



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

3rd Session

Day 15

17th Assembly

HANSARD

Wednesday, June 13, 2012

Pages 1137 - 1162

The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker

Hon. Jackie Jacobson

(Nunakput)

Hon. Glen Abernethy

(Great Slave)

Minister of Justice

Minister of Human Resources

Minister of Public Works and Services

Minister responsible for the

Public Utilities Board

Hon. Tom Beaulieu

(Tu Nedhe)

Minister of Health and Social Services

Minister responsible for

Persons with Disabilities

Minister responsible for Seniors

Ms. Wendy Bisaro

(Frame Lake)

Mr. Frederick Blake

(Mackenzie Delta)

Mr. Robert Bouchard

(Hay River North)

Mr. Bob Bromley

(Weledeh)

Mr. Daryl Dolynny

(Range Lake)

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

(Hay River South)

Mr. Robert Hawkins

(Yellowknife Centre)

Hon. Jackson Lafferty

(Monfwi)

Deputy Premier

Minister of Education, Culture and

Employment

Minister responsible for the Workers'

Safety and Compensation

Commission

Hon. Bob McLeod

(Yellowknife South)

Premier

Minister of Executive

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and

Intergovernmental Relations

Minister responsible for the

Status of Women

Hon. Robert C. McLeod

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

Minister of Municipal and

Community Affairs

Minister responsible for the

NWT Housing Corporation

Minister responsible for Youth

Mr. Kevin Menicoche

(Nahendeh)

Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger

(Thebacha)

Government House Leader

Minister of Finance

Minister of Environment and Natural

Resources

Minister responsible for the

NWT Power Corporation

Mr. Alfred Moses

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

Mr. Michael Nadli

(Deh Cho)

Hon. David Ramsay

(Kam Lake)

Minister of Industry, Tourism

and Investment

Minister of Transportation

Mr. Norman Yakeleya

(Sahtu)

Officers

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. Tim Mercer

Deputy Clerk

Mr. Doug Schauerte

**Principal Clerk
of Committees**

Ms. Jennifer Knowlan

**Principal Clerk,
Operations**

Ms. Gail Bennett

Law Clerks

Ms. Sheila MacPherson

Ms. Malinda Kellett

Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Tel: (867) 669-2200 Fax: (867) 920-4735 Toll-Free: 1-800-661-0784

<http://www.assembly.gov.nt.ca>

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	1137
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	1137
44-17(3) – Premier's Awards (B. McLeod)	1137
45-17(3) – Graduation Congratulations (Lafferty)	1138
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	1138
Tribute to Cole Philipp, Diamond Jubilee Medal Recipient (Dolynny)	1138
Trout Lake Airport Relocation Project (Menicoche)	1139
Tribute to Mr. Raymond Taniton on the Publication of His Book, "At the Heart of It" (Yakeleya)	1139
Creation of an Independent Oversight Body for Giant Mine Remediation Project (Bromley)	1140
Post-Secondary Support for Students with Disabilities in Transitional Vocational Programs (Bisaro)	1140
Community Self-Government Initiatives (Nadli)	1141
Duty-Free Exemptions for Cross-Border Shopping (Groenewegen)	1141
Congratulations to Hay River Secondary School Graduates (Bouchard)	1142
Appreciation of Public Servants and Members of the Legislative Assembly in the Budget Process (Moses)	1142
Support and Training for Employment Standards Officers (Hawkins)	1143
Congratulations to the Graduation Classes in Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic (Blake)	1143
Tribute to Mrs. Irene Sanderson of Fort Smith (Miltenberger)	1143
Congratulations to Tu Nedhe Recipients of the Premier's Awards (Beaulieu)	1144
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	1144
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	1144
ORAL QUESTIONS	1144
PETITIONS	1154
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	1155
NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS	1154
Bill 10 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 7, 2010-2011	1155
Bill 11 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2010-2011	1155

FIRST READING OF BILLS	1155
Bill 6 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013.....	1155
Bill 7 – An Act to Amend the Judicature Act.....	1155
Bill 8 – An Act to Amend the Securities Act.....	1156
SECOND READING OF BILLS	1156
Bill 6 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013.....	1156
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	1156
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	1161
THIRD READING OF BILLS	1161
Bill 6 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013.....	1161
ORDERS OF THE DAY	1161

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, June 13, 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 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, everybody. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 44-17(3):
PREMIER'S AWARDS

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of the 2012 Premier's Awards. The Premier's Awards for Excellence and the Premier's Collaboration Award are presented annually to individuals and teams for their outstanding service to the Government of the Northwest Territories. As well, I am pleased to confirm the second Dave Ramsden Career Achievement Award was presented.

This year's recipients are from a range of departments across the public service, engaged in a variety of work that improves the lives of the residents of the Northwest Territories.

The Premier's Award for Excellence in the Individual Category was awarded to three outstanding employees: Mr. Douglas Krause, Ms. Margaret Dawn Anderson and Mr. Jim Stevens.

Mr. Krause is the information business analyst, project manager with the Department of Transportation. He successfully managed a major capital project to replace key modules of the Government of the Northwest Territories motor vehicle information system and assisted the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation in adopting a common website content management system.

Ms. Anderson is the acting assistant director of the corrections service in the Department of Justice. She worked diligently to lead, develop and implement several projects benefitting community partners in delivering programs to clients. Under her guidance, the Northwest Territories Community Justice Review was completed in May 2011,

resulting in 12 recommendations to improve community-based programming.

In addition, Ms. Anderson led the revision of training information specifically for RCMP members in assisting with diversion cases that are more appropriate to community-based agencies. She also developed, researched and delivered an eight-week program of Planning Action Responsibility to support domestic violence treatment options.

Mr. Stevens is the director, Mackenzie Valley Highway with the Department of Transportation. He helped to advance a long-standing priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories, with the proposed Mackenzie Valley Highway. He demonstrated innovation by using a grassroots approach to complete project description reports for the entire Mackenzie Valley Highway. Mr. Stevens also achieved memorandums of understanding with Aboriginal groups representing the Mackenzie Valley.

The Premier's Award for Excellence was awarded to three teams comprised of Government of the Northwest Territories employees.

The Stanton Territorial Health Authority Tobacco-Free Steering Committee Team partnered with the Department of Health and Social Services to help promote a healthy environment for staff and patients by promoting a tobacco-free environment.

The Mandate Review Project Team, with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations embarked on a comprehensive two-year review of the negotiating mandate framework. This framework guides the Government of the Northwest Territories participation in all Northwest Territories land, resources and self-government negotiations and includes 114 individual mandates.

The Deninu School Team from Fort Resolution led the completion of a Chipewyan dictionary. It contains 369 illustrated pages of Chipewyan words, phrases and sentences. In addition, a CD of audio files by fluent speakers was generated to keep the language alive. The team demonstrated innovation and made positive impacts on the school and the community.

The Premier's Award for Collaboration was given to three teams of Government of the Northwest Territories employees and their partners.

The Territorial Housing System Development Team was comprised of technical and program specialists from the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation who worked with managers of local housing organizations representing 23 independent organizations in the Northwest Territories. A significant shift was made in public housing system operations by moving to a centralized system and an electronic operating environment to deliver housing services.

The Slave River and Delta Partnership, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and partners team identified activities and opened the lines of communication for partnerships with communities concerning aquatic ecosystem health.

The Northwest Territories 2011 Royal Visit Team's tremendous work on the Duke and Duchess's of Cambridge visit to the Northwest Territories was a huge undertaking, demonstrating commitment and professional delivery of the Northwest Territories Royal Visit program. Team members from diverse organizations met the challenges, including strict security arrangements and outstanding activities to welcome the royal visitors.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge this year's recipient of the Dave Ramsden Career Achievement Award: Ms Bronwyn Watters, deputy minister of the Department of Justice. In her distinguished career, Bronwyn has exemplified public service through her professionalism, vision, collaboration and compassion, and has advanced many initiatives within the social envelope during her years with the Government of the Northwest Territories. With retirement pending later this year, Bronwyn leaves an impressive legacy within the Government of the Northwest Territories and across the North, through her work to advance the social agenda.

Mr. Speaker, the recipients of this year's Premier's Awards and Dave Ramsden Career Achievement Award have demonstrated dedication and excellence in their work, and I would like to extend my congratulations and thank them for a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 45-17(3): GRADUATION CONGRATULATIONS

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment wishes to congratulate all the graduates from high schools, Aurora College and apprenticeship programs.

Aurora College saw 140 graduates this spring: 43 from Thebacha Campus, 53 from the North Slave Campus and 44 from the Aurora Campus. Graduates received certificates, diplomas and degrees in programs like Environment and Natural Resource Technology, Education, Nursing, Business Administration and Social Work.

This year sees the first class to graduate from the Aboriginal Language and Cultural Instructor Program at the Aurora Campus. Eleven graduates received their diplomas and are ready to promote, preserve and revitalize our languages. Fifteen other graduates from across the territory also received their Aboriginal Language and Cultural Instructor Program certificates.

Mr. Speaker, there are 417 registered apprentices in the Northwest Territories, half of whom are Aboriginal and 34 are female. So far this academic year, 75 journeypersons have been certified. With more countries looking north at our vast resources and Arctic coastline, these tradespeople are invaluable to our territory as our economy develops and diversifies. With their training, these Northerners will be well positioned to take advantage of opportunities and choices in all communities and regions.

