMENT OF
RENTAL OFFICER'S ORDERS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are addressed to the Minister for Justice. I'd like to follow up on my Member's statement.

I'd like to thank the Minister for his responses to my colleague Mr. Hawkins, and he's addressed a few of my concerns, but the Minister mentioned that there is an issue. He also mentioned that he's trying to improve service. For me, the issue is of costs to the individuals. When an individual who has an order and the order is not being enforced, they must go to court. I'd like to know from the Minister, in terms of costs, I guess, does the Minister have any idea of the costs to individuals through the courts for rental officer decisions that have been ignored and have not been agreed to and followed up on. Thank you.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I don't.

MS. BISARO: I'm not sure I want to thank the Minister, but I guess I'd like to ask the Minister whether or not he would be willing to provide that information. I think one of the things that we have to realize is that taking an issue to the Supreme Court is not cost effective for our residents. We have many, many people who are so totally intimidated

about going to court that they wouldn't even think of doing that and taking that action.

I appreciate that the Minister is going to look at the act, and I appreciate that we will get some kind of action. I'd like to ask the Minister when we might be able to get the information that he's referencing. He may have given a time frame and maybe I missed it, but when can we look to see the results of the review that he says he's going to do? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I have directed the department to have some results ready for discussion with committee and Members in the fall. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I'd like to ask the Minister whether he has any information in another area. The rental officer, as he advised us and as most people are aware, can quite rightly assign fines for noncompliance of rental officer orders. It's \$2,000 for an individual. It can be \$25,000 for a business. Can the Minister advise us how many rental officer orders have been ignored and how many fines have been assessed in 2010-2011 fiscal year? Thank you.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I don't, obviously, have that information with me today, but I will commit to getting that information from the department and providing it to the Member. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't have anything else that I can ask and get any answers for. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

QUESTION 64-17(3):
HAY RIVER HARBOUR DREDGING

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In follow-up to my Member's statement about dredging, we are concerned about the sediment buildup in the Hay River area.

My first question to the Minister of Transportation is: Does the territorial government and the Department of Transportation have any dredging programs planned for the Hay River area this year?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for the question. We don't have responsibility for dredging. What we do look forward to doing this summer is organizing with NTCL, the Canadian Coast Guard, and I believe Midnight Petroleum is also involved in the little bit of work that is going to be conducted in Hay River this

coming summer. But, certainly, the port of Hay River hasn't had a full-fledged dredging program since 1994, and a lot of sediment and silt can certainly build up in that port over almost a 20-year period. It's of great concern to the department. We continue to raise the issue with the federal government at every opportunity. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: The Minister has indicated that industry is interested. I'm wondering if the Minister will commit to assessing the Hay River harbour and the full dredging needs in working with all the proponents, whether it's industry or whether it's the federal government, to build a needs assessment for the dredging in the Hay River area?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I think at some point this summer I would like to be in Hay River to have a look at the port of Hay River, to discuss with operators, fishermen, people who use that port on a daily basis the needs on the dredging side. Again, certainly, I think we have to come up with a business case and continue to impress upon the federal government the need to put some money into dredging the port of Hay River. It's estimated it could be as high as about \$12 million to \$15 million to dredge the port of Hay River.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you. Back in December I asked some similar questions about dredging in Hay River and the federal government's responsibility. The Minister indicated that he was going to begin negotiations and discussions with the federal government on this project. Can the Minister give me an update on has he had any meetings on this issue with the federal government?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. I haven't had a meeting with my federal counterpart, Minister Lebel, in some time. I look forward to getting together with him again in the near future, and I believe the department has had discussions with Transport Canada on this issue and I'd be more than happy to go back to the department and get the level of connectivity they've had with Transport Canada on this issue for the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Bouchard. Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

QUESTION 65-17(3):
CONSUMER PROTECTION LEGISLATION
FOR WIRELESS SERVICE CONTRACTS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today in my Member's statement I talked about the need for consumer protection legislation as it pertains to wireless communications. In fact, I used the word "cell shock," because I think that's what happens to many people when they open up their cell phone bills. I know I'm part of that 99 percent.

As a result, as I said in my Member's statement, many provinces have adopted legislation to help protect consumers with respect to this type of unaware procedure that may be occurring within the telecommunication industry.

So my question for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs is: Is the department prepared to entertain such legislation in the near future?

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. MACA is interested in ensuring that our consumers are protected from practices such as these, but we want to go about it in a way that we consider the other roles and responsibilities of the regulatory bodies.

My understanding is the CRTC has announced that it will hold some consultations to probe the state of the wireless competition, and then they'll determine whether they should actively regulate wireless service contracts. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. Yes, I agree, CRTC is obviously one of the national bodies that look after this. However, consumers today don't have a vehicle and if we have to wait for rulings from large organizations such as CRTC, consumers could be waiting for a long period of time.

Given the fact that this is nothing new, there are many provinces that have already jumped on board, obviously there's legislation that has been created, there are steps, procedures in place to help protect the public. Again, my question to the Minister: Is this something feasible that the department would consider doing in the very near future?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you. I can commit to the Member that from MACA's perspective, we'll do some research and see how much work is required to put this into force, and that's where the feasible part of it comes in. There's always going to be a cost to everything, but I will commit to the Member that we'll do some research as far as the other jurisdictions go and see where we can enact some of that or maybe borrow some of their legislation, but it's going to be quite a piece of work. Again, we kind of wait on CRTC to see what they come up with before we decide to go the next step. But I will commit to the Member we'll do our research. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I just want to thank the Minister for coming forward today and helping out the consumers. No further questions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

QUESTION 66-17(3):
ALL-WEATHER ROAD TO
AKLAVIK GRAVEL SOURCE

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just a follow-up to my Member's statement, a couple of questions for the Minister of Transportation. What resources have been given to the community of Aklavik for the Willow River access road? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the past couple of years there's been \$250,000 under the Community Access Program given to the community of Aklavik to do PDR work on the Willow River gravel access road. Also, there was an additional \$100,000. There was a bridge that was looked at and it was deemed to be too expensive. So the \$100,000 that was earmarked for that bridge project has gone also to continue the work on the PDR for the gravel access road for the community of Aklavik.

MR. BLAKE: My next question is: When can the community expect work to begin on an all-weather access road? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: That will be answered when the access road gets into the capital planning of the Government of the Northwest Territories and identify \$19.5 million to see the construction of that access road. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you. What will the department do to ensure that people and businesses in Aklavik have job opportunities in connection with the Inuvik-Tuk highway? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: That's a different line of question, Mr. Blake. If you want to rephrase it, Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Sorry. At this time I have no further questions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

QUESTION 67-17(3):
K'ATLODEECHE FIRST NATION NEGOTIATIONS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier I spoke about the status of the Hay River Reserve within the Northwest Territories. So my question is to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs. What is this government's role in the K'atodeeche First Nation negotiations with the federal government? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories is a party, along with Canada, to the negotiations with the K'atodeeche First Nations. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Thank you. I'd like to thank the Minister for his response. How is this government's role different than it has been with communities when there's no reserve? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Our government's role is different, depending on what process is being negotiated. If the K'atodeeche First Nation decides to go through the treaty land entitlement process or whether it chooses to go through the comprehensive community-based agreement process, those would be two different approaches. Through the treaty land entitlement process, the federal government is solely responsible for Indians on reserves. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: I thank the Minister once again. Could the Minister distinguish for this House on the differences regarding the community comprehensive-based land claim versus comprehensive claims? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. The differences are that treaty land entitlements are built through the treaty process. So on that basis, it specifies what the Hay River Reserve or K'atodeeche First Nation would be entitled to through that process. With regard to the comprehensive community-based process, it's more of negotiating of a modern land claims treaty for that community. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Final supplementary, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How is this government ensuring that in developing the Wildlife Act, that Aboriginal treaty rights of the K'atodeeche First Nations will be respected? Mahsi.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As an extension of the comprehensive community-based agreement, the portion that would be negotiated for K'atodeeche First Nation would be hived off of the larger Deh Cho process.

With regard to the Wildlife Act, the process that we have in place is there's a seat at the table for the Dehcho First Nations and the K'atodeeche First Nation, as I understand it, are part of that process. If they choose not to be part of that process, then there are a number of other avenues that are available to participate in the Wildlife Act process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 68-17(3):
STAND-ALONE CAMPUS FOR
AURORA COLLEGE IN YELLOWKNIFE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The other day in the House during Committee of the Whole, the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment talked about potential

partnerships and things working behind the scenes for the stand-alone Aurora College. I'd like to hear, maybe on the record today, what partners is he working in particular with on this particular project and when can we actually see some real advance on this particular issue. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When I referred to potential partners, we are seeking out those individuals that are interested in working with us as a department and also the college. We have been approached during the 16th Assembly by a corporation that could be the same corporation that may come forward. We are at the preliminary stages at this point, as I stated in Committee of the Whole. This fall or later in the summer we're going to be discussing the next step, once we sign off on the extension on the lease agreement for Northern United Place. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: I'm not sure how the lease deals with the discussion with the corporation. I'm curious; when will you be able to shed some light on who this corporation may be and is it a real partnership or is it just someone giving us a call, not really committing? I mean, we really know what's actually happening out there. We've been led along for quite some time as to whether there may or may not be partners. When will the Minister really be able to make a substantial commitment of information saying these are the people we are talking to and this is what we're working towards? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The lease agreement plays a huge part. We need to extend the agreement. We have a minimum of two years, up to five years. We're going to have some more information this fall. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: Has the Minister or anyone from the department been talking to the City of Yellowknife as a potential partner in this particular initiative? They may not be a cash partner, but they may be able to work in partnership such as the library I mentioned the other day. It's a project in the not-too-distant future. The City of Yellowknife has always wished to advance that particular one. I can't speak for them specifically, but that's the type of partnership I'm talking about. Now, there may be private corporations, but how much investment has the department done on advancing other types of partnerships, and to whom? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The City of Yellowknife could be a potential partner because we are dealing with the library in Yellowknife. We need to identify a location for that as well. There's been talk about adding that to a stand-alone college. Those are the discussions that are happening, very preliminary. Later this fall we need

to identify those individuals that are interested in discussing this even further.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: What type of summary information can the Minister actually provide to me, so I can provide to my constituents, on what is actually happening with this project? I mean, every time we bring this particular issue up, to me, all they hear is the discussions that are happening. When I go back to them it doesn't seem to be a satisfying answer. Will the Minister commit to putting some type of profile onto this project to bring it to fruition, what's being done and some of what the objectives are and would he be able to do it in a timely way?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We can provide a summary of the status of our discussions and provide more detailed information as we move forward this fall. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

QUESTION 69-17(3):
NWT FILM AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY
MARKETING EFFORTS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today will be for the Minister of ITI. Minister Ramsay spoke to us the other day in the House, tabling a statement regarding a new website that they're designing for the newly formed media association to hopefully entice the film industry. As good as it is, it's a great tool. I'm not going to deny that. I've had the pleasure of talking to some of the fine folks at Buffalo Air who really have minted a unique niche market in the film industry and I think we're all duly proud of what they've done for the Northwest Territories, not just on a national but a global basis. Can the Minister of ITI indicate to me what has been done by this government to help support a very established international market creator such as Ice Pilots and what has this government done to foster that positive behaviour? Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had the original Ice Road Trucker, Alex Debogorski, a constituent of mine, at my constituency meeting not too long ago. This was a discussion that came up, how the government could utilize a show like Ice Road Truckers or Ice Pilots NWT and market the territory internationally. That is something I'm certainly interested in. I'm interested in seeing us advance.

I know in the past we've had Mikey McBryan down at the Northern House in Vancouver during the Olympics. There are opportunities for us to

showcase folks that are involved in the film and television industry. At every opportunity we can do that, we should be doing that. I think they are great ambassadors for the North. We have been fortunate with shows like Ice Road Truckers, Ice Pilots NWT and also Licence to Drill. If you look at a fiction drama series, Arctic Air, that has also put the Northwest Territories squarely on the map.

Certainly the website that I spoke about earlier this week is going to give people an opportunity to see what services are available to the film industry here in the Northwest Territories. It's something, I must say, we've seen a great increase in the number of inquiries to our film commissioner here in the Northwest Territories because of the advance of shows like Ice Road Truckers and Ice Pilots NWT. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I agree. I mean, we're very proud of all the work that's been done in the North with many of our colleagues and the film industry. The film industry is a wave; it's a wave you have to ride on and we don't have to look too far to the south of us in Saskatchewan. They had some great run-ons for years. Unfortunately, in Saskatchewan the film industry has dried up only because the government of the day didn't react in time. The film industry is very nomadic in nature and if you don't ride the wave properly, you miss your opportunity.

Again, my question to the Minister is: What other steps such as tax incentives, opportunities for business diversification and proper training in telecommunications or arts can allow us to be a leader and also keep this wave as long we can? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We certainly need to keep an eye on what other jurisdictions are doing, such as the Yukon. Going forward, we need to look at ways we can be competitive, and I agree with the Member, it's a competitive environment out there. We need to have services, rebate programs and incentives for the film industry to come here to film so that people who live in the Northwest Territories can get the jobs and the experience that filming will give them here in the Northwest Territories. We are looking at every opportunity.

