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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, November 7, 2013****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. Bob McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Moses, Hon. David Ramsay, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:30 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues.

Before we start today, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the achievements of my aunty in Alaska, Mrs. Sally Smith.

Sally Smith received the Shirley Demientieff Award on October 24, 2013, at the Alaska Federation of Natives Convention in Fairbanks.

The award, presented each year at AFN, was given by Governor Sean Parnell for advocacy on behalf of native women and children in Alaska.

A Yu'pik from Dillingham, Sally Smith has served as a health care advocate and leader for 45 years. Smith has worked tirelessly in Alaska and across the world to improve the health of Alaska natives and native Americans. She has dedicated her life to establishing culturally and scientifically appropriate cancer clinical research for Alaska native people.

Sally Smith serves on the board of directors for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and has previously chaired the National Indian Health Board of Directors. She is the current chairman of Alaska Native Medical Centre.

On behalf of Members of the 17th Assembly, I would like to send my congratulations to Mrs. Sally Smith.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 4-17(5):
ABORIGINAL TOURISM CHAMPIONS
ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, tourism is a vital industry here in the Northwest Territories. Of all sectors, tourism presents the greatest likelihood of creating economic opportunities in each region, especially in the smaller communities. This is especially true of our Aboriginal tourism sector. Through the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, the Government of the Northwest

Territories has been working with the Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council to advance and develop Aboriginal tourism in the NWT.

This week at the NWT Tourism Conference and Annual General Meeting, the council will publicly launch its recommendations for the Aboriginal Tourism Strategy and Action Plan, a recommendations report that I will be tabling later today. I am happy to share the highlights of these recommendations with all Members.

The Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council is the lead organization responsible for overseeing the planning, product development, and promotional initiatives and implementation of the Aboriginal Tourism Framework Strategy. The council includes Aboriginal people with a passion for tourism, representing the diversity of Aboriginal cultures in the Northwest Territories. I want to thank the council members Ms. Ria Letcher and Ms. Jenni Bruce, our co-chairs; Mr. Grant Beck, Mr. Knute Hansen, Ms. Peggy Jay, Mr. Doug Lamalice, Ms. Margaret Nazon, Mr. Moise Rabesca, Ms. Judith Wright-Bird, Ms. Karen Wright-Fraser and Mr. Richard Zieba for bringing us one step closer to making Aboriginal tourism a viable sector in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the council has recommended increasing awareness and support for Aboriginal tourism among Aboriginal communities, organizations and governments. They have recommended improving skills for Aboriginal businesses involved in the tourism industry.

They want to see us make full use of youth and elders' involvement in tourism. They have recommended that we promote Aboriginal culture and language through tourism.

The value of developing the Aboriginal tourism sector is not just about additional revenue and jobs at the local level. During the time the council spent talking to people to develop these recommendations, many said that the true value of developing this sector is in revitalizing and invigorating a sense of pride in Aboriginal culture and traditions.

Communities are already benefiting from visitor interest in authentic Aboriginal tourism experiences. For example, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment worked with the community of

Deline to organize a familiarization tour with a group of travel wholesalers. The visitors were impressed with the experiences available there and have made plans to visit Deline next year with other groups.

We are going to take action to grow Aboriginal tourism in our territory. The need for input from various other departments, agencies and Aboriginal organizations is noted in the report, so the next step we are taking now is to discuss these recommendations with them.

These discussions will take place through this winter and next spring, and on the basis of the feedback received, we will draft a comprehensive strategy outlining how we can develop and promote Aboriginal tourism in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work with communities, the Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council, and other Government of the Northwest Territories departments to ensure a prosperous Aboriginal tourism industry, which will help to ensure a diversified and healthy economy that provides all regions and communities with opportunities and choices. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 5-17(5):
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Jackson Lafferty will be absent from the House today to attend the Labour Ministers federal-provincial-territorial meeting in Toronto. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Blake.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
POLICING SERVICES IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My statement today will focus on policing, especially in our smaller communities like Tsiigehtchic.

Mr. Speaker, and Members of the Assembly, it is crucial that the RCMP be seen and heard in our communities. It is crucial for our community members to build a relationship with the RCMP in order to have a safe neighbourhood and safer communities. Back in the day, Tsiigehtchic, known then as Arctic Red River, had one of the strongest detachments in the Delta right up until 1969. Arctic Red River had two members stationed in the community, along with a special constable.