As we all know, the high school years can be demanding, formative, emotional and rewarding. Many students have overcome obstacles and reached graduation this year. As they prepare for the next stage of their life, I remind them, and all Northwest Territories residents, that learning is a lifelong journey. I encourage them to strive for excellence in whatever they choose to pursue next. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO COLE PHILIPP, DIAMOND JUBILEE MEDAL RECIPIENT

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once in awhile a young man comes along who redefines human spirit and truly rewrites the scriptures on humanity and giving. Today I wish to inform the Members we have such a marvel who resides in the riding of Range Lake and his name is Mr. Cole Philipp.

It all started a couple of years ago when this student was in Grade 7 in Range Lake North School and he learned about "pay it forward," which is a movement depicted in books, TV, mainstream and film. In essence, Mr. Speaker, this pay it forward program is a means to change the lives of

others by doing good deeds for others and Mr. Philipp rose to the occasion.

His idea to make a difference for kids in orphanages in Mazatlan, Mexico, was a truly inspirational journey that has been showcased in major media sources in Canada and in Mexico. For Mr. Philipp's humble beginnings in fundraising, his original target of \$2,000 soon magically turned into a windfall of over \$38,000 being raised.

---Applause

In fact, during his last fundraiser, Cole's Funky Monkey cupcakes were seen all over the back offices of the Legislative Assembly and many of us today are still trying to shed those pounds.

Mr. Philipp had the pleasure of sharing 100 percent of this money this past April with over six orphanages in Mazatlan, Mexico, for such things you and I take for granted such as food, clothing, school supplies, medical supplies, new bunk beds, new computers and new lockers.

Now at the age of 14, Mr. Cole Philipp is a Grade 9 student at Sir John Franklin, is a recent recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal of Honour and is already planning his next adventures. If you spend even the briefest amount of time with this young man, you can easily see his gears turning, his huge smile and his magnetic enthusiasm.

It gives me great pleasure to say we have in the gallery today the wiz-kid from Range Lake and former Page for the Legislative Assembly, Mr. Cole Philipp.

---Applause

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TROUT LAKE AIRPORT RELOCATION PROJECT

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In the 1990s a survey of runway issues across the North identified Trout Lake as being one of the 11 airports that needs major upgrades to ensure safe operations. It was later determined that the runway itself needed to be relocated.

Trout Lake is a community without an all-weather road access. Its airport is a community lifeline. The Trout Lake Airport Relocation Project is still unfinished and still on our books. The community wants to see this project completed in spite of the difficulties it has experienced. Right now the Department of Transportation is in charge of the project and previously wanted to hire contractors from outside the community and region to do the work, and still may want to. This is nothing that I as the MLA for Trout Lake can or will ever support.

This is Trout Lake's airport, and opportunities related to this major undertaking should belong to the community and the region. Someone from Trout Lake should be working with DOT to select an appropriate contractor, if not from the community then at least from the region. There are plenty of willing contractors in Fort Simpson and Fort Liard.

Trout Lake needs this continued opportunity. There is equipment in the community and a willing workforce of men and women. It is a chance for the local development corporation to develop much needed capacity that could assist in future projects not only in Trout Lake but other communities in the region. There are already good examples of other small communities that have worked successfully with the Department of Transportation airports division to complete their much needed infrastructure projects.

We all agree that safety of our people and the aircraft is a priority. We need to put past arguments behind us and get this project off the ground. We need a win-win situation and a good-news story for major infrastructure construction in this territory.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO MR. RAYMOND TANITON ON THE PUBLICATION OF HIS BOOK, "AT THE HEART OF IT"

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say I was very impressed with the young fellow that Mr. Dolynny talked about. He's got a good future ahead of him.

I want to talk about Raymond Taniton. Raymond Taniton co-authored a book called *At the Heart of It*. It's the seventh book in the Land of our Storybook series. Tessa MacIntosh was the photographer and Mindy Willet was the co-author with Raymond Taniton.

Raymond is a Sahtugot'ine, which means people from the Great Bear Lake area. He lives in Deline and is one of the many gifted leaders in the community in the Sahtu region.

After Europe colonized Canada, Aboriginal people were made to do things differently, often forced to forget their traditional ways and values and become a different people. Sahtugot'ine also suffered from colonization, but in Raymond's book he showed how they continued to teach their children their core values: to have respect for their elders, their parents and themselves. In this book he also tells people there are many reasons why Deline is a strong and healthy community, stating that they never gave up the responsibility to govern and look after themselves. In *At the Heart of It*, Raymond shows readers how to make a traditional drum with the help of his father, Alfred, a leader and keeper of

the drum, and shares many what At the Heart of It in Deline to be connected to a healthy community.

This book is used by many in the schools of the Northwest Territories and they are using them from Grade 4 to Grade 7 mostly. I have heard adults also reading them as they're good instructions to all the different communities in the Northwest Territories. There is going to be a total 10 books.

I also heard people from India, Australia, France and all over the U.S. are also reading this book. This book is in our schools, and the stories are from different storytellers and the youth from across the different regions. They are very good stories, and I want to say thank you very much for the people who made it possible. Thank you for Raymond Taniton, for his father, for Mindy, Tess and the department who made all this possible. Please go out and read these books. Good job. I want to say thank you to the hardworking people who made this possible. Mahsi cho.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CREATION OF AN INDEPENDENT
OVERSIGHT BODY FOR GIANT MINE
REMIEDIATION PROJECT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The environmental assessment hearings for the Giant Remediation Project begin in September. The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board will review the assembled information and then issue recommendations governing remediation of the site. Those measures must keep our environment and people safe in perpetuity – that's forever – unless technology is developed to eliminate the stored arsenic. Public confidence in the measures over perpetuity is essential. As the review board chair pointed out recently, public trust is a fundamental part of community acceptance of the project.

Thanks primarily to the dogged determination of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the City of Yellowknife and Alternatives North, there has been progress towards the creation of an independent oversight body to monitor the project as long as it continues. These groups, with the federal and territorial governments, signed a letter to the board this week. They stated general agreement on creating a working group to make proposals on an independent oversight body.

A public body would provide arm's length advice to minimize environmental harm and risks and to build public trust. It would review environmental monitoring plans including any perpetual care plan and monitor their implementation and results. They would monitor compliance with regulatory conditions and other commitments made by

government, and encourage research into alternative technologies to finally eliminate the arsenic. Perhaps above all, it would create the transparency, public involvement and unbiased reporting essential to public trust.

If the Giant Mine remediation were coming as a new development proposal today, this form of public oversight would be routine. Look at the legally binding agreements in place for our diamond mines. The need is clear. Eventually, regulatory permits will be issued to carry out the remediation work and stabilize the arsenic, but a project laden with decades of public anxiety in millennia of environmental consequences requires a social licence as well. Creation of an independent oversight body under a fully funded and legally binding agreement could issue that social licence and give us confidence for the years ahead. I appreciate and encourage this government in continuing support for the creation of an independent oversight body. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
POST-SECONDARY SUPPORT
FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN
TRANSITIONAL VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today on behalf of an NWT resident whose child has Autism Spectrum Disorder. This young adult has been supported through their school years, and as a testament to that support and their own perseverance, will be graduating high school this month. We do a good job of providing the extra, necessary support for special needs students in our primary and secondary schools, but apparently, that's where the support ends. Let me explain.

There are several colleges in the South which offer transitional vocational programs, a program that fits the post-secondary needs of this young person. Like many specialized programs, they're not cheap: about \$15,000 per year. Most students, when they graduate from high school and get accepted to a college or a university, can get financial support from the GNWT via the Student Financial Assistance program. Disabled persons, as full-time students under current Student Financial Assistance guidelines, are eligible for a study grant of up to \$8,000 per academic year. But, of course, there's a catch. The catch is the student has to be enrolled in an academic program. Transitional vocational programs are not considered an academic program and thus are not approved by Student Financial Assistance for funding.

There's no question in the mind of Education, Culture and Employment that an autistic person is a disabled person. There is also no question in the mind of ECE that all NWT post-secondary students

should be taking an academic program; a thoroughly unrealistic goal, in my mind, especially for challenged students.

Transitional vocational training is not an academic program. It is about advancement, ensuring people learn the skills they need to transition from a supported environment to living on their own. Consider this quote from Hansard February 25, 2000: "We have to look clearly at how we deal with disabled people and students. Right now there is no way to deal with them. There is no access for them. Students who are disabled and have special needs have to go to various departments with their hat in their hand, trying to cobble together financial arrangements to go to school." Unfortunately, nothing has changed in the 12 years since the MLA for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger, stood in this House to voice his concern.

There is an opportunity here for a hardworking NWT resident to advance from a dependent to an independent person to become an involved, contributing member of NWT society.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks, colleagues. There is an opportunity here for a hardworking NWT resident to advance from a dependent to an independent person to become an involved, contributing member of NWT society, someone who is not in need of ongoing financial support from the government. Yet our Student Financial Assistance Policy will not recognize the extent of this young person's abilities, will not provide the funding needed to get the schooling and training necessary to advance them to the next stage in their life. For a government that professes to want equality and success for all of our people, this is a significant failure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMMUNITY SELF-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Most of the Northwest Territories 33 communities are made up of First Nation band councils. There are a number of options for how communities govern themselves. No matter what size the population, hamlets, villages, towns and cities in the NWT are established by territorial laws. Community governments' roles are political and administrative. Elected councils are made up of mayors, councillors and chiefs, to provide leadership and guidance through administration.