Again, I know in that industry things are fickle and we will continue to put our best effort forward. We have identified a dedicated employee at ITI to handle the inquiries. We are doing our best to try to maintain that momentum that we've got and advance any opportunity that we have going forward. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Again, I'm encouraged by the enthusiasm of the Minister but this does require more than just the need or desire. This requires strategic framework. It requires a plan of action to keep this wave alive. I didn't hear that in the Minister's delivery here today. Would the Minister commit to put some type of strategy or framework

strategy around our film and production industry so that we can keep this wave as long as we can in the North and be proud of the film industry that is created today?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: ITI works very closely with my colleague the Minister of ECE in partnership to address gaps and explore ways to best support the film industry here in the Northwest Territories. We're looking as we move forward at a joint annual report that will be produced jointly between ITI and ECE to identify new initiatives and progress made in the last previous year with regard to the film industry. We are working toward that. I do appreciate the Member's concern and I do believe we are doing something about that.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree that annual reports are great, but annual reports tell you what you've done. I'm asking what you're going to do. Can the Minister indicate if we have something we can do to protect the industry while we have it in our fingertips?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The Northwest Territories Film Commission has drafted a mandate that is supported by both ITI and ECE and I'd be more than happy to share that mandate with the Member. Also, as we go forward, I agree with the Member, if a strategic framework or strategy is required that is something we will need to consider.

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

QUESTION 70-17(3):
VACANT HOUSING UNITS
IN THE SAHTU REGION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation. I want to ask you how many vacant units are in the Sahtu.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd have to find that information and pass it on to the Member.

MR. YAKELEYA: I look forward to the reply from the Minister. I want to ask him, on the vacant units they have in the Sahtu, for example, I had a phone call from Colville Lake. There are a couple of vacant units up there. I also had a call from Chief Frank Andrew and there are a couple of vacant units in Tulita. I know there are a couple in Deline. I want to ask the Minister if his corporation has a plan on how to get people into those empty units. There are a lot of issues there, but how and what is the Minister doing to get people into those units?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I appreciate the Member telling me how many vacant units are in the Sahtu. We had a very aggressive vacant unit strategy a few years ago because of the investment that was made by the federal government. We had 135 units. We're happy to say those are all full. We have a few new units that are going up. There may be a couple vacant in each community, but what we're planning on doing is we're hoping to get more and more people into those units as they qualify for some of our programs. We'll move them in there. Compared to the situation of a couple of years ago, I think we're down to very few vacant units now. We usually have them there for reasons to try and find suitable tenants to put in there.

MR. YAKELEYA: When these phone calls came from the leadership in the Sahtu... I want to ask the Minister to provide me what it costs the Housing Corporation to keep them operating and functional and how long they've been vacant and how can we work together to hope to get my people into these housing units.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I'll be happy to work with the Member in trying to do what we can about the vacant units. I know we are working with some potential clients not only in the Sahtu but across the Northwest Territories. We go a long ways in trying to get tenants into some of these houses, whether it's a HELP unit or a supported lease unit or a home ownership unit. We try very hard to get them in there. Compared to the situation we had a few years ago, our vacant unit numbers are way down and these are usually there, so we can try to get some suitable tenants to put into these units.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We went to Colville Lake, Mr. Abernethy and I and Mr. Beaulieu, and we witnessed and saw the three empty units in Colville Lake. I know the Minister is working very hard to get clients in there. We certainly support that. It's been a couple of years since we have had these empty units sitting there. We will work with the Minister to get these units occupied. There are a number of initiatives that we could look at to get the units occupied. I think it's a crying shame that in Colville Lake there are units that have been sitting empty for so long. I'd like to ask the Minister, is he going to put something forward to us to say this is what we can do that meets the needs of our clientele in our communities to get those units occupied so people can have a house they can call home.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Housing Corporation works very hard to try to get people into units. However, we have to make sure that these folks are able to maintain the units and we're not setting them up for failure. We are working that particular situation. I know we've tried to make

some contact and I'll have conversations with the Member about that. We work very hard to get tenants into a lot of these units, the ones that have been vacant for awhile. We don't want any more vacant units. We've managed to turn a lot of them into public housing units just so we can get them occupied. It is still a bit of a challenge but we're working very hard to make sure that these units are occupied.

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

QUESTION 71-17(3):
DISPLAY OF NORTHERN ARTS AND CRAFTS
IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Public Works and Services today. I'd like to address a question of how we can support our arts community across the Northwest Territories and in particular through a display of art in our GNWT infrastructure. In every community this government has buildings that are frequented by our public and by visitors. It's a real opportunity to display art and add some benefits both to the economic side and to the identification of the Northwest Territories. I'd like to start by asking the Minister whether or not we have a policy that promotes the display of our NWT artisans' work in GNWT buildings across the NWT.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for Public Works and Services, Mr. Glen Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't actually know if we have a specific policy about local artists' art on walls in public spaces within our government buildings, but I will check with the department to find out if we have anything.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate the Minister's commitment there. To some degree I think, I don't know, the Minister doesn't know. I don't know that anybody in the House knows. That's a reflection of the situation. I think we owe it to our people, our artists, to be on top of that and get a policy in place. Would this Minister commit to, if we don't have a policy that he can share with us, if he would commit to looking into this and getting a policy in place?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: It's an intriguing idea and it might be a great opportunity for Public Works and Services and ECE and ITI to get together to figure out how we can get local artists' products on walls. As long as we're not talking about consuming floor space, obviously, which is incredibly expensive, but as long as it's walls in public parts of buildings, it's certainly something that we should be pursuing and I'm happy to take that forward and discuss it with my ministerial colleagues to figure

out exactly how we can try to make something like that happen.

MR. BROMLEY: Again, thanks to the Minister for that commitment. I assure him I am not asking to put big holes in walls or anything like that or take up valuable government space. To a large degree we do have artwork here and there on our walls but not necessarily NWT artwork. Hopefully the majority is. To actually display local artists would be a real service and in line with government philosophy. I like the idea of the Minister working with other ministers appropriately. I wonder if he could also maybe work with artisans across the NWT and get some input there. I'm not suggesting he travel to every community or anything like that, but I think our artists typically have some really good and creative ideas. Would he be willing to expand that consultation a little bit, putting this policy together should we need it?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I think what we're talking about is utilizing existing wall space in the public areas of buildings where we might have an opportunity to hang product from northern artists. I will work with my colleagues and we will have conversations with some of the local artist organizations in the Northwest Territories to get their input on how to best facilitate the placement of their art, artists from the Northwest Territories, in public areas of our government buildings.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, thanks to the Minister. I'm already getting suggestions from my colleagues here and one suggestion is airports. I know some municipalities take advantage of that. I know the GNWT does here and there. That might be a place to also include. When it does come down to it, without putting holes in the wall or anything, where there happens to be vacant space I see nothing wrong with making space available to artists for the display of performances and so on. Perhaps the Minister could include that in his consideration.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Agreed.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Item 9, written questions. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 6 on the Order Paper.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: You may proceed, Ms. Bisaro.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was remiss earlier. I need to recognize Pages who have

done a lot of work for us here today and last week from the Frame Lake riding: Jaida Brunet, Rachel Latour and Brent Betsina, who are working this week, and Erin Pirker, who worked for us yesterday. Thank you to all the Pages for all their hard work.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, replies to budget address. Item 13, petitions. Item 14, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 15, tabling of documents. Item 16, notices of motion. Item 17, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 18, motions. Mr. Bromley.

Motions

MOTION 3-17(3): INCREASED SUPPORT FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY, CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: WHEREAS diversification of energy sources away from increasingly costly and unpredictably priced fossil fuels is essential to controlling our citizens' costs of living and business costs, fostering strong local economies and protecting the environment;

AND WHEREAS ministerial mandates direct that a new NWT Energy Plan be developed with the objectives of stabilizing energy prices in communities and reducing the cost and impacts of energy use upon the environment, and direct Ministers to take action to promote community-based alternative energy systems;

AND WHEREAS electrical energy prices alone are already scheduled to increase by more than 25 percent over the next three years, with potentially greater increases when fossil fuel prices rise further;

AND WHEREAS the experience of renewable energy initiatives to replace the use of fossil fuels in the past four years has yielded a proven record of reducing costs, creating jobs, supporting local economies and developing a new northern economic sector, with significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions;

AND WHEREAS the 16th Legislative Assembly established a fund of \$60 million or \$15 million per year to support the development and introduction of alternative forms of energy;

AND WHEREAS government funding for energy planning is being reduced from \$6.5 million annually to \$1.6 million for 2012-2013;

AND WHEREAS government funding for energy management is being reduced from \$7.2 million annually to \$3.5 million annually for 2012-2013;

AND WHEREAS government revenues have increased by 9.5 percent or approximately \$132 million in this fiscal year;

AND WHEREAS demand from households, businesses and communities for alternative energy support programs is high, while programs are provided limited funds and are frequently oversubscribed;

AND WHEREAS this government's plan to further subsidize the fossil fuel-dependent operations of the NWT Power Corporation, by spending a further \$33.8 million in new taxpayer funds to reduce rate impacts upon consumers demonstrates the ability to make choices and find substantial new funds when needed;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Government of the Northwest Territories reinstate funding at least equivalent to the budgets devoted by the 16th Assembly for programming in support of renewable energy generation and more efficient use of energy;

AND FURTHER, that comprehensive planning and implementation of new hydro generation and grid connections be reinstated towards the achievement of both reduced and stabilized power costs, and expansion of hydro zones to communities currently relying on diesel generation of electricity;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the government provide a response to this motion within 120 days.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is time for this government to get serious about renewable energy and fully realize the potential to reduce our costs and support our people and businesses in a responsible way. This motion is about just that.

In the absence of real action, energy costs will go on soaring until we get down to it. We now have four years of experience with energy initiatives from the 16th Assembly. We have made many internal gains and learned many lessons about how to be more effective with energy expenditure. Now it is time to fund and apply this knowledge to the full benefit of our communities.

This experience, combined with a significant increase in our revenues of \$132 million this year, indicates that conditions are ripe for action. What action? We are simply asking for implementation of proven technologies that exists in thousands of communities throughout Europe, the northern Scandinavian countries and elsewhere around the globe.

Currently, rather than addressing the situation, our government is letting the soaring costs of inaction accumulate in hidden ways in the form of ever-

increasing energy subsidies and fuel costs. These costs are much greater than the 2 or 3 or 4 percent we would pay on a few million dollars borrowed to deliver new energy systems. Such costs include: more than doubling the \$14 million per year we already subsidize electricity rates; greater than 50 percent rise in fuel costs since 2007, borne by our people, our government, our municipalities, our businesses, our environment; seniors fuel subsidies that don't change in litres, only in cost; and so on.

Rather than wise investment towards reducing and stabilizing energy prices, we seem almost eerily content to allow these hidden costs to soar, costs that are robbing funds from the many important service delivery demands already existing and accumulating.

Our public wants and needs alternatives to fossil fuels in all our communities. Further, our people know that developing local and regional renewable energy sources will provide community jobs and local economic development, and will capture the multiplier benefits of dollars paid and spent locally instead of being sent south to businesses and jobs far away. They also know that other benefits will accrue, including environmental and social benefits to areas where our needs are so great.

If we were to commit a modest \$5 million, only a fraction of what was decimated from this budget, that would be well under 1 percent of our debt limit that we fought so hard to have increased. I want to keep things in perspective here when we talk about those sort of numbers.

The budget has removed millions of dollars from the energy budgets – proposes to – in both environment and natural resources, and in industry and tourism investment, right when needs are the greatest. Choices are being made. This decision is unacceptable and we want a renewed commitment of dollars dedicated to providing stable and reduced energy prices in the NWT. We want to support and appreciate our indigenous and long-term residents, we want people living here to stay here, and we want to attract the kind of people who value sustainable living and a government that addresses this issue and the cost of living generally. Let's get an appropriate level of energy dollars back in the books and directed towards effective delivery on community energy initiatives.

I look forward to the comments and perspectives of all my colleagues, and I will be, obviously, supporting this motion, and I would appreciate consideration. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First off, I will not be supporting this particular motion. I want to be clear, because I do support environmental initiatives and energy saving projects, but the

difference is I actually support the ones that make sense, and certainly I'm not sure that this motion does do that.

I've supported, in the past, things like green bags, light bulbs, CFL adjustments, wood pellet stoves and boilers, promoting them. Even myself, I'm a proud owner of a wood pellet boiler. The thing is, I encourage people to use the opportunities and the tools that avail themselves to them to take on more energy efficient opportunities. I try to be a living example of that particular case.

From a pragmatic approach, I often try to remind people, though, it's about making sense. We can chase every dream like the rainbow, but the fact is, some are just so unaffordable that we're doing these things but they just don't make sense.

I recognize the work that Mr. Bromley is trying to do here by saying, well, we need to spend more money on environmental initiatives, but the fact is, a lot of them just don't seem to pay out. As I said earlier, I encourage everybody at every opportunity to make environmentally responsible choices to their lifestyle, and I let not an occasion go by without trying to encourage people to live better and smarter and do the right thing that not only is just for them but is for the environment as well.

Part of the issue that I'm raising here today from my perspective is the fact that these initiatives, by and large, need to have some type of payback on investment. Now, I understand the large moral conviction many people have, and sometimes that's why we make these types of commitments. My wife and I bought a hybrid, not believing that it would financially pay itself out on the bottomline, but we felt it was important it was built on the moral commitment of the type of life and lessons we're trying to teach not only ourselves, but teach our children. Sometimes, I have to tell you, our kids come home and teach us lessons about doing things better.

I feel that some of these actions that are environmentally focused, the responsibility also has to be the fact that we have to make sure that they're useful and they actually do pay something back. Can the GNWT afford to spend more money on these energy projects without guarantee of any type of return on our investment? Often we hear the Finance Minister talk about how tight our finances are and how we just heard the status quo budget. I mean, status quo usually means no imagination but my fear is if they had gone with too many environmental projects that weren't designed to pay back, I mean, who knows what that would cost us and what benefit over the long run.

In my view, we need to start setting achievable goals and meaningful dialogue on this particular case so we can help set targets when we decide that we're going to make environmental initiatives and they're actually going to be useful and pay

back. We need to make investments that actually, like I said, have a return on investment.