These members used to patrol the Delta with their dog team. Two or three dog teams used to travel to Fort McPherson, visiting people and checking to see if everything was alright. These dog teams then travelled throughout the Delta, visiting families who were at their traplines. Many people remember these old stories of when we had RCMP in Tsiigehtchic.

After 1969 we have had no one stationed in Tsiigehtchic. Members from the detachment in Fort McPherson do come over to Tsiigehtchic to patrol when they can, but there is a need for law and order right now in Tsiigehtchic. People have to phone to Fort McPherson, and in most cases, they get the station here in Yellowknife. They then need to explain what the emergency is and then wait an hour or more for the RCMP to show up in Tsiigehtchic. If there was a family dispute, can you imagine what the consequences would be?

I'm speaking for the people of Tsiigehtchic when we ask, time and time again, to have RCMP posted in the community. Special constables were a common practice in the past. Special constables were the lifeline to RCMP members. They were translators, guides and more or less introduced them to the Delta. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CABINET MID-TERM REPORT CARD

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know that question we all asked our Grade 11 teacher: When am I ever going to use this in the real world? Well, today that question is being put to the test.

I am pleased to say that I took statistics in Grade 11 some 30 years ago, and with this ancient knowledge my office took the liberty to evaluate statistically how well Cabinet responded to Regular Members' oral questions from October 17th to November 4th of this year.

You're probably wondering why this Regular Member would go through such trouble. This is a good question, and in truth, the science geek in me thought it would be a fun exercise, but the political side of me wanted to use this opportunity to get a mid-term report card for our Cabinet by evaluating the responses of concerned Regular Members. In essence, a small snapshot in time would speak volumes to the stewardship and effectiveness of Cabinet on how they are seen by the public.

So, before I share the results with you and the Members of this House, I want you to be assured that all the rules pertaining to statistical protocols were adhered to, aggregate parameters, qualifiers, as well as other determinants were clearly established in the onset of data collection. In fact, if

a response failed within the question determinant, the results went in favour to the Cabinet.

So, what did we discover during these 11 sessional days? There were 478 questions asked during oral questions by Regular Members. Of those questions, 313, or 65.48 percent of the time the Minister answered the question asked. Of the remaining questions, 165, or 34.51 percent of the time the Minister did not answer the question asked. The standard deviation or response phrase have a plus/minus rate of 3.8 percent error. Thank you Grade 11 statistics course.

What does this report card tell us? Clearly, we have to ask ourselves is roughly two out of three questions being answered by Cabinet is a good grade or is this something that can be refined during the remaining life of the 17th Assembly.

I will not answer that question today, but I will leave this with Cabinet to reflect on until we return next February and allow the bank of public opinion the opportunity to weigh in. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF HIGHWAY NO. 7 TO DEH CHO REGION

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. My statement today is directed toward our new Minister of Transportation. It's just to let him know about my two favourite words in this Assembly: Highway 7.

I would also like to welcome the Minister to the file. Seriously though, my constituents want to be sure that their new Minister knows just how valuable Highway No. 7 is to the Deh Cho. Road conditions are always at the forefront when it comes to local and territorial elections, federal engagement and budget debates.

Highway No. 7 is the gateway to the North. The highway makes our living and brings work to us. Highway No. 7 is also an asset to tourism in the Deh Cho. From the legendary Nahanni National Park to big game hunt, from the Horne Plateau to day trips on the Mackenzie River, the Deh Cho region and the Nahendeh riding is one of the most spectacular of the Northwest Territories, but road conditions on Highway No. 7 scare most of our tourists away.

I'm sure the new Minister is aware of the dollars added to the budget this year to promote tourism. To pave the way to increase tourism in the Nahendeh, all we have to do is improve Highway No. 7.

Highway No. 7 is also vital to industry. Already, oil companies are travelling through the Nahendeh riding, in Fort Liard, and also on their way to the

central Mackenzie Valley shale resources. Canadian Zinc's Prairie Creek Mine is in the heart of the Nahanni and adds to the pulse of the Northwest Territories economy. One of the mine's greatest needs is a reliable transportation corridor.