Hamlet councils are more than dogs, dumps and ditches. They are even more than just administering

the community's budget, maintaining public buildings and enforcing bylaws. Councils today work with education and health and social service boards. They help plan and deliver tourism and economic development activities, administer income support and housing programs, and represent their communities at higher levels.

There are three charter communities in the Northwest Territories. In chartered communities, the responsibilities of the band council and the municipal council are both combined.

The community of Enterprise, in particular, wants to operate their own water treatment plants and become a more independent and self-sustaining community. Incorporating a designated First Nations authority is a way to work around provisions in the federal Indian Act that hinder First Nation communities' ability to take on responsibility for providing municipal services by owning buildings or land. That will remain the case until we finalize self-government negotiations. The operation of our First Nations communities in areas with unsettled land claims is another area where the GNWT needs to focus when negotiating a Devolution Agreement.

At the community level, in order for a band council and a municipal council to successfully merge, people need to cooperate and send clear messages to high levels of government. There has to be open communication and wellness to work together. That is equally true in self-government and devolution negotiations.

As we have seen in this House over the past two weeks, when we try to reach consensus, we don't always get our way. Sometimes no one gets their way. But if we keep communication open and keep working on our problems, we will find solutions that work for the majority of Northerners. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DUTY-FREE EXEMPTIONS FOR CROSS-BORDER SHOPPING

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As announced in the recent federal budget effective this past June 1st, the Government of Canada will be raising the duty-free exemptions for cross-border shopping. Canadian residents who have been out of the country for 24 hours will be able to bring back \$200 worth of goods duty free. This current exemption is only \$50. The exemption for trips of 48 hours or more will increase from \$400 to \$800 worth of product duty free.

For the majority of Canadians who live within a few hours of the U.S. border – which is most of the country – this is a real tangible benefit. It means

that a family in Toronto or Montreal can wake up in the morning and decide to make a short drive to New York State for the weekend, load up with back to school supplies and clothes, and save potentially hundreds of dollars in tariffs in addition to the savings to be gained from purported lower American prices. It means that a family in southern BC can drive to Washington State two or three times a month, spend the night and come back each time with a trunk load of groceries all duty free. Over the course of a year and a few trips, a family's savings on import tariffs alone to the Canadian government could easily add up into the thousands of dollars. That is in addition to all the savings from often paying lower prices across the border.

So while I do not begrudge southern Canadian families their tax savings, I believe that the federal government has overlooked the people living in the Territories and northern part of the provinces who do not have the option of cross-border shopping on a weekly or monthly basis and will realize little or no savings from this new duty-free exemption.

Where is the tax relief for northern Canadians who pay higher prices across the board, GST compounded on those higher prices and untold millions of dollars in fuel tax, which is hidden in the cost of every good that is transported north? Where is the fairness?

I believe this oversight could be corrected quickly and easily with an increase in the northern residents' tax deduction. This would be a straightforward way to give Northerners a break on their income taxes that matches the savings southern Canadians will now realize on their cross-border shopping, and that would be only fair.

Later today I'll have questions for the Minister of Finance on how he might engage the federal government on this issue. The federal government, the Prime Minister comes up here, they say they want Arctic sovereignty, they want people to live up here and they say they love the North. Well, why don't they show it? Give us an increase in our northern tax deduction. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONGRATULATIONS TO HAY RIVER
SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATES

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I use my Member's statement to congratulate the graduates of the two high schools in Hay River. We have four graduates at Ecole Boreale and 38 graduates at Diamond Jenness Secondary School. Both of these grad ceremonies will take place next weekend and I will be able to attend both of them, so I'm looking forward to that.

It's an exciting time for these youth, and I urge these youth to continue to learn, continue to educate yourself depending on where your specialties lie, whether that's in a trade or whether that's getting a degree or just learning some sort of certification. Life is an education, like the Minister of the Department of Education indicated today, and continue to learn.

I'd like them to enjoy their ceremonies, but make sure that they're safe out there. Make sure there's no alcohol involved, no drinking and driving.

I'd also at this time like to congratulate some of my former graduates of 1987, who graduated 25 years ago on June 26, 1987. We graduated 25 years ago and we've spread out through the country. So I congratulate everybody. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
APPRECIATION OF PUBLIC SERVANTS
AND MEMBERS OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
IN THE BUDGET PROCESS

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all our hardworking staff in the GNWT. The event that we had today goes to show that we have some really good staff and people working for the people of the Northwest Territories through the Premier's Awards; some hardworking, dedicated staff.

With that said, we're coming to the end of our four-week budget session. We've had some very long days, early mornings, late nights and we had some really strong debates, some really good meetings. Just the whole process of how everything went down was very educating. It's a lot of hard work, and in between our meetings we try to deal with constituency concerns every chance we get, as well as dealing with territorial concerns.

I'd like to recognize all of the hard work and dedication of all the Members on this side of the House, as well as Cabinet and their staff for all of the hard work that they put in over the last three and a half weeks.

Just as important, I'd like to recognize the Legislative Assembly and their staff for all of the hard work that they've been doing drafting motions, getting all of our work together, organizing the meetings, trying to fit in the meetings when we can. It is a lot of work. We put in a lot of time, a lot of energy.

I'd also like to recognize the family and friends who support us and who sacrifice so that we can come here, have these strong debates, have good questions and try to work out what's best for the people of the Northwest Territories.

I have to say that I have respect for anybody that can do this job, or anybody that works for the Legislative Assembly and puts in the hours that we've been putting in for the last three and a half weeks. It's pretty amazing and it's something that I didn't see as a resident of Inuvik, or just as an NWT resident when we saw how things were deliberated here. It's a lot of hard work and I respect anybody that can do it, and I also respect any of our NWT leaders across the Northwest Territories and the hard work that they do for their people as well.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS OFFICERS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The nature of our modern government is that a large number of very important decisions are delegated to statutory officers. The example I use today is the employment standards officer. This is, of course, sometimes the only efficient way to do government, in today's day and age. What concerns me is that too often the government's oversight seems to end with an appointment or, certainly in the case of employment matters, when they hire these folks. It cannot be overstated, but the decisions made by the employment service officers have very far reaching impacts. Sometimes if you disagree with them, to some extent, they can be taken to court for review. This is a very expensive process and the courts are reluctant to interfere with the decisions of our statutory officers, as I made mention today.

Once affirmed by the courts, the officer's decision, that is, whether it's been good or bad, clear or unclear, it becomes a new standard for employers and employees to live within. It's therefore critical that we ensure that people who are appointed to these decision-making positions have the right skills and knowledge to do their job properly.

Often you will hear the phrase "to ensure they have the proper competencies" to do the job. That doesn't mean they're not doing the job in a manner that they are trying the best they can, just making sure they're skilled properly with the right ability.

That then leads me into the interpretation of how we balance and manage this problem. What does the government do to help set minimum qualifications? As we all know, interpreting legislation is a challenging business. Do we require mandatory training of people who are in these areas, as I pointed out, such as the employment standards officer? What do we do when such areas as supporting them with training in administrative law and procedures? Do we teach them or mentor them on writing good, clear decisions?

Many challenges have come up, and I've heard from different people on this particular issue, but it always seems to come back to this: How do we support and train our folks who make these very important decisions, because they are far reaching and many of them are extremely costly? Later today, as the example I used of employment standards officer is only one of many examples, I will use this example to ask questions to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to find out how we support these people doing these tough jobs.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
GRADUATION CLASSES IN
FORT MCPHERSON AND TSIIGHEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate the graduating class of 2012 at Chief Julius School in Fort McPherson for Friday, June 15th. I'd also like to congratulate the parents and teachers on a job well done.

On June 20th the students of Chief Paul Niditchie School in Tsiigehtchic will be having a graduation for the students in Tsiigehtchic. Congratulations, everyone.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TRIBUTE TO MRS. IRENE SANDERSON
OF FORT SMITH

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Family and close friends are sitting a 24-hour vigil with family matriarch and respected elder Irene Sanderson this week in Fort Smith. Despite being ill for many months, Irene has remained the strong woman she's always been, not complaining about her lot in life, not even to say why me after receiving a terminal diagnosis. She's a testament of strength to her children, her relations, and her friends.

Irene is a trapper's daughter, born and raised in the bush at Ambers Portage between Fort Chipewyan and Fort McMurray. She became a trapper's wife in Fort Smith, where her eight children were born and raised. Charlie, Elaine, Sam, Lisa, Sandy, Andrew, Alma and Ray grew up learning and living the traditional life their mother taught to them. Hunting, fishing, trapping, cutting dry meat and hanging dry fish, you name it. Irene taught her children how to survive in the bush and respect the traditional lifestyle. Her children knew how to hunt moose and

make bannock on a wood stove, long before they knew how to turn on an electric oven or buy meat from Kaiser's Store.

I've known Irene Sanderson for a long time. She's been a long-time supporter who brought bannock to my constituency office many times over the years. You can bet that when she takes a stand on an issue, Irene's not shy to speak her mind or stand her ground. Like the time she became upset about the ban on caribou hunting. Irene even stopped talking to me for awhile. I'm told that her daughter Lisa reminded her mom of those years on the trap line at Burnt Lake, when Irene would stop trapping beaver and muskrat for a few seasons to give them time to restock. Lisa reminded her mom, it's the same thing he's doing for the caribou.