Previous funding, in my view, certainly was not invested money wisely spent. I think a lot of the projects, although meaning well, didn't actually show much in return. Sixty million dollars went out to about 20 projects and, certainly, they include some interesting goals, but we certainly spent some money on hydro facilities in Lutselk'e, Whati, Deline, Tulita, Taltson expansion, transmission lines, wind energy, solar power subsidies, and certainly a number of policy reviews. As many Members will remember, we also spent a fair bit of money on smaller projects such as solar power for swimming pools, wood pellet boilers in public buildings and the increased presence of the Arctic Energy Alliance in our communities. For \$15 million allocated each year in the 16th Assembly, the question of general consumer – and I should say the taxpayer – is always asking, so what was delivered and did we achieve any actual savings on these particular things other than spending \$60 million, in total that is.

So as many people know, the NWT Power Corp had to shut down some of their initiatives because they just proved unpractical and certainly not affordable. So would this just be another fund built with great ideals, focus on moralities of how we wish we could do things but they have no payback? When things are tight and we hear about how much more the Power Corporation is going to keep raising our power bills and costing us money, I mean, we have to rethink how we do business.

Yes, we need to spend money on new technologies and at times you'll even hear me be a supporter of some that are new initiatives, but during these times of restraint, we have to actually worry about what actually works and actually makes money. If we're just throwing money out the window, we should just be writing cheques to our citizens rather than just spending money on useless projects that don't actually have a return.

Yes, there are projects that actually make a good return and I've seen certain cases where pellet boilers in schools and even at the Legislative Assembly here had a refocus on how we use energy, but this is few and far between. Sixty million dollars didn't pay for three pellet boilers; it paid for a lot of projects that didn't work.

So that's the type of dynamic I'm talking about. We have projects that we know can work and bring a return on the bottom line, and we have a lot of projects we hope will do something that have no effect other than costing us money.

I'll return to some of the examples here. The Lutselk'e mini hydro turned out to have such mega costs, and even the Taltson expansion originally intended to send power to diamond mines was shelved. Even the price tag on Bluefish is

somewhere around \$37 million, although we continue to pour money into policy reviews, with very little return. The question is: How much more money?

I recognize Mr. Bromley's point about continuing to spend money on power subsidies and that does become a burden on the system by and large and that's not right, but we should be really asking ourselves what makes money in the sense of a return, because it's important to use our money wisely. Yet again, what little money we seem to have. I mean, whenever you hear an initial project asked by anybody on the Member's side, there's never any money, but boy he's got \$60 million that he got covered up really fast by the last Cabinet and although it may not technically be in the Minister's riding, it sure looked like it from our point of view.

So in spite of all these green initiatives and intentions, Norman Wells, as we know, and even Inuvik have lost their natural gas sources and the GNWT is now totally unprepared on how to implement a viable energy program to supplement the diesel.

I've been using many occasions to remind different folks that maybe the GNWT needs to do a full accounting on what the Inuvik gas problem will cost us. Maybe we should become an investor in the spur line just outside of Inuvik, and maybe we could own a new gas utility and be an investor rather than switching our assets over to diesel. There could be an opportunity that actually brings us money.

The argument for \$60 million more investment, like many people ask, what will it do for the cost of living of the average person; a person who sits at the table, looks across and sees their kids and asks themselves how are they going to pay the power bill this month or how are they going to pay the heating bill? I have yet to see that really change anywhere.

The only people that are feeding, and I should stress feeding well, are the contractors who are getting the contracts to these particular projects and policy, because they're eating well at \$60 million.

So power rates, as I said earlier, will continue to rise and it's going to be in the high twenties over the next three years when we add it all up together. I mean, what dynamic have we really changed? Some of our disincentive to some of these great ideas from working is the reality that our population is small and our communities are spread out. That becomes a challenge. If we want to make good commitments on good moral values, then that's really what we should be saying, is we're doing this, it doesn't matter what it costs, but it seems like the right thing to do and that's why we're doing it. I mean, let's say that. But to fool the average person by saying don't worry, all these things have a return on the bottom line, I think we're misleading the

constituents out there because, really, a lot of them just don't seem to have that type of return.

Another \$60 million, in my view, unprepared; it's just a blank cheque. I'm all for doing something right, but again the payback on any of these projects is skeptical on the best day, and I'm really concerned about that. Again, I'm about spreading the money around when it makes sense, and by all means we have to make sure that we get projects out there into our communities and to our regions that help people lower their costs.

Mr. Speaker, I don't have to lecture you on how expensive power bills are in your communities, and I have to wonder to myself, the only time we ever lower the power costs in those northern communities was by reaching in the power rates. It was a policy shift. You know, that was a piece of paper. How much money did that cost in comparison to spending \$60 million on a new process?

We have experienced many successes, and those small-scale successes such as the wood pellet boilers as I had pointed out do make sense. Maybe we should be focusing in on what we do well, and let's continue doing what we do well until we actually can figure out how we can do something else well.

I know this summer they launched a solar panel in Fort Simpson, and I applaud the thinking of this style of initiatives but, again, back to how much do these things cost and is there a real payback,

There is wide public support for alternative energies and I welcome that support on any type of project, but people always ask themselves is there a return on their particular tax dollar and that tends to be the issue. Investing more money in this particular case may be wrongly put. I mean, my colleague just keeps calling it a modest \$5 million. It's almost like it's falling out of his pocket. He's got so much money he can call it modest. From my point of view, \$5 million is a lot of money.

If we want to invest money wisely, I'd say let's put it into early childhood education. That's where we'll have a real impact on our future and on the environment, by being able to fully fund schools properly. Early childhood education, to me that is the energy of the future. That is the resource we should be stoking continually.

Local measures such as community gardens, I welcome and I certainly support those types of investments. I welcome further investment in recycling programs, and I've brought up even things like tire shredding and e-waste returns, different energy type of initiatives and sometimes recycling initiatives that we can get some payback from. But we cannot afford to risk \$60 million of the taxpayers' money without some type of measured result. People fear about what's happening for the

future as far as power rates. It shows how irresponsible can we be with this money.

So, in closing, I want to say I can't support the reinstatement of this fund without some clear strategies as to how we can actually make real change that affects the bottom line. I'm not against energy initiatives, and that shouldn't be mixed here and misunderstood. It's about energy initiatives that don't have a return on investment that affect the bottom line of the everyday taxpayer.

We often hear about how we try to do things for the cost of living and yet again the results bucket seems to be empty. I look, it's hollow. There are no results there. Again, as I said earlier of course, is the fact that the only real change we've had on bottom line cost of living is the rejigging of power rates. It's just shifted the burden around on people as opposed to really solving the bigger problems.

So if we have initiatives that make sense, I'll be there and I'll be there in spades tramping their value. But until then, I don't want a blank strategy, a blank cheque going out with no idea. Like I said earlier, the only people winning and feeding well are the contractors. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to know where to start after my colleague's comments, but I am totally in support of this motion.

I fail to understand how voting against money to look at different energy sources is not going to impact my bottom line and my power rates, and everybody else's bottom line in their power rates.

I have to say I was quite dismayed when I looked at this year's budget and realized that we were going to be reducing our input into research on energy and energy projects, that we have pretty much slashed it almost to the bone. I felt that in the last Assembly our initiative to put \$60 million over four years into energy projects and research and developing new projects, we were just starting to get somewhere, and I thought that we were making progress and we were finding alternate energy sources.

The Minister of Finance has a number of times stated in the budget that choices are being made. The government is making choices, we are making choices, he says, and absolutely we are making choices. One of the choices that this government has made is to subsidize our power rates to the tune of some \$34 million. I fail to understand how that can be construed as a positive step forward. All we're doing is taking money and putting it onto something which is going to carry on ad infinitum and forever. Our power rates absolutely are going to increase if we keep doing the same thing over and over and over and we don't look to find a different way of producing our power. We are going

to end up spending more and more money. It's like banging our head against the wall and I really don't want to do that. My father used to say quit banging your head against the wall, and he would say it feels really good when you stop. So I think probably we should stop banging our head against the wall and we should look to try and find different ways of producing our energy.

I think that this motion, albeit doesn't have specifics in it and I wouldn't want it to have specifics because I think there needs to be an opportunity for the government to identify how the money is going to be used on which projects and there's a number of projects from the previous Assembly that were not finished, that were started and could be carried on with. There's a number of other projects which are certainly waiting to be done. Fifteen million dollars in any one year needs to be put into the budget so the government can look at it and say this is where we need to go.

We have to start fixing the problem at the bottom. We have to start looking at how we produce our energy, how we heat our homes, what kind of power we have, and where it's sourced, and we have to fix it at that level. That, in the long run, is the only way that we're going to bring our costs down.

The cost of living has been referenced a number of times. It's going to be referenced a lot. Power is a huge part of our cost of living and it's one that, you know, constantly goes up. We're looking at a 25 percent increase or something in our cost of power over the next three years. I'm not looking forward to that, but if we don't try to solve the problem at its source, it's going to be another 25 percent in another 10 years or so.

So I really feel that this is a forward thinking motion. I think the couple of things in the whereas, government revenues have increased in this budget year. We are looking at a budget increase of 9.5 percent in revenues. So the government is choosing to use that increase in revenues in different ways. I feel that this is one way that we should be using it as opposed to be putting it into the subsidy.

So I am in support of the motion, Mr. Speaker, and I would encourage my colleagues to vote in support of this motion as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I got up early this morning, picked up my pen and paper and had my good cup of coffee and I started writing down my notes on what I wanted to say about this motion. The first thing I did was get a list of the energy priorities investment for 2010. The last government committed \$60 million to the projects.

Mr. Hawkins has made several references to this priority list.

I looked at it and I put it on the floor, and said this is where the regions are getting the projects. This is where we committed \$60 million, and that money just came out of the air. This is where we're going to put the projects.

Mr. Speaker, the high cost of living is in the northern part of the Northwest Territories, up in Ulukhaktok, Sachs, Paulatuk, Tuk, Tsiigehtchic, Aklavik, McPherson in the Sahtu. It becomes a little bit cheaper as you go down south. I looked at this and said, okay, where did the government spend the \$60 million. The majority of the funding was spent just south, Wrigley and south. We had a few projects up in Tuk for wind power. We had Norman Wells, and looking at the natural gas conversion, if there ever is going to be a pipeline going to be built, that's what they will be looking at. We have solar panel heating in our swimming pools in Tulita and Norman Wells. Deline has looked at the Bear River hydro for the last 16 years. Even in their plan on energy with the government, it talks about energy for the future. It talks about Deline looking at being in the construction mode. Hopefully in 2014 could see the first hydro power from the development on the Bear River being utilized for the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline for compressor stations or other future industrial developments. In 2020-25, building the corridor established by the Bear River developing power from the Mackenzie River could be explored for southern markets.

So we did talk about this. It is in the plan. There is a plan, but we have to update it, of course. I don't know where the Mackenzie Gas Project is now today. So we need to update it. There is a transmission gridline going up the Mackenzie Valley beyond Fort Simpson, past Wrigley, Tulita to Norman Wells and they've got some other projects going up further there.

I see this as an opportunity if we ever, ever have a chance to get another gift like the \$60 million, I certainly hope that the projects go beyond Fort Simpson. We certainly need the money in the Bear River. They've been waiting for almost 17 years to get a hydro project going there.

I encourage people, the Northwest Territories, to look at this and see for yourself and come to your own conclusions as to where the projects and the money went. It had its reasons. I say this motion here, if we ever have an option again, look at the projects and see where they can be invested to help our people. Look at Norman Wells. It's a crying shame that this government here cannot say to Norman Wells we will help you. They desperately need our help. It's going to cost residents in my riding and Norman Wells to covert, because Imperial decides they are going to shut their power,

natural gas, off. These are real people, Mr. Speaker. Real people from the Sahtu.

Inuvik also has the same situation. This government should have had a few bucks in its back pocket to say we're going to help you. You know? They've got projects going other places that we could have used. The Bear River hydro transmission line could have been built, could have gone up to Norman Wells and they could have had power cheap. They would have had energy in Tulita and Norman Wells. It's about a \$10 million hydro initiative. We could have put the power line in. We spent \$13 million where? On Taltson? For what? We don't even have a power purchase from the mining companies.

So we need to look at those things that make sense to our people. We need to think of some of the realities here. I think that if we ever get the chance... There's a saying, if we ever get to do it again, what would I do. I'm hoping that... We'll, I'm hoping I'm in Cabinet so I can make some decisions.

---Laughter

Real decisions to see where these types of energy initiatives can go. I know, Mr. Speaker, my friends across will have a lot of fun with that.

I want to say, in reality these types of projects that Mr. Bromley has put through this motion make sense. We need to serve our people. We have also done a lot of good things in the communities. I'm glad that we subsidized the power rates in our communities. That's what we need to do. Sometimes we need to bite the bullet and say this is what we're going to do. I'm sure glad that people recognize that it's helping our people with the cost of living. It's ridiculous to pay \$2.46 a kilowatt in Colville Lake and they're sitting on a natural gas field. They could do a lot if we had the energy and the money to produce that natural gas field for power in Norman Wells or their own community.

The energy initiative that has gone out to the different communities like Liard, geothermal, Yellowknife geothermal, the hydro at Bluefish, the wood pellets, Fort Simpson with the district heating, Fort McPherson district heating, all of these are good projects, but it's a real crying shame that there's not too much happening in the Sahtu except studies and studies and studies. Oh yeah, we have two solar panels for our swimming pool. Swimming pools are what? June, July, August and then that's it. We need to put some real money into some of these community projects. The Bear River needs to go. We have to have the Bear going here. It will help us a lot. Just like we have Lutselk'e and Whati. We need that also.