Finally, Highway No. 7 is the lifeline for the people who live in the Nahendeh. Too often they try to escape to B.C. when the chipseal turns to powder and they risk their wheels in bathtub-sized potholes.

I hope by now the map to a robust economy, not only for the Nahendeh riding but also the Northwest Territories, is becoming clear to the Minister. Highway No. 7 belongs to the people of the Northwest Territories and reflects the pride we take in our region, the value we place on our resources and the importance of our communities.

I would also like to invite the Minister to ride down Highway No. 7 at his earliest opportunity.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With this being our last day in the Legislature and Remembrance Day coming up on Monday, I'd like to dedicate my statement today to Remembrance Day.

There will be a service in Hay River sponsored by the Royal Canadian Legion. I have been very proud to participate in that service in past years. This year, as well, my colleague MLA Robert Bouchard and I will be proud to lay wreaths at the cenotaph at the Legion Remembrance Day service and read the scriptures for that service as well.

After I mentioned this week earlier, having left home at such a young age and coming from a family of veterans, I adopted the veterans that I learned to know and love in the Northwest Territories and in Hay River. Sadly, many of them have now gone on, have passed on and are fewer and fewer now, and we remember so fondly spending Remembrance Day services with them. I can't name them because I would surely forget some, but their families know who they are and they are still dear to our heart.

As we commission the Highway of Heroes on Friday with our Minister of Transportation, and as we look for ways to remember the proud tradition and service of the Canadian military in peacekeeping and in war actions, I hope that we will all take the time to live up to the commitment that we make that we will remember them.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
"THE FIGHTIN' SIDE OF ME" – SAHTU STYLE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to do my Member's statement from a song that is sung by Merle Haggard. No, it's not the one We Don't Smoke. It's called The Fighting Side of Me.

I hear people talking bad about the way we do things here in the House, harping on words we use in debating and griping about the way things ought to be. I don't mind switching sides and standing up for things I believe in, but when you're running down my fellow MLAs, they're walking on the fighting side of me, running down a way of life our countrymen have fought and died to keep. If they don't love it, leave it. Let these words that I'm reading be a sign. If you are running down my Bill 24, you're walking on the fighting side of me.

I read about the oil and gas guys who claimed they don't believe in reporting. I just wonder how long the rest of us can count on being contamination-free. They love our oil and our diamonds and they preach about some other way of living. They are running down my regulatory board. They are walking on the fighting side of me.

They are walking on the fighting side of me, running down my Sahtu winter road funding, which hardworking men and women have fought for and kept it rut-free. If they don't love it, leave it. Let these words that I'm reading be a sign. They are running down my wish for a \$7 a day daycare. They are walking on the fighting side of me.

Finally, I want to say to you all, to all the heroes who give their service, and to the families for lending their support to us so that we could be standing here fighting for our own people. That is truly a grateful thanks from the Sahtu and the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF THE
DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to be speaking on the Deh Cho Bridge and the need for an independent audit and a process regarding a number of the problems.

All I can say is, if FDR was alive today, I'm sure he would describe the Deh Cho Bridge as this: The Deh Cho Bridge is a project that will live in infamy. Why? Because it has been cursed with problems. I may describe it as a ship of our great territory. I would say that it appears to have been launched without the bottle being broken, cursed from the beginning.

We all know that the 1,045 metre structure was supposed to be the pride of every territorial citizen. It has been a dream upon many since the '50s, but it wasn't until that magic pen signed that original deal back in 2007 and the sod was turned. I would say that this project would have never seen the light without that initiative.

From the start it seemed to be under some type of grey cloud. Now, as we start to reflect and look back and, as I say, we look forward, do we want to continue the same types of errors?

The Deh Cho Bridge itself was built on complicated and ever-shifting sands. We are here today because of those things. To begin with, we can't even continue without mentioning the fact that it was even launched without a reliable design, which was only finished halfway through the project. How do we be proud of a project like this and realize without taking the opportunity to look back? It's time for an independent audit on this whole process.

As a Member of this Assembly during that time, it was a turbulent and emotional problem. As I recall, there was much political will being tugged and towed in both directions. Do we help the people from Providence who wanted the bridge under their leadership, under their vision and under their guidance, or do we continue to hunker down and plow our way through it and say, shame, this bridge will never work?