Irene spent a lifetime teaching what she knows best to her children, her 16 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. Most of them continue to live in Fort Smith. She's known for sharing her home with other families in need, welcoming and treating the children as though they were her own. Irene has lived a clean and sober life filled with lots of love, laughter and compassion. I understand she called the family home last week to spend time with each person, reminiscing about the old times, and to say goodbye individually to the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to whom she has devoted her entire life.

Irene Sanderson's children are her legacy to Fort Smith and the North. She shared with them a lifetime of invaluable knowledge on how to thrive and live off the bounty of the land. At the same time Irene taught her children the importance of being kind and respectful to people whose lives they touch and be respectful and loving of each other.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CONGRATULATIONS TO TU NEDHE
RECIPIENTS OF THE PREMIER'S AWARDS

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That's very touching.

I wanted to congratulate Tu Nedhe recipients of the Premier's awards today for the Premier's Award for Collaboration on the Slave River and Delta Partnership Team. We had two members from Fort Resolution, Patrick Simon and Tausia Lal.

Also, the Premier's Award of Excellence for the team award recipients went to the Deninu School in Fort Resolution, and the principal was here to receive the award for all the teachers and administrators over there. That's an excellent school. Each time I come into Fort Resolution and I have an opportunity, I attend the school. It is full of life, so I was very pleased to see that recognized. They have done a lot for their students in Fort

Resolution. I just wanted to say congratulations to the Deninu School team.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Before we continue, I just want to say our thoughts and prayers are with the Sanderson family. To all people in the territory, I guess, we have Members here with family in the hospital. Our thoughts and prayers are with you from the Legislative Assembly. God bless you and a quick recovery.

Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolynny.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today in my Member's statement I talked about the truly inspirational work of one young man in Range Lake. He's quite a difference maker. I'd like to introduce Mr. Cole Philipp; his mother, Stephanie; and his dad, Jeff, who are up in the gallery.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. I'd like to welcome all visitors in the public gallery here today. Thank you for your interest in today's proceedings.

Item 6, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 6-17(3):
PREMIER'S COLLABORATION AWARD

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Ms. Phebie Kenny of Deline, along with her team at the NWT Housing Corporation, on receiving the Premier's Collaboration Award today. On behalf of the Sahtu region, I would like to congratulate Ms. Kenny on her continuous efforts and contributions toward her community.

Ms. Kenny is known for her hard work and her constant teamwork. The community of Deline is fortunate to have such an exceptional individual. I encourage the Sahtu to continue much of the appreciated work with their communities and members.

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

Oral Questions

QUESTION 139-17(3):
SUPPORT FOR
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS OFFICERS

MR. HAWKINS: Wow. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I was referring to the

fact that territorial laws often create statutory officers. They become decision-makers. These are individuals who are responsible for the administration of very important pieces of legislation, and they have far-reaching decision-making authorities such as employment standards, I pointed out, and in particular, we have other things such as the Legal Services Act creates the legal services board, and it goes on and on and on.

My question, though, is around ECE and, of course, the employment standards officer, so I'll be directing my questions to the Minister of ECE. My first question for him today is: Are these appointments that we make under the Employment Standards Act to establish the employment standards officers to make these decisions, do we provide them with basic law training prior to them sitting in a decision-making capacity to write rulings? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The principle function of the employment standards officer is to administer the Employment Standards Act. The act sets out general rights and responsibilities and minimal requirements, fundamental principles of employment standards. The act also covers such areas of work, minimum wage, termination of employment, annual vacation, statutory holidays, pregnancy and parental leave. Those fall under the act, so it's up to the officer to follow through according to the act. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: I appreciate the Minister providing a bit of an outline where they do their business, but it's a matter of them being able to do their business is really what I'm after. Back to the training question, do we provide any training or mentoring for them as they make these very important decisions? Do we get behind them with special reference material to help them guide and make clear and honourable decisions in their process? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I don't have the specifics of the duty outline and what the Member is referring to on the training aspects, but I can definitely provide that information in detail to the Members. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: Part of the training question that I'd like to ask at the same time, is does his department offer any ongoing training. As many people know, there are types of mediation training such as decision-writing training and these are the types of the capacities. Does his department support these statutory officers with that type of support mechanism, again, to ensure they're making clear and good decisions? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, we definitely support those individuals in those kinds of capacity to have up-to-date experience and training requirements. We continue to provide that training, whether it be the statutory officers, or whether it be the employment standards officers, and provide them as up-to-date information as we possibly can through the training. Mahsi.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Quite often I only hear from people who are unhappy with a particular decision or, certainly, the guidance provided by this specific office, and I've heard about many offices, I just had to pick one because we don't have all day. When decisions are appealed, taken to court, it's quite expensive and it's a very painful process. What type of monitoring does the Department of ECE do on both the decisions made, reaffirmed by the court, and the subjects why people have taken them to the process of appeal? Does the Department of ECE ever examine and consider some of the issues raised when people are appealing decisions? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We do work closely with the employment standards officers. We have to make sure that they're following the act. If an individual or a party is not satisfied with the decisions that are being made, there is an appeal process, as the Member alluded to. The employment standards appeal, adjudicators hear appeals by employers or employees who are not satisfied with the decision of the employment standards officers. There is a process that's been established and we continue to work with that as well. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 140-17(3):
INCREASE IN NORTHERN RESIDENTS'
TAX DEDUCTION

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Finance. I would like to ask the Minister when is the last time the northern residents' tax deduction was increased and when was the last time our government made a formal appeal to the federal government for this kind of cost-of-living relief for the residents of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the first question, I can just indicate to the Member that in my time as Finance Minister, it's not been an issue that I have broached with the Minister of Finance with the

federal government, and it's been, I think, probably three or four years since there has been any adjustment. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: As a government we have talked extensively about the cost of living in the Northwest Territories. When the GST was first introduced, we tried to have the GST exempted in the Northwest Territories. That did not work. That would have been an administratively burdensome thing for the federal government. The Minister regularly meets with his federal and territorial counterparts and, in fact, there's a pan-territorial meeting on issues as well. Is this something, as a cost of living relief measure, that could be put on the agenda of the next meeting he attends with Finance Ministers or other Finance Ministers in the North particularly? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: In fact, the Premier is meeting with the northern Premiers in the next couple of weeks and has indicated that he will have that item on the agenda to have an initial discussion with his colleagues. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you very much for agreeing to have that on the agenda. In lead up to that discussion, would it be possible to do some research to see what kind of tax, by way of duty, the federal government, in fact, walked away from or left on the table by increasing the duty-free limits? In preparation for that it would be a good argument, I believe, to be made, that this is the least they could do, given what they have just given southern Canadians. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I appreciate the Member's advice and will ensure that the Premier is fully briefed with all the information he needs to make a compelling argument in discussion with his colleagues in Iqaluit. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Listening to the news, I also realized that MPs, some MPs, I'm not so sure about our MP, but some northern MP representing a northern region has also raised this in the House of Commons recently as well. I think that we need as large of a voice as possible on this particular issue, and so I would appreciate if our government could also engage those who are elected who are also trying to achieve this goal as well, to reinforce our case. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Once again, I appreciate the Member's comments. I know the Member of Parliament has been a strong advocate of having increases in this area as well. There are three territories and, I believe, six provincial jurisdictions as well that have access to this deduction. We will start with the northern territories and have that discussion and will make sure that

we include the Member of Parliament as well. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 141-17(3):
FUNDING FOR TRANSITIONAL
VOCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

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

I'd like to first ask the Minister, with regard to the Student Financial Assistance review, I believe it was started in the 16th Assembly, and Members from the 16th who have returned to the 17th are waiting for the results from that review. There have been many suggestions from Members over the years as to how the SFA program could be amended, could be made for the better. Certainly, as I mentioned in my statement, there are certain courses which are ineligible for SFA funding. Students' upgrading courses out of high school, for instance, and the vocational training courses, which I mentioned. I'd like to know from the Minister whether or not the Student Financial Assistance review has considered any change in policy that would allow transitional vocational programs to be funded through the SFA program. Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The specifics of it, I don't have in front of me, but an area that has been raised in this House will definitely be taken into consideration. This is an area that hasn't been highlighted as part of other jurisdictions, as well, through post-secondary program. Of course, it doesn't qualify as SFA programming, but there are other sources of funding that individuals can access. That is the Labour Market Agreement through the federal government that we have within the GNWT, within the ECE department. We are willing to assist in that area.

I would encourage the individual to apply through that venue. We would be more than happy to look at the application, as well, through that Labour Market Agreement. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Minister. I'm not sure the Minister understands. This particular individual is a challenged individual. They are not looking for a job. They are looking, at this point in time, for skills which will enable them to become an independent person able to live on their own, and they need certain life skills which they don't currently have because they have been living from home.

Apart from the Labour Market Agreement possibility, we have funding for academic programs through SFA. We certainly have funding for apprenticeships in another area of Education, Culture and Employment, but I would like to know what programs other than the Labour Market Agreement are available for a challenged student who wants to go on to further training in order to become an independent person. What programs are available to them? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, this particular program, transitional vocational through Grande Prairie College, is not a post-secondary program. As you know and Members know, SFA qualifies for post-secondary programming, but there are other sources of funding that is the Labour Market Agreement. It is not only for on-the-job training. There are other ways to work around the system where we have the funding through the federal government. That is one example.