I want to say that I thank Mr. Bromley for bringing this motion up to give us some discussion, some air time, and let the people know what we think about

the energies in the Northwest Territories, where the priorities are, and what some of our passion is for our community to bring the cost of living down and to know this territory can do a lot of good. It could bring the power down. We could bring the rates down. Gear that money right towards where it is.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I speak in favour of the motion. Why? I think this motion is visionary and provides leadership. At the same time I think it creates options for what the public expects at this time. At this time in the North we've seen very dramatic rises in the cost of living, of course. As the economy improves, so does the cost of goods. Particularly energy costs. I think the public would expect this government would try to create some options and alternatives to the mainstream energy sources that we have at this point. In speaking to this motion I believe it's visionary and provides leadership and that's what this government is all about.

I have a vision at some point in the future that I'll drive into my home community and I'll see log homes that are built locally. At the same time they'll have alternative energy sources such as wood pellets to heat the house. They have solar energy to provide lights for the house. We'd be looking at some biodegradable initiatives to ensure that we're not leaving large imprints on the environment. I think this motion speaks to that. I speak strongly in favour of this.

Currently in our communities we have very nice, scenic communities along the bank. We have very nice scenery in the mountains. What contrasts with that is while we enjoy the aesthetics of nature and ensuring that our community complements nature, we have these loud, droning, diesel generators in our communities. That's a really stark contrast. When I speak to kids about the environment, sometimes it doesn't make sense for us to enjoy the beauty of the North in our small communities and be very environmentally in tune with nature, but then what contrasts is that we have these fossil fuels that contribute to greenhouse gas emissions. Of course they contribute to global warming. In that sense I speak in favour of this motion and will be voting for this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. To the motion. Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues have made a good point on both sides of this argument. My thoughts are similar to theirs. The high energy costs in the Northwest Territories are going up. Some of the projects that have been invested in have not worked. We have wasted some dollars on some of these projects. My other concern is that I'm not really willing to give up either.

Right now there must be some potentials out there. I know from discussions with some of my colleagues, that biomass is one of the highest returns dollar for dollar. Your return on your cost of living would go down quite a bit. I'm going to support this. I'd like to see that's one area that we invest our money into.

The other thing, talking about rate of return on our investments, we can't put in the numbers of the carbon footprint that we're trying to reduce, the future generations of the North. I think we need to invest some dollars into this energy, the green energy. They may not all be successful but we need to find some things that do work for us, help the residents currently, help the residents of the future, and help the future generations.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. While I can admit there is a real need for increase in support for renewable energy in our great, vast Northwest Territories, just the way the motion is written there I cannot be in support of full reinstatement of \$15 million annually, given we're deliberating the budget and we know the reality of this coming fiscal year and the future. Especially when I have real capital needs for my people in my small and remote communities.

I spoke often right from the get-go of my two favourite words: Highway No. 7 – zero capital dollars there; I need schools in Trout Lake and Nahanni Butte; housing initiatives have to be addressed. I do know that every time we put an initiative like this and ask for \$15 million annually, it takes away from the consideration of capital needs in my small and remote communities because we have to compete for those same dollars.

In that sense I cannot support this motion. I do know that we did spend \$60 million and I do acknowledge that my riding and communities did benefit from the initiatives in exploring solar in-stream electricity, geothermal exploration and, indeed, biomass initiatives. I still think that with the \$5 million we have available we can achieve this within our budget. I try not to build up our Cabinet too much, but there is a willingness, I believe, that they can work with our committee to discuss the needs identified in Mr. Bromley's motion. I think there is a willingness and I look forward to deliberating with Cabinet as we work towards solutions of indeed increasing support for our renewable energy resources.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a couple situations here in the Northwest Territories. We have the Inuvik situation and we have the Norman Wells situation coming up. The general

rate applications, we're just increasing the cost of living for our residents. As stated, the more northern you get and the more isolated in the communities you get, the higher the cost is going to be. The government continues to subsidize the communities and some of the rates that they have to pay when we can actually be investing in some cost savings. I'm in support of this motion and as we move forward we have to look at how we have to help the people of the Northwest Territories and the businesses. Sometimes when you look at our small communities, the small businesses that have to pay these power costs, we have to find ways where we can continue for our small businesses to succeed and continue to contribute to our economies.

There were comments here and anytime that I hear Members talking about not supporting this issue and putting capital over livelihood – there was a comment there where we put capital over people's livelihood – that's not what we should be doing.

I thank Mr. Bromley and Mr. Blake for bringing this motion to the House and it's one way that we start investing with this government with the funding to go into these cost savings for our people. It's all about the people of the Northwest Territories.

I would invite Yellowknife Members to go into the communities to see. When I made a Member's statement the other day, I said it has to be the communities that are the backbone of this government and not just the capital. One of my colleagues made reference to the high cost of living in Tuktoyaktuk. Go to Ulukhaktok and Paulatuk and see how those people can make it paycheque to paycheque. It's true.

I was disappointed in hearing some of our Members not supporting such an initiative that should be common sense. I'm in support of this motion.

Another thing I was a little disappointed with was that the money was taken out of the budgets for energy programs when we're looking through the business plans. I was also a little disappointed to see that this government allocated \$100,000 to Inuvik residents with the situation that they're in when it's a bigger issue than just money put in there. Hopefully we can find solutions to that.

I would rather this government continue to pay all this money into this and find ways we can save costs and protect our people of the Northwest Territories, especially the people in the small communities. Like I said, I'm in support of this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. To the motion. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, am in support of this motion. I believe that this is a long-term investment for the Northwest Territories. It seems we have become dependent on non-

renewable resources. It's quite clear. We need to begin our research into renewable resources and whether it's producing our own wood pellets here in the Northwest Territories. We also need to fully support those communities that are stepping forward to champion these projects. For example, as Mr. Yakeleya stated, we have turbine energy in the Bear River. We also have the community of Tuktoyaktuk that is looking into wind energy. We also have solar energy in, I believe, Fort Simpson and Whati. These are first steps and we have to think long term. We cannot become dependent on non-renewable resources because they won't last forever. We need to take advantage of the resources that we have here in the Northwest Territories that are rich. For example, I think we're the only ones, next to Nunavut, who have 24-hour daylight. We need to take full advantage of these resources.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. To the motion. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to thank Mr. Bromley for bringing it forward. There's no doubt his passion to energy and renewable resources is very evident in the House. We've heard him speak many times. And to the seconder of the motion Mr. Blake.

When one looks at this motion, one sees a very broad-brush approach to energy initiatives and looking at solutions thereof. It's very difficult sometimes to provide something for everyone when you look at a motion of that magnitude, so I would like to break that motion up into some components before I make my decision here known.

Really, at the end of the day, no one wants to take away from the alternative energy sources that we have out in the North. A lot of them have done very well in small communities, and small circumstances, and created employment, and has had some significance in lowering some of the energy costs. As I mentioned in the House not that many days ago, I mentioned that some of these initiatives are sometimes nothing more than throwing rice at a freight train, especially when we're talking about the urban problems in the Northwest Territories. Again there were comments that came back from the other side of the House, but really in the essence that was very true. The urban centres cannot afford to go into large-scale alternative energies because the economies of scale do not make sense. We need to look at something bigger. We need something of a higher dividend. That is where this motion does pay tribute to that with respect to transmission lines. I still stand firm on that. That is truly the panacea of our energy problems for the future and our dependency on fossil fuels.

With that in mind, I will be voting in favour of the motion under the pretense that with that the Taltson

expansion transmission lines be the forefront and the hydro initiative become very, very important to this government. I will be voting in favour of this motion with a DOT road sign that says "Proceed with Extreme Caution."

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. To the motion. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Members, as well, for their input into this motion. In this House as legislators we have a number of tasks before us. We make laws and set up programs and policies, and we administer budgets for the good of all the people. We have to take not only the short view of what's happening around us but we have to plan, as the Member for Mackenzie Delta said, for the future.

When we started this Assembly we had a plan. We were elected into a reality, a reality where we were coming out of a very significant recession where we spent \$1.1 billion in capital for over three years. At the same time, part of that was \$60 million over four years, knowing as we did this that we were engaged in a process that was not sustainable in the long term, that we would deplete our cash reserves because we needed to step into the breach as the private sector struggled through the downturn.

When we came into the 17th Assembly, we started a plan that would see us in year one and two maintaining fiscal discipline so that in year three and four we would be able to add more money into infrastructure. We came into this Assembly with our capital budget for government diminished to \$75 million. Last year Transportation's budget during the \$1.1 billion time was over \$150 million itself.

In order to get to enhance the \$75 million, we agreed that we would do a number of things: that we would put \$1.4 billion to programs and services; that we would protect the programs and services to the people; that we would negotiate good collective agreements that would give us labour peace; and that we would look for efficiencies to add and replenish our cash reserves, because we are obligated under policy that we have – fiscal responsibility policy – to fund half of our capital by savings generated from operations. We've started that program and that process. We are currently \$656 million in debt. Our borrowing limit is \$800 million. We can easily eat up that \$144 million on very many good projects, processes, programs and investments.

If we do and we do it right now and we do not manage our way through this and stick to a long-term plan, we are going to have very little flexibility to do anything going forward that would allow us to begin to address some of the other broad issues we have.

The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake commented about we have to focus on programs. We do, and we're putting \$1.4 billion in there. We know we have a health centre and a long-term care facility that's supposed to go into Norman Wells. We know Stanton is supposed to be fixed, \$200 million-plus. We have \$144 million borrowing room between now and the \$800 million.

We all agree that we have to make this shift, that we are in transition on the type of energy we use, minimizing our reliance on fossil fuels, and we invested \$60 million, but we also have to manage within the times that we are in, the fiscal times that we are in.

Yes, I would love to be able to stand up and put more money into a number of things, into all sorts of energy projects, but we do not have the fiscal flexibility. I would love to be able to tell the Minister of Health that yes, there is money for midwifery, that we can build more treatment centres, that we can do all this and still address our projected \$3 billion capital infrastructure deficit, the passionate Member for Nahendeh with Highway No. 7.

We are in the business of making choices and we are continuing a lot of the work that we started. Not to the level that we would like, but we are continuing. Public Works and Services and the territorial government are going to do all their retrofits. They're moving on that. It's generating savings. They've set up a type of revolving fund to help pay for that. We're continuing to invest in solar. We're continuing to invest in biomass. We're working with a private individual that wants to set up a pellet plant in the Northwest Territories, which is the second step of our plan with biomass – build the market, build the industry. We're on that track. We want to invest in wind. We want to continue to invest in geothermal, and we're doing it to the level that we are able.

We will come back with an energy plan. We'll come back with an energy plan that will tell you that yes, if we are serious about our Economic Development Strategy and our Mineral Strategy in the North and South Slave. For us to do that project, expand the Taltson by 50-some megawatts and run a transmission line to hook the North and South Slave together, the Taltson and Snare grid, three-quarters of a billion dollars. We know that, because that was the approximate cost of the project to take the transmission line all the way to the mines. But it's a critical piece that needs to get done, so we have to figure out how we're going to do that.

We're going to come forward with the Solar Strategy that's going to say we would like to make a 10 percent penetration into every thermal community to cut their costs on diesel. We've done it in Simpson. We know it works. The technology is there. We're not breaking trail. There's going to be a payback there. We're going to diminish our

demand on diesel by 10 percent. We have to make that case.

We know we have to sort out Inuvik. Inuvik, if we just go straight gas right now, then we'd be writing a cheque for \$50 million to \$80 million. Where in all these main estimates in this document are we going to find that kind of money?

Our decision here is to make a number of choices. In this case, in energy, we're making investments. We're going to continue to make investments. We're going to come back with the plan that will allow us, if we maintain fiscal discipline and if we agree we need partners on the big projects, to go forward in year three and four. If we rush to spend our way through the borrowing limit that we do have, I am telling you right now that we will have no flexibility left for the last couple years of this government. We have to make choices and we have to stay on target. We can do this, but we can't do it all in the first budget. I'm asking here for people to consider that and remember that.

We started this process on that understanding, and we are fully and deeply committed to trying to save the money we need to put a few dollars extra into infrastructure. When you balance programs and services, money versus capital, there's a huge difference: \$1.4 billion on programs and services. We're having a \$75 million capital budget for 42,000 people to try to erode and eat away at a projected \$3 billion deficit. We have to be able to say collectively there are many things we want to do. We are going to do just about all of them, but how fast can we do them?

I'm asking today, in the enthusiasm of the moment of everybody standing up to say let's spend that money, let's take it away from the \$144 million. Let's knock that \$144 million down for this motion, and are there others coming? I have no idea. Let's knock that \$144 million down to \$130 million, \$120 million, \$100 million, and in year one, by the end of two weeks, where will we be? We will be hamstrung. Then the choice left to us for any flexibility is going to be what we're working so hard to avoid, which is program cuts and layoffs.

As we look across the land, let's pick a country. Let's pick Spain today, teetering on the brink of insolvency. Look at the provinces around us. We've managed our way through this to avoid those types of circumstances by being careful, by collectively managing our way through difficult circumstances and recognizing that we have to make choices.

Today this motion is well intentioned and it speaks to what we all want to do. We just have to pace it properly, sequence it properly, lay it out properly so we can deal with this issue. At the same time, the myriad of other issues that are going to come before us in a way that is going to allow us as the 17th Assembly to put our fiscal house in order, address a lot of issues, so that when we hand off

the torch to the 18th Assembly, we're going to hand off the government in better shape, hopefully, than when we found it.

This is a recommendation to Cabinet, so we will be abstaining, but rest assured, we're listening carefully. We will come back in about five months with a broader plan on energy, but today I just ask everybody to just keep the context of what got us here, how we started our journey and the decisions that we have to make along the way so that we don't get caught up in the excitement of the moment and forget those broad pieces, because they are critical. We share the same goals; we just have to figure out collectively how we get there in a sustainable way. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. To the motion. Final comments, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thanks to all who offered their comments and perspectives here.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly did come out with some understanding and Cabinet developed a direction on that basis. Personally, I know many of my colleagues think that Cabinet has done a very good job in bringing many aspects of this budget forward, but they are not infallible and Members on this side of the House are moved to influence about half a percent of the budget. If some of this is an increase, so be it, but I assure the Minister and all that we're not proposing this lightly and we do regard this as a perspective that will give us returns and that we cannot afford to not do.