Income assistance is another example. Employment Insurance, Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategy is another funding that is available, UCEP, University and College Entrance Program, and Labour Market Agreement. Those are some of the venues that we have access to and, more specifically, Labour Market Agreement. We have assisted those students that want to pursue an area of interest, whether it be post-secondary area. That is an area that we can definitely look into, to sponsor the individual. Mahsi.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to suggest to the Minister that not all of those options are available to individuals. He first of all identified that SFA is only for post-secondary. We have students who are graduating from high school who do need extra training in order to be contributing members to society. Income support is not available to students who are not going to school in the territory. If this student were to go to Grande Prairie College, income support would be denied. I thank the Minister for the list, but some of them don't totally apply.

The example that I used probably will not be able to receive any help for the next school year. I would like to know from the Minister whether or not he will consider revising the policy to assist challenged students to get some financial assistance for further schooling beyond high school. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I did already commit to that. We will be considering those recommendations brought forward to our attention by the students, parents and general public on SFA overall review. We are going to make those changes. We will definitely come back to the standing committee and highlight what we are going to pursue. This is an area that has been

brought to our attention today. I will definitely look at that as well. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 142-17(3):
INDEPENDENT OVERSIGHT BODY FOR
GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up with my Member's statement with questions to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. In grappling with downstream water quality issues resulting from the tar sands, our Minister of Environment confronts the legacy of insufficient public oversight. In contrast, the development of our diamond mines has included independent monitoring mechanisms under legally binding agreements. This government's officials have participated in work aimed at creating an independent oversight body and, this week, co-signed a letter to the board calling for a working group to be set up. Could the Minister comment on this government's commitment to independent oversight and what his department is doing to ensure it comes about? Mahsi.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I as Minister attended the meeting in March where this issue was at the tail end of the workshop. We committed to the process. We have been involved since then. We are still part of the process. We are committed to coming up with, hopefully, a consensus on the way forward in terms of oversight and mediation through the process. The Member's comment about needing to do it long into the future is a recognized fact as well. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, thanks to the Minister for those comments. I know his presence at that workshop was greatly appreciated. The government has said that the Devolution Agreement will ensure cleaning up of contaminated sites, and Giant is the epitome of such sites, but to date the federal government has made no commitment to ensure funding of perpetual care and maintenance or to fund continuing research into alternative technologies that could ultimately eliminate the environmental threat.

Will the Minister commit to ensuring that the Devolution Agreement contains provisions committing the federal government to identify and supply long-term funding for perpetual care including continuing research towards complete elimination of existing toxins? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the Giant Mine Remediation Project remains one of

the biggest environmental clean-up sites in the country; the largest in terms of magnitude and cost. It receives its own separate mention in the agreement-in-principle. It is a site that will be maintained in the inventory of the federal government. Of course, we will be working closely, as we have been and continue to do, with all the interested and affected parties to ensure that the federal government complies with their obligations. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, thanks for that commitment by the Minister. There is very little evidence of planning or clear thinking on creation of a perpetual care plan for this site today. Concerns include a lack of plan to preserve current records, document remediation, long-term care activities, continuing consideration of remediation options and fulsome public reporting and information disclosure. However, options to meet these needs have been creatively examined through the work of the YKDFN, Yellowknives Dene First Nations, Alternatives North and the Pembina Institute, and are contained in documents to be tabled later today. Does the Minister agree that our responsibilities and those of the federal government will not be met until a perpetual care plan has been consultatively created? Will he influence and work with the federal government and public to create such a plan? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, this is one of the largest environmental sites that require cleanup in the entire country of Canada. We are fully committed to the process to make sure that remediation plan is developed and agreed to, and the oversight plan is being worked on and hopefully is finally agreed to.

We recognize that this site and the responsibilities will be with us long into the future. We are here for the long haul, as are all of the people of the North, and our commitment is to make sure that that site meets the standard today and tomorrow and far into the future in terms of what is required for remediation. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the Minister's perspective again. I spoke today about the creation of an independent oversight body, but that is still down the road. As public reaction in March demonstrated, people are not satisfied with the current flow of information from the project team. A meeting to explain major demolition already underway at the site was given on three days' notice and was poorly advertised. There was no proactive exposure last year of information on a dam failure and later a sinkhole. As a co-proponent of this project, this government has a responsibility and can exert influence to do better. There is a real opportunity and a need for

leadership, so this Minister has a real opportunity. Will this government urge the federal government to beef up its public information efforts? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. Communication is a critical component of just about everything we do. In this case, the Member has highlighted a number of areas where communication hasn't been as proper, and thorough, and laid out in advance as it should be. Of course, I'll commit to make sure that in our discussions, both ourselves as a territorial government and the federal government, do a better job in making sure that information flows properly and that the issue of transparency is addressed, as has been attempted to do through this oversight committee. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 143-17(3):
DELAY IN FEDERAL PENSION CHEQUES
TO FORT GOOD HOPE SENIORS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This morning I heard on the CBC News and I had a phone call yesterday, actually, from a person in Fort Good Hope, that the elders are wondering what happened to their pension cheques. They've been waiting for a long time. So I want to ask the Minister responsible for Seniors if he's aware of this and is he helping the elders in Fort Good Hope to find out what happened to their pension cheques from the federal government.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The Minister responsible for Seniors, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have tracked the situation. We recognize that it's a federal government issue. We know the Minister and we have provided some information to the MLAs office, but we're also prepared to make contact with that federal Minister to find out the details of why those cheques were late. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: The elders in Fort Good Hope are going through this a second time. There's a glitch in the federal government's system and I'm glad the Minister is on top of this issue. I want to ask the Minister if he's working with his colleagues for this situation where some of the elders do not have the money to pay for some of their bills that the territorial government has issued, the power bill or some other bills, the housing bills. So is the Minister helping our elders in Fort Good Hope with the bills that are being poured on them by this government?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. I've not had that discussion with the Minister of Housing as far as any costs that may be coming from the Housing Corp, or had any discussion with the Minister of Education as in income support to carry the

pensioners over until their cheques come. What we've been doing is trying to find out why they're late and we're going to be following up at the request of the MLA, follow up with the appropriate department federally to find out what the issue is with the two months in a row where their cheques are delayed. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. This week is Elder Abuse Week. We should send that message to Ottawa. There's a glitch in here and elders are taking quite a bit of abuse here. So I want to ask the Minister, is he going to inform his counterparts in Ottawa that enough is enough and that this is the second time, and somehow the elders in Fort Good Hope are going to be reassured that there are other alternatives that can be used to make sure that the elders get their cheques on time. Can the Minister do that?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Yes, I'm prepared to call the Health Minister in Ottawa or if she's in her Iqaluit office, to have this discussion with her. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maybe we should all go to Ottawa and tell the federal government some of the issues here that are important here to us in the small communities.

Can the Minister tell me if, once he's made some contact with our MP or the officials or the Minister in Ottawa, that he can inform the people through the chief and council in Fort Good Hope that this issue has been looked after once and for all?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Yes, I'm prepared to do that. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 144-17(3):
OFF-LABEL USE OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I have questions for the Minister of Health and it's going to deal with pharmaceutical and prescription drugs, and I'll be very easy on the Minister, Mr. Speaker.

The term "off-label use" is a term used in the industry where it means a drug has been discovered to have properties of use or therapeutic use for something that was outside of its intended use. In a lot of cases, drug companies don't go to the case of actually making proof of claim because of costs. Drug benefits such as Blue Cross, extended health will look at this synopsis and make their decision whether a drug is covered or not. So again, off-label use does have a merit out in practice.

My question for the Minister is: Does the department have a program in place to deal with the therapeutic advantage of using off-label drugs for therapy and is there a process in place for people in the Northwest Territories to go to get these prescriptions covered? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Member's may know, Cabinet direction for all extended health benefits, any health benefits that we provide, and as far as drugs and other services go, are in line with the non-insured health benefits that are provided by the federal government for First Nations. So if we were to go off of that system, that would be contrary to Cabinet direction. But we do have a system to look at these cases on a one-on-one basis. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. The Minister is correct; and non-insured health benefits are used as a means for formulary design. However, that system does have some gaping holes in the process and currently, right now, if a patient was to question viability of a drug being covered, it goes to Inuvik to extended benefits for review and it is reviewed, hopefully, by an independent source or a professional source. Does the Minister have information whether or not there is a process for a review that goes outside the formulary design of intention? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. At this point any drugs that are considered to be off-label drugs that have benefits other than what's indicated and approved by Health Canada, is on a one-off basis, like I indicated. It's requested by the physician so that an individual that is prescribed drugs and is having a positive effect in another area, the exception can be requested by a physician. The physician's request will then go to Alberta Blue Cross for review and then it will come back to Health and Social Services for consideration.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. So what we're hearing here is that there is a peer review process involved, that physicians are involved and it goes to Inuvik for further review. But can the Minister indicate to the House if there is an unfavourable response from this peer review, is there an appeals process that a patient or another health care provider can follow in order to get that drug covered? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Because this has occurred several times over the last few years, the department is actually now currently working on an appeal, a formal appeal process that we're hoping to get developed very soon. I don't know the exact intention or the date of when this formal appeal process will be completed, but we are currently working on that process now.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's very encouraging to hear that we are working towards an appeals program, but that could take several months, maybe years, to achieve. In the interim, can the Minister make a commitment to look, on a case-by-case basis, if it is brought to the department to look at those patients who are waiting in the wings patiently to hear from this government, so that they can get their drugs approved for their therapies that are not previously being covered by our programs?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Recognizing the deviation from the NIHB formulary could potentially cost more money than expected and have other impacts, but I will commit to continue to look at off-label drugs and the positive impacts of off-label drugs on a one-off basis.

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

QUESTION 145-17(3):
INUVIK PETROLEUM SHOW

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The people of the Beaufort-Delta, at this time, are in a big need for some sort of economic job opportunities. Within the next week, Inuvik will be hosting the Inuvik Petroleum Show and I understand the Minister of ITI will be attending. I would like to ask the Minister what will be your message for the people of the Beaufort-Delta.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the question from the Member. Certainly, I think the message has to be that there's hope for the future, not only in the Beaufort-Delta but in the territory, when it relates to our economic development and the opportunities that are out there. I know the organizers have worked hard to put together a solid program for the Inuvik Petroleum Show, which takes place in Inuvik next week. I certainly look forward to speaking at that show. I know the Premier will be there as well as a couple of Regular Members. The message is that there is hope for the future, and we're looking forward to being there.

MR. BLAKE: What can we expect to get from the development of our petroleum resources?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We continue to move toward the conclusion of the negotiation on devolution, and certainly I think the territory will benefit greatly from the development of our petroleum resources here in the Northwest Territories. Not only on-shore, but off-shore. After

the agreement is concluded, we will be able to negotiate a deal on off-shore. When you look at the potential that exists in the Beaufort, that's a tremendous opportunity for this territory going forward. We're certainly excited about the prospects that are out in the Beaufort. I know Chevron will be out there doing some seismic work this summer. There's a renewed interest and focus on opportunities in the Beaufort.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you to the Minister. At this time I have no further questions.

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

QUESTION 146-17(3):
CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE FOR RELOCATION
OF THE TROUT LAKE AIRPORT RUNWAY

MR. MENICOCHE: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Member's statement and my concern about the construction of the Trout Lake airport. I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation, what work is being planned for construction this summer.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. David Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have had some difficulties with getting the construction of that airport complete in Trout Lake. We will continue to work. We're under a project management regime now, similar to what we started out with in the community of Trout Lake. We look forward to continuing with the embankment work. There have been some delays in the project until next year, but certainly work continues, and it is our belief that the department can continue to work with the community of Trout Lake to maximize the opportunities at the local level.

MR. MENICOCHE: I'm pleased that there is progress with the construction. The concern from the community, and myself as MLA, has been that when the Department of Transportation management team was previously wanting to do the contract, they were trying to get outside contractors, from outside the community, from outside the region. I want assurance and commitment from the Minister that they will not be doing this again.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The project manager certainly would have to come from outside of the community, but our expectation would be that the project manager would work with the community in trying to identify local labour contractors, and if they are not available in the community of Trout Lake, certainly looking at other communities located in the Member's riding.

MR. MENICOCHE: That's the kind of assurance I'm looking for. It would be nice to get that in writing.

I think the most important thing is, when I say work with the community, is that when they're talking about contracting and opportunities, that there is some type of management team set up with the community members so that they are involved in the project. Currently, the way it's set up now is that they're being consulted, but they would like to be actively involved. This is a \$7 million contract. How can we continue to involve the community so that we don't even look outside our region for any contractors whatsoever?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: The project manager in Trout Lake has identified a community liaison person who is responsible for finding operators, picking up and dropping off personnel, and general other duties associated with the project. We have a liaison there. We have been working with the community. If the Member is aware of instances where that isn't happening, or cases where he feels or the community feels that we aren't working with them, that's something I'd like for him to bring to my attention and we'll certainly try to rectify that.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the community and myself, I have certainly brought any deficiencies or inappropriate potential conflicts of outside contractors to the Minister and I will continue to do that. Is there such a policy that will guarantee that communities like Trout Lake, with huge infrastructure projects, will benefit? If we can't involve the local development corporation because of unforeseen circumstances, that at least they be included in the management team.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: We have employed this project management approach in a number of small communities across the Northwest Territories and we haven't encountered difficulties. We are encountering some difficulties here. I've had an opportunity to sit down with the leadership from the community of Trout Lake. We are back there and doing what we can to work with the community. It's moving forward and our commitment as a department is to work with the community. I just wanted to reiterate that. If the Member or the community feels that's not happening, I'd be more than happy to address those concerns.

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

QUESTION 147-17(3):
ROLE OF THE HAMLET COUNCILS
IN INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today I talked about the role of the hamlet councils in our communities. I have, in my riding, some communities that have clearly expressed their

aspirations to try to be more independent in terms of trying to provide critical services to the communities. I wanted to ask the Minister what are the steps in how it is that these local community councils could undertake to address issues with trying to repair or build vital service infrastructure in the communities.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Most communities have a capital plan and they identify projects. In some cases in the capital plan, where the cost is very high, then they would start putting some money away. They work with our department in trying to assist in identifying best ways to put the infrastructure up. Once they go through all that, at the end of the day, the ultimate decision is up to the community as to how they want to proceed.

MR. NADLI: With the recent trends in how it is that we're going to spend the next four years trying to allocate our priorities, I think there's been a deliberate decision to ensure that any major capital infrastructure projects are delayed at the latter part of this Assembly. I wanted to ask if there are any interim arrangements that perhaps communities could be considered because of their long-standing aspiration to try to establish service infrastructure, like water treatment plants. Can this government at least try to prioritize these projects?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We give the communities their infrastructure money every year and there's also the gas tax money that goes to the communities. They have money coming every year, as far as their infrastructure needs are. They get this money every year. It's a line item in the budget. They make the decision as to what their needs are in the community. If the community feels that a water treatment plant is one of their high priorities, then they do have the ability to make that happen. We've worked with other communities before, where they've done a bundled water treatment plant, where it kind of kept the costs down. The communities have all the authority now as far as how their infrastructure money is spent.

MR. NADLI: I thank the Minister for providing us an overview of how it is indeed possible for communities to try to at least establish their infrastructure. My question is: Is there a willingness or departmental commitment to ensure that yes, indeed, these infrastructure projects could be realized? Is the department willing at this time to commit to at least meet the communities' needs?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: We see our role at MACA now as more of a support to the community. MACA has a lot of experience in helping communities try and realize some of their projects, working on capital plans. Communities will submit

capital plans for the next five, 10, 15 years, and if they identify any particular project as part of their capital plan, we would be more than willing to sit with the community, meet with them, review their capital plan and see what the best way is to make it happen.

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

QUESTION 148-17(3):
APPEALED DECISIONS OF
EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS OFFICERS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to return to my questions to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment because I think he provided some really good overviews to the questions I asked. I'm hoping this round he would provide the answers to them. What I want to do is come back to my very last question in which I asked him if the government monitors the decisions made by our employment standards office that are actually taken and appealed to the Supreme Court. The reason I ask that is there may be some reasons why people are consistently appealing them or have problems with them. There may be a lot of things we could be learning from them. My question, of course, goes back to that issue. Does the government monitor the appeals taken to the Supreme Court, to try to understand better, why these particular decisions are appealed and, if so, what is he able to provide my office, in the sense of showing that they do this, and consider the problems that arise from decisions being appealed?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Member is asking for more detailed information and I can provide that to the Member on the process itself, how many appeals have been processed and so forth. I don't have the specific details of the information on the monitoring mechanism, and I need to highlight to the Member in writing, and I will definitely get back to the Member. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: I want to thank the Minister for that very good answer on the particular last question. As I pointed out earlier about wanting some more information as to what type of training we've provided, and as I've highlighted, do we provide basic administrative law training, guidance on decision-making? Would the Minister be able to provide some type of reference package, sort of a broader overview, not everything, of course, but a broad overview as to what type of reference material, strengthening and ongoing training do we provide to these folks who have to make these statutory decisions that are quite extensive, quite

strong in the sense of power, and can be quite expensive if they need to be appealed? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I already committed to provide that information and just providing those tools to those individuals who are in the officer positions, whether it be an employment standards officer or other statutory officer, the training that's been required and various training that is being offered to them. We can have a breakdown of that selective training that's been offered and what they're entitled to. We'll definitely provide that detailed information. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 149-17(3):
RESPONSE TO ANTI-BULLYING MOTION

MR. DOLYNNY: Back on February 16th of this calendar year, this side of the House passed a motion on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on anti-bullying. The sands of time are nearing the end in the hourglass and our question for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is: When will we get a response to that motion? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. This particular motion, I will be tabling a document responding to the motion that was brought forward to this House. We are currently working on various logistical parts on the legislation itself, and working with other counterparts in the provinces and territories. This is a very big package that we are working towards, because it does deal with our Education Act as well. We will keep Members up to speed, as we move forward, but I will be tabling the document today. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 150-17(3):
NEED FOR FULL-TIME NURSE
IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last 15 years the community of Tsiigehtchic has been pleading to get a nurse in the community. I'd like to ask the Minister: Will the Minister be willing to put in place a licenced practical nurse in Tsiigehtchic?