We hear about how the bridge will be paying down its debt this fall and so we can be writing things off the books there. We've negotiated a higher debt limit. Obviously, these things will all help and provide some opportunity. Basically we are convinced that our recommendations are fiscally responsible and, indeed, more so than burying our heads in the sand on this issue and opportunity this fiscal year.

We want a renewed plan. Yes, we're looking forward to that and we're looking forward to working with the Minister in developing that, but we also have plans in place that need dollars now. We have many plans, a Biomass Plan and so on. The Minister mentioned several of them and we cannot abandon these.

This is not a surprise. We have said this consistently and recently to the Minister, and the Minister was open to responding if we were to come forward with one voice, and we're doing that.

I want to just address some of the comments I've heard as well, comments like this is an environmental initiative that doesn't make sense and so on, there's no return on an investment. Earlier we have discussed the revolving fund, the Capital Asset and Revolving Fund, which is a

government fund established to collect and reinvest savings from renewable energy initiatives, energy efficiency initiatives that this government has done. A tip of the hat to the government for that. Just about, as I said, essentially every project we've undertaken has indeed saved us money as well as provided many other benefits. So the sorts of comments that came out, that there are no benefits here are completely off base, and I think the evidence is clear that these are beneficial projects. Again, it's unaffordable not to address these issues.

On the point that a couple of people have made that we have made mistakes, I think there's no question about that. That's part of doing business and it's our job to bring those to the forefront and I think we've done a good job of that, but we also want to learn from our mistakes and move forward based on that new knowledge.

The Taltson project itself, I agree, we were off base on the general direction we were taking, but we really did do a lot of productive work and we need to make use of that work and put that into operation, and that's exactly what this motion is meant to do, is provide the resources for that.

This motion is indeed about the cost of living. It can be portrayed as an environmental initiative and so on and there are certain environmental benefits that accrue from that, but there are many others: the cost of living, economic stimulation and so on. I believe the public, as some people have mentioned, some of my colleagues have mentioned, there's a public expectation of leadership here and this motion is meant to respond to that expectation.

What some of my colleagues see as challenges, many of us see as opportunities and we want to move on those opportunities. The strategies for projects developed have been laid out, the Biomass Strategy, the Hydro Strategy, the Energy Plan, which is being renewed this year, Energy for the Future and so on. There are a lot of documents in place to allow this to go forward.

Power rates, as has been mentioned, will continue to soar if we maintain our current course. The projects to be completed are producing increasing dilemmas, and examples here in communities are certainly the Norman Wells and the Inuvik situation. We want to start addressing those in really sustainable ways on a bottom line basis.

A couple of my colleagues, at least, have mentioned in the North expenses are much higher. Let's focus our initial efforts on where those costs are highest. Let's put the focus on those communities. We do have a big income disparity, a big disparity in economic development in our communities. Let's focus first on those communities that are at the low end of that range and that need the economic stimulation. I fully agree with those points and I thank my colleagues for raising them.

So we want new resources put into this, but we want to have input based on the lessons learned from the 16th Assembly towards more effective delivery of initiatives. It's not so much the huge projects that I think we need as a methodical, knowledgeable and thoughtful building on the successes that we've had to date, and there are many.

I'd like to refer to Mr. Nadli's vision on a renewable energy future. It's something to shoot for. Let's get a start on that.

Mr. Speaker, I'll wrap it up on that and just request a recorded vote. Again, I thank my colleagues for speaking on this and my seconder, Mr. Blake, for his help. Mahsi.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The Member is seeking a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Bromley, Mr. Bouchard, Mr. Blake, Mr. Dolynny, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Moses.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please stand.

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. SPEAKER: All those abstaining, please stand.

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod - Yellowknife South, Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Ramsay, Mr. McLeod - Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MR. SPEAKER: Results of the recorded vote: yes, seven; no, two; seven abstentions.

---Carried

Mr. Yakeleya.

MOTION 4-17(3): EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE TO JUNE 4, 2012, CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on May 31, 2012, it shall be adjourned until Monday June 4, 2012;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to June 4, 2012, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at a time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Item 19, first reading of bills. Item 20, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 2: MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT, 2012

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 2, Miscellaneous Statute Amendment Act, 2012, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill corrects inconsistencies and errors in statutes of the Northwest Territories. The bill deals with other matters of a minor, noncontroversial and uncomplicated nature in the statutes and repeals provisions that cease to have effect. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. To the principal of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 2, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2012, has had second reading and is referred to a committee.

---Carried

Item 21, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 2-17(3), Commissioner's Opening Address: Creating the Conditions for Success; Tabled Document 3-17(3), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2012-2013; and Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, with Ms. Bisaro in the chair. By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 2-17(3), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider business that we have before the House. Thank you.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Committee, we'll come to order. We have three items for consideration. Tabled Document 2-17(3), Commissioner's Opening Address: Creating the Conditions for Success; Tabled Document 3-17(3), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2012-2013; and Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial

Assistance Act. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Committee wishes to resume consideration of Tabled Document 3-17(3), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2012-2013, to continue on with Transportation, Environment and Natural Resources and, time permitting, Industry, Tourism and Investment.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): We will resume after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Welcome back, committee. We are dealing with the Department of Transportation, page 11-21. Minister Ramsay, do you have witnesses you wish to bring into the House?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Yes, I do, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Committee, do we agree to bring the witnesses into the House?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you escort the witnesses into the Chamber, please?

Minister Ramsay, could you introduce your witnesses for the record, please?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. To my right I have Mr. Russell Neudorf, deputy minister of Department of Transportation. To my left, Mr. Daniel Auger, assistant deputy minister of Department of Transportation.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. We are on page 11-21, Transportation, activity summary, highways, operations expenditure summary, \$67.844 million. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Welcome back to the delegation, Mr. Ramsay. On this page the term "other" does stand out and there is a somewhat large increase in main estimates from 2011-2012. Can the Minister give this House an indication why the increase and maybe indicate what is the itemized list of the so-called "other"?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Under "other" the majority of that would be for the Deh Cho Bridge interest expense and chargeback expenses.

MR. DOLYNNY: If I can get the Minister or someone from the department here to clarify exactly what that meant.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Neudorf.

MR. NEUDORF: Thank you, Madam Chair. Underneath this "other" line item we record the expense for the debt that was associated with the Deh Cho Bridge. The amount there of \$8.076 million is the amount of funding that's required to pay the principal and interest on the \$165.4 million bonds that were issued for the Deh Cho Bridge.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Neudorf. I kind of thought we'd gotten rid of "other" but apparently it's resurfaced. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. These bonds, which I know are being held or were assumed by this government as a result of taking over the Deh Cho Bridge Project, would we assume that this expense will be a recurrent entry every year and is there an amortization where that will not occur in the future?

MR. NEUDORF: The bonds were issued to be repaid over a period of 35 years. After that time those repayments would stop.

MR. DOLYNNY: If memory serves me right - and again could I get confirmation here by the department - these bonds are not really subject to interest rates and are more so tied to CPI. As long as CPI stays relatively the same or close to what we see today, could we presume that this amount will remain very stable throughout this 35-year life of this amortization or expense debt?

MR. NEUDORF: These bonds are real return bonds, so there is, as the Member indicated, an inflationary component to them. The repayment schedule was actually sculptured when the debt was initially issued so that the total repayment also increases every year with inflation. So we would expect that this would, the repayment required every year would go up by the amount of inflation.

MR. DOLYNNY: No further questions on that line.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you. Page 11-21, Transportation, activity summary, highways, operations expenditure summary, \$67.844 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 11-22, Transportation, activity summary, highways, grants and contributions, grants, total grants, \$96,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 11-23, Transportation, activity summary, information item, highways, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 11-25, Transportation, activity summary, marine, operations expenditure summary, \$8.042 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 11-26, Transportation, activity summary, information item, marine, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 11-29, Transportation, activity summary, Community Access Program, operations expenditure summary, \$1.008 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 11-30, Transportation, activity summary, Community Access Program, grants and contributions, contributions, total contributions, \$980,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 11-33, Transportation, activity summary, road licensing and safety, operations expenditure summary, \$4.616 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 11-34, Transportation, activity summary, information item, road licensing and safety, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 11-36 and page 11-37, Transportation, information summary, work performed on behalf of others. Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question has to deal with the whole baggage system at the Yellowknife Airport. It appears that this is a recurrent entry that we see year after year with respect to hours charged back due to jamming. When I look at that number, which is a recurrent number, it's a fairly large number. I'm wondering if there was any thought about maybe replacing this infrastructure to alleviate some of the extra costs we're seeing in manpower and productivity.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolyunny. Mr. Neudorf.

MR. NEUDORF: Thank you, Madam Chair. The item here is an agreement that we have with the airlines who pay for the operation maintenance of the whole baggage system there. It's really for their benefit to help move luggage around. This we would expect to be a recurrent item every year.

MR. DOLYNNY: I do appreciate Mr. Neudorf's response. The question is if it is about faulty equipment, and if so, is this a recurrent issue that we see in similar sized airports with similar sized equipment?

I have a hard time believing that other airports would be incurring charges of this nature on a repeated process. I'm assuming that at one point in time they would fix the problem and not have to have these type of chargebacks. Again the question being: Is this a very similar occurrence we're seeing

in other airports of similar size, similar magnitude, similar situations, or is this just a unique situation that we're seeing in Yellowknife?

MR. NEUDORF: We would expect to see similar types of arrangements in other airports. It's the cost required to operate the system. It's there on behalf of the airlines so it's logical that they would pay for it. It is to have a person around that can take care of issues, challenges, when they come up. It's also for the power to operate the system and those other miscellaneous expenses that would be required to operate the system.

MR. DOLYNNY: Again, with all due respect, we would expect but we don't know is pretty much the answer that I'm getting here. I would be looking for some type of commitment here from the department and the Minister to maybe do a little research in this area to see if... Again, it's not a large line entry in the budget as a whole. It's just more of an irritant to see that charge year after year. From a productivity standpoint it just seems a little bit uncanny. Can we get a commitment from the department here to research this for the Members here and find out maybe if it's time to replace equipment to save us on some productivity costs?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Madam Chair. It isn't costing the Department of Transportation anything. That's work performed on behalf of others. That is charged back to the air carriers. Perhaps the definition may have been a little bit confusing and we can work to get a better definition on what exactly that whole baggage system entails. It is work that's done and paid for from air carriers using that service.

MR. DOLYNNY: I thank the Minister for saying that. Even if it's charged back, I can't speak on behalf of the airlines, but if the airlines are out there listening, you may want to research this a little bit more as well.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. I'll take that as a comment. Any further questions on pages 11-36 and 11-37?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Committee, we will return to page 11-7, Transportation, department summary, operations expenditure summary, \$120.415 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Does committee agree that we are concluded the Department of Transportation?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Okay. We are concluded Transportation. We will move on...Yes. Thank you. Thank you to the witnesses for your attendance here. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would please escort the witnesses out of the Chamber.

We had agreed that we would move on to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Mr. Miltenberger, do you have opening remarks?

MR. MILTENBERGER: Yes, Madam Chair, I do. I am pleased to speak to the 2012-2013 Main Estimates for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The plan proposes total operational expenses of \$65.7 million for the upcoming year. This represents a 2.6 percent or \$1.8 million reduction from last year's budget.

As Members are aware, the mandate for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources is to promote and support the sustainable use and development of natural resources and to protect, conserve and enhance the NWT environment for the social and economic benefit of all NWT residents.

A range of activities are proposed to uphold this mandate and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few key investments planned for the upcoming fiscal year. In his speech from the throne, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston highlighted Canada's priority to renew and deepen its relationship with Canada's Aboriginal peoples and underlined Canada's commitment to promoting access to clean water and the deployment of clean energy technology in Aboriginal and northern communities. The GNWT is pleased to mirror that commitment.

We are investing \$905,000 in this budget to support negotiations for transboundary water agreements to establish common principles for the cooperative management of the aquatic ecosystem of the Mackenzie River Basin. These agreements will ensure the quality and quantity of water entering the NWT from neighbouring jurisdictions remains substantially unaltered and will protect the ecological integrity of the Mackenzie River Basin, allowing Northerners to continue to choose a traditional way of life. Together with Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, we continue to make progress on negotiations.

The department continues to work with a variety of water partners on community-based water monitoring initiatives identified in the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy and Action Plan. This fulfills our priority to build a strong and sustainable future for our territory by strengthening our relationships with Aboriginal and other northern communities.

Climate change remains a serious concern for NWT residents and the GNWT, and we continue to take action in this area. The department continues to

implement the NWT Greenhouse Gas Strategy which identifies actions the GNWT, industry and communities can take over the next five years to stabilize territorial emissions at or below 2005 levels. It also highlights the importance of identifying measures that can be taken to limit increases and ultimately reduce emissions from non-renewable resource development activity.

The Arctic Energy Alliance works in partnership with the department to reduce the costs and environmental impacts of energy in the NWT. In 2012-2013 they will receive up to \$1.8 million in contribution funding for ongoing energy planning, energy efficiency and energy conservation programs.

With that \$1.8 million, the budget adds \$200,000 towards regional energy advisors to visit communities to conduct home energy audits, training and workshops to ensure communities receive equitable access to Arctic Energy Alliance programming. In addition, a combined total of \$650,000 in funding will allow the Alliance to continue to offer the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program, the Commercial Energy Conservation and Efficiency Program and provide focused assistance to residents of Inuvik over the next year.