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Order! I know everybody's excited today. It's our second-last sitting day. We still have to maintain order. Mr. Beaulieu has the floor. Continue, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. We are doing a full review of the integrated service

model. It's essentially a delivery model that tries to provide primary care services to each community, from the smallest community to the largest community. We're actually having a discussion with the Joint Leadership Council, which are the chairs and the public administrators of all of the health authorities, and we are talking about trying to provide something more permanent in Tsiigehtchic. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: Would the Minister be willing to do, as a pilot project, have in place in Tsiigehtchic a licenced practical nurse? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We are currently with the MLAs from Beaufort-Delta to try to put a Beaufort-Delta health advisory council together that will work with the public administrator or with the chair, one of the systems. We haven't made our final decision yet, until we review the terms of reference the JLC this week. We're hoping to then provide the terms of reference to the Beaufort-Delta MLAs within that forum. Without pre-empting the decisions that those individuals on that council would make, I'd like to say that this is one of the things that we will look at very closely, where we've heard Members that there is a need for permanent nursing services in the small communities, and we're trying to do that. We are trying to provide permanent full-time nursing services in communities that don't have it. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: Will the Minister assure the community of Tsiigehtchic that this position will be in place within the next year? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I would like to say that, but at the same time, I would also like the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority to be involved in the decision. This is what we're working on, and we're saying we want to provide you with an opportunity to make that decision, and working with that integrated service model, that we want to be able to say that, yes, we can do that. We know that there is more that we can do in the community. Maybe providing service out of the two neighbouring communities is not sufficient, as the people have said. We're taking a very close look at that right now. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It sounds promising. I heard a yes in there somewhere. I'd just like to let the Minister know that I'm more than willing to work with the Minister, and I look forward to the next couple of months here. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 151-17(3):
CHANGES TO RESTRICTIONS FOR
NORMAN WELLS LIQUOR STORE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to ask the Minister of Finance, since the lifting of the liquor sales in the Norman Wells liquor store, I've been receiving phone calls from the communities since February. Recently, I received phone calls in regard to the amount of alcohol that's coming into the community, and the agencies, the RCMP and the nurses are very, very concerned now. I want to ask the Minister on this issue here, the people are waiting to see if there is some possibility of working to change the restriction of the Norman Wells liquor store, so that we can look at a regional concept to it, and to deal with the amount of booze that's coming into our community. Is the Minister looking at some possible changes and working with me on some of the things that we could do to help the people in the Sahtu?

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have met with the Member a number of times and had a considerable amount of correspondence. We've discussed the steps forward. The next most immediate step is going to be we've agreed we're going to collectively write to the leadership in the Sahtu and we'll pose a number of questions to them. Some very basic ones, like taking authorities that now lie at the community level and making decisions about alcohol, taking some responsibilities like the decisions over liquor store restrictions, and those types of things from the community level to a regional level, and a number of questions related to how that would possibly work, who would trigger it, what would be required to do that. We're going to write that letter to the leadership and ask for a response. We're going to look at the information that is provided, and then we'll have the discussion about next steps, myself and the Member for the Sahtu. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Minister outlined a pretty clear path as to what transpired between now and what's happening right now today. I thank the Minister for that. Norman Wells last year made \$2.5 million in liquor sales. Inuvik made \$7.4 million. I expect to see Norman Wells reach up to \$5 million this year. Hopefully, by the fall time we will have some type of decision as to how we go about looking at this issue here and help people in the surrounding communities.

I have a motion from the communities in the Sahtu to say we need to make changes to the Norman Wells liquor store. I want to ask the Minister if that's something we could look forward to sometime maybe in the fall, to make some changes if it could be.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we have to keep in mind, as well, we don't want to give people the impression that the people of the Sahtu are now turning into consumers of alcohol way above what is normal there. The Sahtu, as well, has the benefit, and will continue to have the benefit, of an economic boom with the tight oil play that is going on there and the amount of people coming there. It all contributes to more activity, money and people in the region that don't currently necessarily reside there.

We'll look at the information that comes back from the letters. The Member and I will have a discussion and we'll look at those questions and the information provided, and we will have to, as well, have a broader discussion. We're going to consult with the NWTAC, as well, about designing what we would do based on the information we're going to get back from the leaders. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, when the agencies in our communities are telling me and us that enough is enough, we are getting tired of seeing the incidents, I want to ask the Minister, with the amount of development that possibly could happen in the Sahtu, part of our region is out-of-control drinking. That's what's happening right now, so we want to work on this issue here. Would the Minister work with his colleagues, departments of Justice, Health, Education, Housing, Economic, even the Premier, to see what are the impacts now you are seeing in the Sahtu? Go to our court dates here in the Sahtu and you will see 99.9 percent of people up there because of alcohol. Will the Minister be able to compile some of those incidents, some of those reports that say, yes, we have an issue here in the Sahtu and we need to look at it in a responsible manner?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we are tracking those statistics. The easiest course of action, of course, would be if the community of Norman Wells agreed to put this issue back to the vote. Because of the concern they have heard from all of their companions and all the neighbours in the Sahtu in the neighbouring communities, the existing legislation is clear right now. We will do the work we need to do to chart a path forward. If it requires legislative change or regulatory change, we will have to make that determination.

Clearly, the community of Norman Wells has the legal authority now to put that issue back on the table if they would say they do that, based on the strong feedback they received from the region leadership. In the meantime, we will continue down the path the Member and I have charted out. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister. Through this whole issue here, I think

we worked out a pretty good path as to how we want to resolve this issue. Between now and when we have some of the discussions, can the Minister ask his colleagues to look at some of their own numbers in regard to if the health centre is getting more calls than ever because of out-of-control drinking in our communities, or the justice is seeing more people in courts or jail because of out-of-control drinking? I want to know if the Minister can provide some of that information when we have our next meeting.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I have heard the Member's concern. Finance and the liquor folks are tracking their sales or consumption, the off-sales to individuals. We'll check with the RCMP. We'll make sure that we track their detailing and their statistics of all the potential charges or charges that they do lay. We will also be looking at the court dockets, things we are currently doing, as well, to make sure that we are as thorough as possible trying to track this issue.

I will remind the Member, once again, he and I have had this discussion. The issue of liquor store hours is only one part of the alcohol abuse issue. The circumstances are there where people have to be able to make the choice not to drink. While this issue has some importance to people, they shouldn't be seen as a panacea that is somehow going to cure all the issues that we all struggle with with alcohol abuse. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Mr. Yakeleya.

Petitions

PETITION 1-17(3): RENTS CHARGED TO SENIORS LIVING IN PUBLIC HOUSING

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a petition from Fort Good Hope opposing the GNWT charging rent to seniors in public senior housing; 106 signatures.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 33-17(3):
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO
MOTION 5-17(2), ANTI-BULLYING MEASURES

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "GNWT Response to Motion 5-17(2), Anti-Bullying Measures." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 34-17(3):
TAKE A KID TRAPPING AND HARVESTING
REPORT 2010-2011

TABLED DOCUMENT 35-17(3):
GROWING FORWARD – SMALL SCALE FOODS
PROGRAM 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents, entitled "Taking a Kid Trapping and Harvesting Report 2010-2011" and "Growing Forward Canada/Northwest Territories, Growing Forward Agreement – Small Scale Foods Program Community Garden Initiative, 2011 Annual Report." Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 36-17(3):
LIST OF INTERACTIVITY TRANSFERS
EXCEEDING \$250,000 FOR THE PERIOD
APRIL 1, 2011, TO MARCH 31, 2012

TABLED DOCUMENT 37-17(3):
NORTHERN LAND USE GUIDELINES –
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
SEISMIC OPERATIONS

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "List of Interactivity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the Period April 1, 2011, to March 31, 2012."

As well, I wish to table the following document, entitled "Northern Land Use Guidelines – Northwest Territories Seismic Operations." Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

**Notices of Motion for
First Reading of Bills**

BILL 10:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 7, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, June 15, 2012, I will move that Bill 10, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 7, 2010-2011, be read for the first time. Thank you.

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

BILL 11:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 4, 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that, on Friday, June 15, 2012, I will move that Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2010-2011, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 6:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 1, 2012-2013

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 7:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
JUDICATURE ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 8:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
SECURITIES ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Securities Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Securities Act, has had first reading.

---Carried

Bill 8 has had first reading. Item 19, second reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 6:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 1, 2012-2013

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2012-2013 fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 6 has had second reading.

---Carried

Item 20, 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; Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights 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 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole
on Bills and Other Matters**

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Colleagues, we had the items before the committee just read by the Speaker. I would like to ask what is the wish of the committee. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Madam Chair. Your loyal committee would like to review Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights 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; and, finally, time permitting, Committee Report 2-17(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): We will resume that business after a short break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'll call Committee of the Whole to order. The first bill before us today is Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act. I'm going to ask Minister Jackson Lafferty if he would please introduce his bill. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I am pleased to introduce Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act. The purpose of this legislation is to raise the maximum aggregate of the principal amounts of all student loans that may be made by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The maximum aggregate principal amount of student loans that the government may lend under the Student Financial Assistance Act is currently set at \$36 million. The amendment proposes to increase this amount to \$40 million for the fiscal year 2012-2013 and thereafter. This change is required to allow the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to continue providing student financial assistance at current benefit levels.

We trust that members of the committee will agree that this amendment is appropriate and necessary.

I would be pleased to answer any questions the members of the committee may have.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring witnesses into the Chamber.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses to the witness table.

Minister Lafferty, for the record, would you please introduce your witnesses?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Madam Chair. With me to my left is Gloria Iatridis, acting deputy minister of Department of Education, Culture and Employment; and to my right is Tricia Ralph, legislative advisor. Mahsi.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. General comments on Bill 1. Do Members have any general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Detail, thank you. Please turn your attention to page 1, Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 and 2 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, committee. Bill 1 is now deemed ready for third reading. I'd like to thank Minister Lafferty and his witnesses for their attendance here today. I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he would like to escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. Thank you.