The department is preparing a Solar Energy Strategy to be tabled this fall that coordinates our efforts to use this source of renewable energy. Building on the success of the Biomass Energy Strategy since 2010, the department is now evaluating the actions and will be tabling a revised version later in the fall.

The department continues to take action to reduce waste. The department is currently conducting an e-waste survey to determine the types and quantities of electronic items in NWT households and where residents purchase such items. The information from the e-waste survey, along with the inventory and feasibility study that is currently underway will form the basis for an e-waste management framework to be developed this fall.

The department's proposed new Wildlife Act will help better protect, conserve and manage wildlife in the Northwest Territories. In 2012-2013, \$500,000 will go towards public awareness and consultation on this new piece of legislation to ensure Aboriginal groups, the general public and various stakeholder groups have an opportunity to provide input into a new bill. A key aspect of this consultation is a Stakeholders Wildlife Act Advisory Group, which is already working to identify improvements to the proposed legislation. These funds will also provide officer training, development of new forms, permits and hunter education programs that will be needed to implement the new act.

The NWT Species at Risk Stewardship Program is now in its third year. The program provides funding for projects that support the long-term protection

and recovery of species that are at risk or of concern in the NWT. The Species at Risk Committee is preparing status reports for the first four species to be assessed in 2012: the polar bear, Peary caribou, boreal woodland caribou and Hairy Braya.

Traditional knowledge continues to play an important role in ENR's mandate. During the coming year, \$255,000 will be spent on the Traditional Knowledge Implementation Plan. This will help build a strong and sustainable future through our strengthened relationships with Aboriginal governments and further our efforts in incorporating traditional knowledge into our decision-making.

As Members are aware, a large part of the department's budget is spent on the prevention, detection, monitoring and suppression of wildfires in the Northwest Territories. During 2012-2013 the department has allocated an additional \$510,000 towards forest fire management crews. Advanced wildland fire training and firefighter capacity testing will ensure all wildland firefighters are properly trained and able to monitor conditions and take action when necessary.

Caribou management continues to be of great importance to the department. The department is investing \$1 million to implement the 2011-2015 Barren Ground Caribou Management Strategy. To ensure the continued sound management and conservation of barren ground caribou, ENR will be conducting population surveys of all the major herds in 2012. These results, along with other caribou studies, will help to inform our long- and short-term management actions in this area. I remain hopeful that the sacrifices made by NWT residents over the past few years will eventually allow us to remove the current restrictions. We must, however, proceed towards that goal with a substantial measure of caution.

Fire and caribou management funding aligns with our priority to work with our partners to ensure responsible stewardship through our land and resource management regime, as well as supporting the traditional economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an overview of the department's 2012-2013 Main Estimates. I look forward to discussing them in detail with you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Do you have witnesses you wish to bring into the House?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you. Does committee agree to bring in the witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, if you would please escort the witnesses to the Chamber.

Minister, if you could please introduce your witnesses.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have with me Mr. Ernie Campbell, deputy minister of Environment and Natural Resources; and Ms. Nancy Magrum, the director of shared services with ENR and ITI, financial services. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you to the Minister. Committee, we are on page 13-7, department summary. We will defer until we have considered detail. We'll move on to page 13-8, information item, infrastructure investment summary. Are there any questions on this page? I did forget general comments. Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Are there any general comments on the department? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would just like to maybe ask some questions or respond a little bit to the opening remarks of the Minister. This department has reduced its budget. I am concerned about that. As the Minister knows, and I see he's referred to it as a 2.6 or \$1.8 million reduction. The actual reduction from dollars spent last year was about a \$9 million reduction or about 12 or 15 percent. I guess my first question to the Minister would be: Were those additional costs, the ephemeral costs that we don't expect and what were they?

The Minister is continuing to develop the water programs and at increasing cost. I think this is a state-of-the-art water program in all the jurisdictions across Canada, and the Minister deserves kudos for this work. My one concern is that it seems to be at the cost of things like climate change. I'm sure the Minister knows that there's probably no single bigger threat to our water qualities and quantities and ecological services, all the values that water has, than climate change itself, and given the science, we are not doing our part.

I've heard the Minister claim that it's not going to happen at the federal level. Climate change, mitigation needs to be done at the subnational level, and so we're not saying we're inactive or inert on this issue, but I am saying that we need to review these priorities.

I'm happy to see the solar energy strategy being devised. It's a long overdue one. The solar costs are declining at a rate of 4 percent per annum, and the technical capabilities are increasing. Along with that, I hope the Minister will take into consideration things like the standby charges and so on that the NWT Power Corporation, under his jurisdiction, has. The policies that they have that, in fact, go

against the development of renewable energy and solar, in particular.

I'm happy to see a new Wildlife Act coming forward. We had expected it in the winter but maybe the Minister is going to bring it forward earlier as per his comments here. My question there would be when it does come forward, what funding has been identified to stakeholders who require some support as interveners or commenters to be able to comprehensively review this massive legal document.

I guess the last one I have, caribou obviously remain a priority of all residents of the Northwest Territories, or most residents. In many cases we're talking about our food, we're talking about some economic values and we're certainly talking about ecological values.

So I appreciate the work the department does on caribou and perhaps I could just get confirmation on what the substantive herds are that the Minister refers to as major herds that will be surveyed in 2012. I'm sure it includes the Bathurst herd. I wonder if it includes the Ahlak or the Beverly and the western herds, Bluenose herds.

We have gone through quite a dry spell. In a significant part of the Northwest Territories there are warnings out this is a bug bear that the department has to face every year. It can be costly and unpredictable. So I'm wondering if the Minister has any crystal ball on what might be happening with, of course, fire season and how he intends to handle that unpredictability in a fiscal sense. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the comments from the Member. In regard to the reduced budget, part of the money that's in the budget from last year that is not there this year yet is about \$6 million that we got through special warrant and through the House to fight fires. So chances are, given the issue of the base budget, and the fact that things are drying out rapidly, and the relative humidity is dropping, and we've already had some fire starting, we will be back requesting further funding to fight fires as they do arise. So the \$9 million, as the Member said, it is actually what we were cut. Six million dollars of that is tied to fire suppression and then there were some energy sunsets in there.

I appreciate his comments on the water work. The two main focuses for those areas are, of course, the transboundary negotiations and setting up the community-based water monitoring systems which are critical to the implementation of the Water Strategy, and the assurance and the knowledge it's going to give us to make the right decisions as it pertains to water, resource development impacts

that are happening in the region and the territory. At the same time, a lot of the work that we are doing right from waste management to biomass, geothermal, solar, as a government with building standards, all those things are geared to try to improve our energy use, minimize our reliance on fossil fuels and mitigate as well as adapt. Once again, we've had this discussion in the House today. Could we do more if there were more resources? Without a doubt, Madam Chair.

The NTPC charges, we are looking at things. Just in my constituency, for example, there was a big debate about these demand charges. There was a big concern about interruptible power versus committed fees for power, especially if we're going to encourage people to use electric, and those are things that we control and we just have to make sure we're going to make the right decisions. But I appreciate the Member's comments and I understand the concern there and I've heard it everywhere I've been, in regard to NTPC.

The Wildlife Act, as I indicated in my comments, we have half a million in the budget to move that piece of legislation forward, both in terms of doing the work, consultation, including funding the SWAAG group, the advisory group, the training and those types of things. I don't have a specific breakdown in terms of how that money has been allocated so far, but that \$500,000 is the global figure that's there to do that.

The caribou herds we're looking at are the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, the Bathurst and the Ahiak. There was work done last year and we're still pulling those numbers together. So when all those numbers are in this fall, we'll be having a gathering around the table to see what the numbers and information tell us, and collectively we'll be looking at the next steps.

In terms of forest fires, I'll ask the deputy minister to give you a bit more of a background. I can tell you it's hot and dry and no rain in sight and things are drying out fast, but I'll ask the deputy, Madam Chair, with your indulgence, to just provide a bit more of an update. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Madam Chair. As we've all seen in the last few days here, it's been quite hot and dry, and the southern half, especially, of the Northwest Territories is in that situation. We are more than likely a week to two weeks ahead of schedule in terms of the fire season. We ended up bringing on some of our crews and our tankers a week before schedule. Today we have all our tankers, aircraft and crews. All our resources are on strength at this time, and this current trend, this high pressure system we're sitting under is forecasted to take us at least into mid-June with above normal temperatures.

We just had a bit of a lightning outbreak yesterday and four fires as a result of that. We're experiencing fairly severe fire behaviour already and very early in the season, the end of May. That's unusual and three of the fires that started last night were south of Behchoko. The community is safe. They had two previous burns before in the previous years. The latest two years ago and the latest update before I came over, there was three fires joined and they're roughly around 800 or 900 hectares. There's one more fire that's close to the community of Gameti. We're assessing it at this time.

Again, we're heading into the prime time. We're earlier than normal fire season, with severe burning conditions. Usually we're good until middle of July, third week of July before things start slowing down, but again, many of our indices are higher than normal for this time of year.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Your time is up, Mr. Bromley, if you wish to go back on the list. I will go to Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair, and welcome to the Minister and delegation from ENR here this evening. I want to first say I strongly commend the Minister and the department for a lot of the background work over the years, especially in transboundary agreements and water. So much so that I've read a recent book called Ethical Water, which places the NWT in the forefront of the actions of this government. So I think it's important to give praise when praise is due and I think that's important.

That said, water is an important component of ENR and it does touch other departments, as well, retrospectively. Drinking water has been obviously a passion of mine since I've been a new Member here of the House. The fact remains that there's still some inconclusives, so to speak, in terms of the quality of the drinking water. Even though I know the quality is really good, we need to quantify that empirically with actual data and we know that there's been challenges to affixing to the guidelines that this territory has to adhere to. That's my question, is that really if there's opportunity that I see within this government, is taking ownership to the guidelines and not passing it to the community governments or to the municipalities for enforcement. There really is no enforcement, Madam Chair. Regulations need to be on the forefront of our thinking moving forward. So if I see opportunity with this department, it's to make sure that we put a bit behind the bite, so to speak, when it comes to water quality, management and drinking water guidelines. So I challenge the Minister to have his team work with the other departments in bringing those drinking water standards to levels which I think could prove that we are in great shape.

On the subject of water again – again there's a bit of an overlap with MACA – a grave concern a lot of people in Yellowknife have is the fact that we're looking at a relocation of our source water from the Yellowknife River to the bay area. Again, as I said, there are overlapping issues with departments, but water is water. Unfortunately, very little opportunity for financing from the GNWT, albeit we have similar financing in other communities. So I think the residents of Yellowknife, residents of Range Lake would be fitting the bill, so to speak, in the long term as a result of territorial government's non-involvement or non-committed involvement in the relocation of source water. Given the fact that this is a practice that we see in other communities where this government is full force using full federal tax money to do that, why Yellowknife is being left off the grid, that's a question to be answered.

On the subject of forest management, my concern – and I think the concern is with a number of people – is obviously the age of our aviation fleet. We've heard various degrees in terms of the viability of this fleet moving forward. I'm referring to the CL-215s. These are the workhorse of our fire forestry management. The cost to replace this fleet is insurmountable, one that has to have some extreme planning put behind. I know the Minister is frugal in making sure we are putting money away for a rainy day, \$74 million in his budget, and I applaud him for doing so, but some of these costs are going to come to haunt us very soon. It would be nice to hear from the Minister or the department what the strategy is for replacement of the CL-215s. We need to hear it now during the early life of this Assembly so we can have plans of action.

Finally, it's refreshing to know that the Wildlife Act is coming back on stream for review. We're hoping, and I know a lot of the Regular Members were hoping, that the consultation process, the collaborative process with the public is one on which we can get those views back on the table. I believe a lot was learned in the last 10 years. A lot was learned specially in the dying days of the 16th Assembly. We applaud you and your team to get the right information out to the people so that we aren't divisive on this subject, where we can live in harmony with tradition and harvesting, and we can make sure that there is a caribou industry and that we protect that industry moving forward, understanding the real impacts.

Madam Chair, I will leave it at that. More, again, good news on the forefront. That said, some opportunities that we do not see in this budget and it would be nice to hear some address to those concerns. Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. I did regret at the outset to suggest we have response from the Minister to opening

comments once they are all done. So if Members are agreed to that, we will carry on with Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. In respect to the budget for this year, we're setting the stage for the next four years. I'd also like to take the time to commend the department in terms of leading the charge, so to speak, in terms of the development of a Water Stewardship Strategy. I think that's a very big plus. I think more than anything I would expect, through the association and support with First Nations, a very unique template in terms of water monitoring, water legislation, ensuring we always have access to fresh water. At the same time, it's standardized so that it is publicly safe to consume and that the public has the confidence that we're looking after the interest of the larger public, their safety and their overall health. I would really like to commend the department on that.

Of course, as we proceed forward, there are some other matters I think the department could maybe focus on. Another point I wanted to make is the Biomass Initiative is a very good initiative that complements communities and regions. It ensures the development of the forest sector. It provides opportunities for local businesses and local expertise, in conjunction with regional and district centres, to provide an alternative to find the cost of energy too much. We're creating an option for them. I think that's a very positive initiative that I hope will flourish as we proceed to doing this term of the 17th Assembly.

There are a couple of things that I'm kind of concerned about. Maybe I'll spend a little bit of time trying to highlight them and then end off with some key things that I think are fairly reflective of comments of the Deh Cho constituency.

One of them is on the Wildlife Act. The Wildlife Act we're going to revisit. This is something that's been ongoing for some time. The greater interest that we should be focused on is we're trying to meet the interests of all groups of the North and ensure we have bountiful wildlife. There is also the maintenance of subsistence culture activities. At the same time, we also work with the sport and recreation people that bring opportunities to big game outfitters that make their livelihood out on the land and bring tourists from all over the world to the North. We need to balance that. Of course, the department is very cognizant of some of the regional circumstances we have, such as regional land claims that have negotiated, with the federal government, certain provisions respecting that governments don't abrogate or derogate their treaty and Aboriginal titles. So I think it's something that will more likely come up as a discussion at some point on the Wildlife Act. But I think we have to be fairly optimistic. I think the department more likely, in the end, will come up with a stronger document that people will all agree to.