Please turn your attention to Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act. I'd like to ask MLA Blake if he would like to introduce the bill. Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am pleased to provide opening comments for Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act. Madam Chair, Bill 3 authorizes the Speaker, on the recommendation of the Board of Management, to designate a chairperson and deputy chairperson of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission. In certain circumstances, the commission may designate an acting chairperson.

Madam Chair, the Human Rights Act is administered jointly by the Speaker, the Legislative Assembly and the Minister of Justice. The Speaker's role in administering the act is limited to the administration of the Human Rights

Commission and the Adjudication Panel. These amendments all relate to that function and do not adversely affect the rights of individuals.

I would be pleased to answer any questions you might have. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Blake. I'd like to ask the Member if he would like to bring witnesses into the House.

MR. BLAKE: Yes, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Agreed. Thank you. I'll ask Mr. Blake to take the witness table and have the Sergeant-at-Arms escort his witnesses into the Chamber.

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

MR. BLAKE: Madam Chair, to my left I have Ian Rennie, legislative counsel, Department of Justice. On my right, my right-hand man, Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Blake. General comments on Bill 3. Detail?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 to 3 inclusive approved

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. The bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does the committee agree that Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act, is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, committee. Bill 3 is now deemed ready for third reading. I'd like to thank Member Blake and his witnesses for their attendance here today, and I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort them out of the Chamber.

Committee, if I could turn your attention now, please, to 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. I will now go to the chairman of the Government Operations committee for any opening comments he may have. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. On Thursday, May 31, 2012, the Standing Committee on Government Operations presented its Report on

the Review of the Northwest Territories Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2010-2011 Annual Report. The report, which includes six recommendations, was read into the record by members of the committee and a motion was passed and moved to report into Committee of the Whole. The committee thanks Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts for the report and for her appearance before the committee on February 14, 2012.

The standing committee is seriously concerned by the government's lack of action on the recommendations from the Information and Privacy Commissioner and the previous standing committees for improving access to information and protection of privacy in the Northwest Territories. The committee prioritized several of these recommendations and discussions with the Commissioner and is pleased to bring them forward to Committee of the Whole. The committee looks forward to real progress in the field of access to information and protection of privacy over the course of the 17th Assembly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Do any committee members have any comments with respect to the committee report on the review of the annual report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner? Any general comments? Seeing none, I will go to Mr. Nadli for the committee's motions for the recommendations on the report. Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 14-17(3):
IMPLEMENT ACCESS AND PRIVACY
LEGISLATION FOR MUNICIPALITIES,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories, in consultation with stakeholders, implement access and privacy legislation for municipalities and bring forward a bill during the first two years of this Assembly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is in order. To the motion. I'll just allow a couple of minutes for the motion to be distributed. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I did want to speak to this motion. I wanted to particularly say that this was an issue for the committee report in the 16th Assembly and it has come forward from the Information and Privacy Commissioner again. It's an issue that has been talked about for many years. Municipalities are on board in support of setting up some legislation with regard to access and privacy legislation for municipalities. I believe there's a resolution on the books for the NWT Association of Communities, which has been there for several years, I think.

So I think that to date, the government has been ignoring the recommendations of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and I think it's necessary that we as an Assembly put some emphasis behind this particular legislation.

I know that there are difficulties with our municipalities. Some of them don't have the capacity to do a huge amount of ATIPP requests, but I think we need to enact legislation that considers the capacity of our municipalities and our communities, and I think we need to provide the access to information to people that reside in our communities.

A number of the complaints that were received by the Information and Privacy Commissioner did relate to bodies other than the Government of the Northwest Territories. Some of them did relate to municipalities, and it's time that we put the emphasis on this particular request of the Information and Privacy Commissioner that it deserves. I am fully in support of this motion and I would encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favour of it as well. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. General comments. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question is being called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Next motion, Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 15-17(3):
COMPLETION OF NEW
HEALTH INFORMATION ACT,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories complete work on the new Health Information Act, taking into account consultations with the Information and Privacy Commissioner over the principle of patient control and patient information and bring forward a bill within the first two years of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question is being called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 16-17(3):
 UNDERTAKE COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF
 ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND
 PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT,
 CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends to the Government of the Northwest Territories to undertake a comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the role and powers of the Information and Privacy Commissioner and bring forward a bill during the first two years of this Assembly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to speak to this motion as well. This is one that again has been recommended by the Information and Privacy Commissioner for quite some time. The report of the Gov Ops committee mentions that as far back as 2008-2009, the Information and Privacy Commissioner has been recommending a general review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Again, it's a recommendation year after year that the Commissioner makes that has been ignored by the government.

Our world is rapidly changing and information is far more available in a number of different sources – electronic in particular – than what it was when the ATIPP Act was originally written. So we need to do a review of the act and ensure that we are looking after our information in light of our current information environment. I don't think that our act does that. There are areas where we are glaringly, obviously, not looking after information in the right way.

The other issue that's addressed in this motion is the role and the powers of the Information and Privacy Commissioner. Those haven't been reviewed for a fairly long period of time, as well, and I think that we need to consider whether or not we need to expand the role of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and we especially have to look at the powers of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and determine whether or not we wish to give her office a bit more force to compel people to abide by decisions and recommendations made by the Information and Privacy Commissioner. At the moment all she can do is make recommendations. She cannot force anybody to abide by a decision that she has made. I think there have been a couple of cases where a GNWT department, for instance, does not agree with the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and they kind of shrug their shoulders and say, oh well, we don't agree so we're not going to do anything. That, in my mind, is not the way we should be treating

our Commissioner. It goes against the purpose of the office, in my mind.

I think this is a reasonable request. I think the time frame is reasonable as well. We're kind of getting towards the end of our first year, so I could appreciate if the government said, well, we can't do it in the first two years, but we could do it in the first three years of the Assembly, but I do believe we need to move forward on this.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

COMMITTEE MOTION 17-17(3):
 DEVELOP CURRICULUM FOR
 GRADES 1 TO 12 RE PROTECTION OF
 PRIVACY IN ON-LINE ENVIRONMENT,
 CARRIED

MR. NADLI: I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment develop a curriculum for Grade 1 to Grade 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 2014-2015.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): A motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question is being called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

COMMITTEE MOTION 18-17(3):
 PROVIDE PROGRESS REPORT AND
 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR 2008-2012
 COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS
 BEFORE FALL 2012 SESSION,
 CARRIED

MR. NADLI: I move that this committee recommends that 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 2012 before the fall 2012 session of the Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): A motion is on the floor. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just want to emphasize that this motion speaks to the issues that I've raised in my two previous comments. Since 2008, the government has not

officially responded to recommendations in the Information and Privacy Commissioner's report. The committee certainly felt, and I support as well, that any report from a statutory officer ought to be viewed by the government, reviewed by the government, and any recommendations in that report from the Information and Privacy Commissioner or any statutory officer, ought to be looked at by the government with a view to improving service of government. I think there ought to be an official response, either to the commission or to the standing committee.

This motion talks about recommendations from 2008 through to this year, May-June of this year, when the standing committee reviewed the latest report. I think it is time, it's been a four-year time period, where there's been no official response from government and I fully believe that it's time for the government to respond to each of the recommendations and indicate what the government will do, provide an implementation plan to deal with the recommendations in the reports.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question is being called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

COMMITTEE MOTION 19-17(3):
PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO
REPORT WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): A motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question is being called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree that this concludes consideration of 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?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Would Members now please turn their attention to Committee Report 2-17(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Northwest Territories Human Rights

Commission Annual Report. I would like to ask the chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Operations if he could provide us with the opening comments on the committee report. Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Madam Chair. On Thursday, May 31, 2012, the Standing Committee on Government Operations presented its Report on the Review of the Human Rights Commission's 2010-2011 Annual Report. The report, which includes two recommendations, was read into the record by the chair of the committee and a motion was passed to move the report into Committee of the Whole.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Mary Pat Short, the outgoing chair of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission, and Ms. Therese Boullard, the outgoing director of the Human Rights Commission, for their many years of dedicated work to promote and uphold human rights in the Northwest Territories. Our territory has been very fortunate to have such committed leaders in the field.

The standing committee expresses its concern in the report of the high number of complaints of discrimination, particularly in employment on the grounds of disability. Members would like our government to lead the way for other employers, in the recruiting and accommodating of persons with disabilities. All Members, I'm sure, share this Human Rights Commissioner's vision of a North at peace with diversity, where everyone is safe, confident and respected on their journey.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. General comments. No general comments. Motions. Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 20-17(3):
RECRUIT AND ACCOMMODATE
WORKERS WITH DISABILITIES,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: I move that this committee 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 in the House within 120 days.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): A motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question is being called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

COMMITTEE MOTION 21-17(3):
PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO
REPORT WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): A motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Question is being called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree that this concludes the business before Committee of the Whole today?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Mr. Hawkins.

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

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance; Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights 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; and Committee Report 2-17(3), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2010-2011 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report, and would like to report progress with eight motions being adopted and that Committee Reports 1-17(3) and 2-17(3) are now concluded and that Bills 1 and 3 are ready for third reading. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Do you have a seconder? Thank you, Mr. Lafferty.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 6:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 1, 2012-2013

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 6, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 6 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Thursday, June 14, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
 - Motion 12-17(3), Mental Health Court Diversion Measures
 - Motion 13-17(3), Extended Adjournment of the House to October 17, 2012
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 9, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2012-2013
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Judicature Act
 - Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Securities Act

20. 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

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act
- Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 14, 2012, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:10 p.m.