The other initiative that I think is fairly strong in the communities that I represent is tourism and just the potential as they look forward to the completion of the bridge. With the decline of sport hunting of caribou in the Barren Lands, we have more people from the North Slave region looking into the Deh Cho for opportunities either to hunt or to create business opportunities to create lodges for sport fishing or sport hunting. Of course, that puts pressure on the local populations for business opportunities. For harvesting it puts more pressure in terms of the sustainability of the natural resources that we have. Of course, with the coming of the bridge, we'll have more access to the south of the Deh Cho and the north of the Deh Cho, and we'll have more likely increased traffic and, at the same time, more marine operations in terms of people jumping in their boats in Hay River or Yellowknife and going down the Mackenzie. So I think people will more likely put constraints on the natural resources. Even, for that matter, sports fishing. For those reasons, I really think at some point the department needs to engage with the community in terms of monitoring efforts to ensure sport fishing is sustainable and that we all keep that in mind.

The last point I wanted to make is it's my belief that this government should have a very integral role and critical role as Canada, as the Canadian government moves forward within two years to take over the chairmanship of the Arctic Council. I think we shouldn't leave it to the feds to look after the interests of the Northwest Territories. This government needs to ensure we create a path of leadership ensuring northern interests are heard at the table, that we have at least a say how the agenda will be determined, and that we have a greater interest because we make the North our home. Through that, I think we need to make alliances with the northern communities that have the same ecology as we do and ensure we partner up with them. Based on that, I think we have some very unique plusses and one of them is this concept of traditional knowledge. I think First Nations have some very unique observations in terms of trying to balance that out with scientific knowledge and ensuring there are levels and efforts to ensure that the environment is sustainable and at the same time the wildlife population are at least monitored and protected. With those thoughts in mind, if we could play a greater role in the Arctic Council through the department and the GNWT and try to at least lay some foundation on how we're going to be involved, I think some discussions of that nature would be very positive.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Next on my list is Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Minister has a very important department that deals with the basics of our land, water, air, life, and the

way we look at things. It's very important. I'm not very pleased that his budget is being reduced. It actually should be going up. I'm not the one to make that decision. This budget here is low. The Minister has some very key initiatives that need to be looked at.

The Minister talked about the Mackenzie River Basin and the quality and quantity of water entering the Northwest Territories from neighbouring jurisdictions. In our land claim agreement it states, in the Sahtu Land Claim Agreement and probably as well as with other Aboriginal groups that have settled land claims, about the quality and quantity of the water not changing. If the Minister is working on the transboundary water agreements and if we are starting to see some changes, as people have noticed in my region, there are changes to the water quality, our water, then the federal government is not honouring their commitment, the spirit and intent of this specific chapter when we signed this land claim agreement.

The federal government has initiated some water monitoring community-based and it's in the government's plans right now, and I believe Fort Smith and Fort Resolution have been identified as two communities that have these water monitoring stations, community-based stations. There might be other ones that maybe the Minister could help me clarify. I think by having them in Fort Smith and Fort Resolution is a good start because that's sort of the bottleneck where Fort McMurray, the Bennett Dam, the pulp mills, the Peace River, all that stuff is coming down. We don't know what's coming down. I know there are other monitoring stations in the North through Environment Canada and I believe that Minister Kent kept them open. I think there are 22 or 23. I could be corrected on that.

The Minister has a responsibility to ensure that our water is safe and that the other jurisdictions are not dumping their sewer waste into our system and that we're going to be okay. A lot of my people live on the Mackenzie River. A lot of my people eat food from the Mackenzie. Lots of my people live off the land. We hunt moose and caribou and we certainly know that these animals also use the Mackenzie to sustain their life.

I want to make sure that we have a strong agreement that we could face the government of BC or Alberta or Saskatchewan and say this is what's happening. This is what's happening in our waters here. Make our agreement so strong that it would shut down possibly one of the industries to say quit putting your garbage into our water system.

We know the water is changing. I've talked to some elders in Fort Providence and they noticed that their fish is getting softer. They said a long time ago, about 50 years ago, the fish was firm. Now they say the fish are getting softer. Their body is soft, not like it used to be 50 years ago. That tells me

something's happening. I don't know if it's permafrost happening or climate change or the amount of chemicals in our water. Are we testing for the right chemicals? Are we testing for poison coming into our water? What are they dumping in our water from McMurray or the Bennett Dam?

This Minister has a lot of work. I look forward to his continued work and his continued charge on why we need a strong transboundary agreement with the other governments.

The Minister is also responsible for the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program. I look forward to seeing what type of support he's also going to give to the people in Norman Wells. In his statement he provided focused assistance to the residents of Inuvik over the next year. I want to hope that the Minister would also do that for the community of Norman Wells for their support.

Within the limited time I have I want to ask the Minister in the recycling area that we have, I wanted to see if somewhere in his upcoming business plans or future discussions with his department he did a good job with the pop cans and plastic bags. I'd like him to see if he would do some work for the next couple years to see how we can get our vehicles out of our local dumps. There are lots of vehicles that could be chopped up with a mulcher in each community and put on the barge in the summertime, brought down south. Then that machine could go to another community and eat up those vehicles and do the same thing. It can be done over four or five years. We have a lot of old vehicles that have been in our dumps for the last I would say 50 or 60 years. I think the Minister should be able to put some plans together on how we get rid of these old vehicles.

I'm happy that the Minister is continuing to work on the Wildlife Act. I look forward to it getting some good discussions and some good air play in our communities. People can talk about the new Wildlife Act. It's a long overdue act. It's outdated. We need to modernize it and continue to work on it.

The Minister also has the role of traditional knowledge which I think needs to be supported and continued to have the effects down to different departments and especially his department.

We have some activity happening in the Sahtu and we certainly need to make sure that the cumulative impacts from resource development are monitored and studied up in our region because of the oil and gas play. Wildlife monitoring is taking place up in our region with all the oil and gas activity, the mining in the mountains. We need to know what's happening with the permafrost. If they're going to be drilling and doing hydraulic fracking, we need to have somebody on the ground looking at this type of thing that's going to maybe be significantly ramped up in terms of resource development.

I look forward to going through some of the business plans, and I really hope that we have a good fire season and that it doesn't get too busy and that this government here or this department here continues to support the people who have cabins. We need to know that these fires can be put out on the community's needs.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Are there any further general comments? I'll go to the Minister for a response.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. Once again I thank Mr. Dolynny for his comments on the water and the work that the department and the government have been doing, and his challenge to the government in terms of the regulation that's needed. I know that there's work underway between ENR, Health and Social Services, Public Works and Services, MACA, to ensure that we do all the things from the headwaters to the taps and beyond into the systems in people's homes. It is going to be an issue of eventually moving from guidelines to regulations.

The issue of the relocation of the source water treatment plant from the Yellowknife River into the bay is going to be an issue that I'm going to leave for the Minister of MACA when the time comes. I'm not in a position to speak knowledgeably about that.

The aviation fleet, the current contract expires in 2017. We've been on this now... This is the third year in terms of preparation, doing the research, bringing in consultants to review the service, give us a clear understanding of the options that are out there. We are now in the situation where the CL-215s that we do have are not going to be able to continue much longer. Simple things like access to avgas. The need to turbinize. If we keep them, turbinize the planes, if we were to stick with them, it would cost about \$20 million or so a plane. So we are at work doing all the information gathering and assessments that we need to do to look at what options are there from the existing fleet being upgraded, buying new, leasing things like the air tractor, which is a smaller, more mobile, newer plane that is in use in a lot of other jurisdictions. We've had them up here doing some test runs last year. We've sent folks to observe them in action in other jurisdictions as well. Our intent is to move forward in a way that's affordable. We now spend about \$5 million a year just running and maintaining the CL-215s. There's money that's already in the budget to do that. We have to make the determination of the type of plane and the type of financing we need to do that.

In coming up, the other big issue that I would point out is: if we buy, we can't afford to have our air force sitting in the snow bank eight months of the year. If we lease just by the year or X number of months a year it's one thing. If we end up changing the arrangement, then we have to come up with a

way to have that significant investment working more than four months a year. There's lots of work to be done over the next number of years. The hope is to have this whole process ready, either through some type of call for proposals or very much ready for calls for proposals so that the incoming Assembly has either a process that's underway or that we, this Assembly, will have concluded. We are on this one and paying very close attention.

I appreciate the Member's comment, as well, about the Wildlife Act. We are working hard to be as collaborative as possible, recognizing that we have, I believe, a very good piece of work in terms of the Wildlife Act. There's no other piece of legislation that was either done the way this one was done or is drafted up the same way, recognizing the same number of complex issues that are not even recognized in the current wildlife ordinance.

Mr. Nadli, as well, referenced a number of concerns about the water, similar to some of the other comments. I won't repeat them, other than to say we are committed to negotiating a strong transboundary agreement. We want to be able to make sure that we are, in fact, negotiating hard-to-protect waters and the quality, and that when we look at quality it is detailed enough that so that we are, in fact, as Mr. Yakeleya indicated, taking into consideration are we measuring for the right things.

This is a changed world. There are lots of very complex substances out there and authentic acids, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, heavy metals, bitumen, persistent organic pollutants. Any number of things in the water and in the air that we have to make sure we account for.

I would point out, as well, that we are putting our full effort as a government on this. Premier McLeod was down with the western Premiers in Edmonton and had an opportunity to have some discussions with Premier Redford about transboundary negotiations. We are in the process, as the department, of setting up our meetings with the Minister in Alberta, as well, to further those discussions. This is, for us, a full court press, given the significance of this issue.

The biomass initiative, I agree, is a good one. It's gathering momentum. The government initially had to play a very major role, but now we have, for example, a private individual putting his own money on the table, seriously advancing a proposal for a pellet mill in the Northwest Territories, a significant pellet mill that will be able to supply the market now and into the future. That was always the goal for ourselves as a Legislature: build the market, build the industry; step one, step two. We are committed to that.

The technologies, as well, in biomass are improving rapidly. There is almost job ready advancements in bio fractionation, for example, where they can

actually take biomass and convert it to diesel, convert it to avgas, convert it to any type of substance we need. There's also a significant interest in work being done with natural gas, as well, being able to make the same alterations to the molecules to make it usable. So this is a rapidly advancing area.

The Wildlife Act, as I indicated, is a very important piece of work for us. It's one of the reasons I ran for re-election, was to come back to see if we could get this approved in the House. I take Mr. Nadli's comments about the many complex issues and the balance, and I would point out to him that anybody that reads that draft Wildlife Act and you look at the ordinance that is there that is currently governing us, it's as close to night and day as you can come into pieces of legislation. The old legislation is archaic. It does not mention the word Aboriginal once, and there's no mention of treaties, any obligation to Section 35, all those issues that have in some cases it predates. In addition to all the new ways of thinking of how we manage wildlife together, as he indicated.

We are interested in working with all the communities, especially in unsettled claims as we sort out the issues that the Member raised in terms of sport fishing and hunting. We've had a discussion in the House about the need to monitor fish stocks, especially during this time of the year when the fish are running and the folks come especially into the Member's area to take advantage of the fish, to take as many as they can and...(inaudible)...them up and head back to Alberta. So we're very committed to make sure we help manage that.

The Arctic Council, we are members on there, along with most other members of the circumpolar world. My understanding is Canada and the United States are going to be taking over the chairmanship, but we have a role at the table. I don't have enough knowledge of the workings of the Arctic Council in terms of how they pick their chairmanship, but I can reassure the Member that we are fully engaged at that level. I know Premier Roland was there and Premier McLeod will be attending along with others, as appropriate, whenever there are meetings that take place.

Mr. Yakeleya indicated his concern about the budget. As I pointed out, this budget will be going up, assuming from all the trends that there are going to be fires and that we're going to have to come back for supplementary appropriations. The money, as I pointed out to Mr. Bromley, that the money that was in last year's budget included all the supps from firefighting that were one-time money, so those lapse. But every year we have been coming back so, unfortunately, I'm anticipating we'll have to come back again this year.

I won't review a bunch of the comments on water.

We are committed to working with Norman Wells in terms of their issue with their energy sources. We demonstrated that commitment and the level of that commitment in Inuvik. Not only this particular circumstance, but when we switched everybody off the old high-temperature system. We were there as well. The people of Norman Wells will not be abandoned. They will not be ignored as we work through with them their transition to another energy source.

The old vehicle recycling, I will tell the Member that just by sheer demand and limitation in terms of capacity, our focus, as our pointed out in my opening comments, is we're looking at, in addition to all the things we're currently doing, trying to get a grip on e-waste. The vehicle recycling is on the list but, once again, we've had to make choices and we're of the opinion that there's such a constant changing of electronic equipment and materials and it's stockpiled all over and put into dumpsites, it's the next pressure point in terms of the recycling.

The traditional knowledge, yes, we are committed. We are the lead department. We have it built into all the work we do working with co-management boards. We are the lead on the science research agenda. It's a critical piece in there, as well, as we blend western science and traditional knowledge. As the Member knows, on the health side, for example, there are I think very interesting, proactive attempts with traditional knowledge. Education, as well, has a serious role to play with education and Dene Kede and all the other good work they're doing with the curriculum.

As we proceed with the oil play for tight oil in the Sahtu and the issue of fracking and those types of things, there will be, clearly, a need for enhanced engagement and support in a whole number of areas, including the monitoring that the Member mentioned. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Is committee agreed we go to detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): We are on page 13-8, information item, infrastructure investment summary. Any questions here? Seeing none, page 13-9, information item, revenue summary. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. On 13-9 there is a recovery of the Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreement. There seems to be a zero entry for 2012-2013. If I can get a comment or action as to why as such. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Madam Chair. The reason that line is zero this year is we've done further assessment of those costs when we do export our resources, and basically what it is, is we are just recovering our costs. We're not generating any revenue from the MARS exchange. So it's in discussion with Finance. They've agreed to not record it as revenue.

MR. DOLYNNY: Would it be false for me to say this is actually a federal initiative or a federal amount of money that would have come to us and is not coming to us in 2013? Would it be fair to say that this has anything to do with personnel or aircraft, this amount?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. What we have here from 2011-2012 to 2012-2013 is a change in accounting treatment. In the past we would list it on a revenue summary, but as we have gone through all our reviews, there's no markup or profit generated. So there's not a revenue, we just get compensated for our costs. It's a mutual aid agreement and it could apply to aircraft, it could apply to crews and equipment as well. So this year it's not going to be listed in revenue. Going forward, it won't be an item in the budget anymore identified under the revenue summary.

MR. DOLYNNY: I'm still a bit confused. Is this not, as I said, a federal initiative that we're getting to help offset? If it is indeed a revenue, was treated a revenue in 2011-2012-2013, I'm getting the sense that this is somewhere else. If this is somewhere else, can the Minister indicate where is the recovery then? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This is not a federal program. When it's a federal program, all the provinces and territories have agreements signed with each other. So if there's a significant demand in, for example, Ontario and they need help and they call us and we're able to send people, we will do that and we will recover our costs. Henceforth, going forward forevermore it will be listed right now under page 13-38 under work performed on behalf of others. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Minister. You are referring to fire work, I presume. Right?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Madam Chair. If I heard correctly, I heard 13-38, work on behalf of others. There's no category that deals with fire management or fire suppression. Again, can I get clarity from the Minister?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The acronym MARS stands for Mutual Aid Resource Sharing Agreement. That is the agreement that encompasses the arrangements for fire suppression sharing of resources. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you. Did you find it, Mr. Dolynny?

MR. DOLYNNY: Yes, I did, Madam Chair. We're not on page 13-38, unfortunately, but I don't see an increase in that line entry. I assume we'll want to talk about that when we get to that line as to how do we go from \$300,000 to actually a decrease, if that's indeed the changeover. Again, Madam Chair, we're not at 13-38, so I will ask my question then. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is not so much on a monetary matter but in terms of timber permits and licences. I think the Biomass Initiative is a fairly positive and forward initiative that complements local skills. I think one of the obstacles that some organizations have is access to lands and areas where there has been an effort to do an inventory and analysis in terms of the tree species and whether they are prime for harvesting. My question is: How is the department trying to mitigate access to forested areas in terms of trying to make biomass successful?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. There are two main areas. We are continuing to work on inventories of the forest, and an equally important piece, especially as you look at the possibility of a biomass plant being put up that could do as many as 30,000 metric tons, are these forest management agreements that would have to be entered into with the Aboriginal governments and the GNWT to be able to have access to the material to generate the pellets in a sustainable, go-forward basis so the person or the business making the pellets is able to buy the material to make the pellets.

Forest management agreements are going to be very critical pieces of work. There are none in existence right now. We have staff hard at work sorting out how we do that, so when we move forward with the negotiations with the various partners in this whole operation, we can make sure we have knowledge of what's there and agreements that lay out how that resource will be used over time. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: Just for clarification, what is the term life of a forest management agreement?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: At this point, we're looking at agreements that would last 15 or 20 years.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you. Mr. Nadli, we are on revenue. We are on the revenue summary. If you have further questions, maybe they can wait for the forestry management section. Yes, they can? No, they can't?

MR. NADLI: Yes. If I could, I would just like to ask a final question, Madam Chair. Thank you for the response in terms of clarifying the forest management agreement with more likely local organizations for terms of 15 years.

Is there an effort to try to ensure that communities, if at the local level the department is equally going to work parallel with them to ensure they build up capacities at the same time? It's a cooperative effort so, in the end, there's a forest management agreement that's beneficial to both the government and local organizations. Does the department have a position to try to help with capacity issues with local organizations? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you. Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The forest management agreements have been triggered specifically by the project that's under consideration right now, or development right now for a pellet plant. We, ITI, the government is at the table trying to do our part. The arrangements between the business in the communities in terms of negotiating access to the material, the capacity building, are going to be driven through that business arrangement. There will still be ongoing access to existing programs that the territorial government now has that could be possibly brought to bear, as well, but the main relationship will be between the communities and the proponent who has laid out quite extensively the capacity building, training, local employment and all these critical areas. There is no request for territorial money in this project either. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My question is on the hunting and fishing licences, the decrease in revenue there of \$50,000. That's obviously a lot of licences. I understand that I would expect licence fees to have dropped when we stopped caribou hunting, but I'm wondering what this estimated decrease in revenue is caused by. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Campbell.

MR. CAMPBELL: Thank you, Madam Chair. The decrease there reflects to some degree, I guess, the lack of access to caribou tags. The primary

reason is the decrease in the sale of fishing licences. I think not just in our jurisdiction but other jurisdictions are experiencing the same. The major area in the decrease is the fishing licences.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Bromley. Any further questions on page 13-9, Environment and Natural Resources, department summary, information item, revenue summary?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 13-10, Environment and Natural Resources, department summary, information item, active position summary.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 13-13, Environment and Natural Resources, activity summary, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, \$11.171 million. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My constituency includes a First Nation that has not yet resolved their land claim issues and their land claim. I'm wondering why we are discontinuing the Interim Resource Management Assistance Program agreement, about \$305,000 the last couple of fiscal years. I know that the Yellowknives Dene certainly valued that program and I'm wondering if I can get an update on what the thinking is there. Perhaps that's a federal program that was sunsetted or something, but maybe I can get an update on that.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. That money flows a little bit later in the fiscal year and will be brought forward as it has been in a supp.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister for that. That's good news. I'm wondering, I'm not clear, the corporate management policy and strategic planning division, is that the division that's responsible for the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, developing that?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Land Use and Sustainability Framework is an initiative that is being driven and handled through the Executive.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Thank you, Mr. Bromley. No further questions? Page 13-13, Environment and Natural Resources, activity summary, corporate management, operations expenditure summary, \$11.171 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 13-14, Environment and Natural Resources, activity summary, corporate management, grants and

contributions, contributions, total contributions, \$65,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 13-15, Environment and Natural Resources, activity summary, information item, corporate management, active positions.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Page 13-17, Environment and Natural Resources, activity summary, environment, operations expenditure summary, \$5.936 million. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Climate Change Program, I want to look at the environmental protection section, to work to prevent and reduce impact on activity. I want to ask the Minister if he will be coming forward with some plans as to this program that's responsible in the area of the Tulita district where there's possibly some work that's going to be happening over there in the next couple of years, maybe longer. What kind of plans is he going to support the people in the Sahtu and in the North here on recovery of air quality and contaminated sites and hazardous substances? How is the Minister working with the other departments and the oil and gas industry and the federal government to make sure that the least amount of damages are left on our lands once everything's done and the show is done and everybody packs up and goes home?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. On the exploration side we have the resources that have been laid out in the business plan. We also, as a government with ITI and ENR, have been doing a lot of work on the issue of unconventional hydraulic fracturing. There has been work done with committee. There's going to be more work done. We're doing a thorough review of that whole approach to accessing tight oil. That will inform the way forward. If we move from exploration into development, we will, of course, be planning for what type of development, that is. We'll be looking at the resource requirements on that basis when we have a clear sense that there is in fact a move past exploration to development.

MR. YAKELEYA: We had a very good presentation this afternoon from the Pembina Institute. It actually brought up some pretty good points. I thought it was very objective and I thought that the points that they brought out gave me some ideas and maybe other Members too as to how do we, if they are going to do hydraulic fracking then we want to make sure that it's done in a responsible and environmentally safe way that we can have the best of both worlds so to speak. That's the type of information I got this afternoon from that

presentation. It made some really good points. We could have the hydraulic fracking, but we also need to be very cautious that we're on Mother Nature's land here. Our land. We want to protect it also. There could be a really fine balance.

I want to ask the Minister in that sense when we come forward with our ideas that we got from the presentation or the community, we want to ensure that our land and water and the animals that we depend on and live off and grew up on will be there after the activity has resided in the Tulita district or any other area in the Northwest Territories. Working with the National Energy Board or the oil companies on some of these hazardous wastes that are possibly going to be used in our area to take the oil out of our ground here. Has the Minister met with the Pembina Institute to look at their presentation on hydraulic fracking?

MR. MILTENBERGER: We as a government are looking at the whole range of opinions and science that has developed around this. We are watching what's happening in other jurisdictions. We're looking for best practices. We are very sensitive to the concerns of the people on the ground. Like the Member, we are looking to maintain a balance that sees the protection of the land, water and animals at the same time as the issue of the access to that tight oil is dealt with.

How do we go forward based on all that work? We've committed to work with committee. We're pulling that work together. There's another discussion paper going to be coming through our system, that we will be able to share, that shows some of the economics but also some of the environmental issues and risks to be cognizant of as we go forward. From there we have to look at making decisions, identifying what are critical best practices, and other related areas to provide assurance to everyone, all Northerners, especially the people of the Sahtu, that how do we approach this new development.

MR. YAKELEYA: My last question to the Minister has to do with the waste management and waste reduction. Certainly when the Minister of Health and Social Services and possibly the Minister of Justice, Mr. Abernethy and I went over to Fort Good Hope, they talked somewhat of the water quality, the water waste coming from the Norman Wells oilfield. I'm not too sure if we got too far into that discussion, but I remember clearly Minister Beaulieu and I talked about the water and the source. Maybe one factor that may be causing some cancerous sickness in that community could be – I'm not saying it is, but could be – from the Mackenzie River from the Norman Wells oilfield. There are many other factors and if the Minister and his department, along with the federal government, have done some testing of some chemicals from the community, the community

wants to know of the various chemicals they are using in those oilfields that are possibly coming from those oilfields into the Mackenzie and there's no type of high quality monitoring of them. Is there something like that in the business plans in the future that the Minister would look at for people in Fort Good Hope? This is my last question, Madam Chair.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: The Member referenced earlier, I think in one of his previous general comments, work being done monitoring in Fort Resolution and Fort Smith. This summer we have identified the need to do the work above and below Norman Wells to provide that same kind of monitoring. Over time, as we set up our community-based water monitoring systems, we want to be able to work with the communities and our own skilled resources to provide that assurance across the North. But for this summer there is going to be specific work done to do some of the testing that the Member has referenced. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. We are on page 13-17, activity summary, environment, operations expenditure summary, \$5.936 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I noticed that the expenditures on energy management, which is the backbone of climate change that my colleague was referencing here earlier, has been substantially reduced by greater than 50 percent. Unfortunately, it's more than a match to 75 percent cut in the ITI energy work. I noticed later on there's a \$300,000 reduction in forestry resources, which is an important element of the Biomass Strategy and so on. Some examples here, the biomass energy has been cut from \$1.55 million to \$100,000, then energy from \$400,000 to zero, Business Support Program, renewable energy from \$300,000 to \$200,000 and geothermal energy from \$400,000 down to zero. I will be proposing a motion, but I suggest we deal with any questions there are on this section. So if you can put me back on for later. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Bisaro): I will now rise and report progress. Sergeant-at-Arms, would you please escort the witnesses from the Chamber? Thank you, witnesses, for your attendance.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 3-17(3), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2012-2013, and would like to report progress. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Is there a seconder to the motion? Mr. Menicoche.

---Carried

Colleagues, I have some brief comments before we adjourn for the weekend.

The year 2012 marks the 60th anniversary of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada. The Northwest Territories joins all Canadian provinces and territories, indeed all Commonwealth jurisdictions, in celebrating this historic event. Her Majesty took the throne on February 6, 1952, and her coronation took place on June 2, 1953. In the NWT, our relationship with Her Majesty is a special one. It was on April 21, 1994, that Queen Elizabeth II dedicated our legislative Chamber to all the people of the Northwest Territories.

Since February we have had two of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee flags displayed in our Chamber and another will fly from our flagpole this weekend, marking the coronation date on Saturday, June 2nd.

This House passed a motion of congratulations to Her Majesty on February 7, 2012, and on the same day made the first presentations in the NWT to Diamond Jubilee medal recipients. The celebrations will continue, colleagues, with medal presentations happening in many of our communities during the remainder of the Diamond Jubilee Year. In fact, nominations are still open for those wishing to nominate someone for a Diamond Jubilee medal. The nomination form can be found on the GNWT website.

The Assembly has also housed a book of congratulations for all Northerners to sign. The book is being circulated to northern schools and will eventually be forwarded to Her Majesty in London.

Finally, colleagues, I would like to invite you and all northern residents to join me in the Diamond Jubilee planting of six amber jubilee ninebark shrubs to take place on Thursday, June 14th, at the rise of the House. During her 2010 visit to Canada, Her Majesty participated in a planting ceremony in Manitoba for this newly created shrub, which was named in honour of the 2012 Diamond Jubilee. The province of Manitoba has generously provided these shrubs to all provinces and territories and we will join the rest of the country as we find a place on

the grounds of the Assembly to plant these beautiful shrubs.

Thank you, colleagues. Now, Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Monday, June 4, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Replies to Budget Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
14. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. Motions
19. First Reading of Bills
20. Second Reading of Bills
21. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 2-17(3), Commissioner's Opening Address: Creating the Conditions for Success
 - Tabled Document 3-17(3), Northwest Territories Main Estimates 2012-2013
 - Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act
 - Committee Report 1-17(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories
 - Committee Report 2-17(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report

22. Report of Committee of the Whole

23. Third Reading of Bills

24. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk.
Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until
Monday, June 4, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 7:04 p.m.