I believed in the bridge concept from the start, but there always seemed to be problems with it, even in the Assembly here. I had often heard stories about Members calling and complaining to the Toronto lending company about the instability of the bridge organization and the inability for Members to support the project. It's things like this that sank the process and caused problems all the way through. We need to find out what the truth was. Why did the GNWT get saddled with the \$200 million line of credit, or I should say loan in this case, and in the end that could have collapsed this government?

I will have questions for the Minister who now is the Minister of Transportation, to ask him about some of the failings of this particular project and maybe what we need to look into for public scrutiny. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
CLEANUP OF NORTHBELT
RECREATION AREA

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the middle of October, over 50 volunteers dragged six truckloads of garbage from the bush north of the Vee Lake Road boat launch. This area hosted events like the annual Yellowknife Ski Loppet and Frostbite 45, and is used by local recreation clubs

as well as individual mountain bikers, bird watchers, hikers, hunters and leaseholders.

I want to offer my thanks and congratulations to all involved. The volunteers came from Great Slave Snowmobile Trail Riders, Scouts Canada, the Yellowknife Multisport Club, NWT Motor Sports Club, Yellowknife Amateur Radio Society, and local cabin owners.

The GNWT and members of the local exploration industry provided \$24,000 in funding to the community groups. The City of Yellowknife provided garbage bags and waived tipping fees on small items. The cleanup effort was initiated and coordinated by TerraX Minerals as part of their consultation process with user groups in the area that they are exploring. They have provided, through this work, an excellent example of how to reach out to the community and get something useful done in the process.

Apparently there is still more out there to clean up, including larger items like old cars and fuel tanks. There are plans in the works for a larger cleanup next year and I look forward to it.

I am aware that Weledeh constituents David Connelly and John Stephenson – and I see John in the gallery today – played key roles in this project, and there were certainly others not mentioned here.

Again, I would like to offer, on behalf of all of us here I'm sure, congratulations and thanks to all involved. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up today on Mr. Bromley's statement from Monday and express my concerns with the response from the Giant Mine Remediation Team, their response to the recommendations in the environmental assessment report from the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board about the Giant Mine Remediation Project.

It's been almost four months since the Mackenzie Valley Review Board released its final report on the old gold mine's remediation. I'm on record that I was pleased with the report's recommendations, recommendations which directed the federal government to go above and beyond the existing cleanup plan, recommendations which responded to the concerns of residents and Aboriginal governments.

The report has 26 recommendations and it lays out a solid and a collaborative path for remediation. The MVERB report was positive and reflected the views of NWT residents, Yellowknife city council,

the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, the North Slave Metis Alliance, Yellowknife Members of the Legislative Assembly, and our local MP, Dennis Bevington. All have indicated their support for the recommendations.

Now we hear from the proponent, the remediation project managers, one of whom represents the GNWT, "The cleanup team has a responsibility, like any other project proponent, to answer questions and explain how the review board's report would affect its proposal to clean up the mine. That may include doing cost estimates." I'm sure they do have that responsibility, but it gives rise to a number of real concerns for me.

It concerns me that the developer, the Remediation Project Team, is the same organization as the decision-maker, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, or AANDC. It concerns me that AANDC is getting internal input from the cleanup team on the report. If the team is providing new information to whoever is going to be putting together the response for the Minister, will anyone else have the same opportunity? It concerns me that government officials who have the final say on the project seem to be evaluating the review board's recommendations based on cost.

The cleanup is already expected to cost almost \$1 billion, and in the grand scheme of things, the added cost resulting from the review board's recommendations are but a drop in the bucket. Costs should not be a limiting factor in doing the project the right way.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, it concerns me that the project team speaks as if the decision is done. The team itself responds to the public as if their decision is final. This quote appears on AANDC's website Frequently Asked Questions: "The answers are in and it's time to move forward with a solid long-term plan." For me that solid long-term plan must include an independent oversight of the project. It would help build public confidence if people from this community have further input into this project, rather than just the project team itself.

In closing, I want to quote one of the questions from the AANDC Frequently Asked Questions. It says, "How do you know you've got it right?" And that's exactly the point, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORTHERN YOUTH ABROAD PROGRAM

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier this week I did a Member's statement on the legacy of

Members in this House who have served for this government. Today I'm going to talk about a different legacy: building a legacy in our youth, in our communities and in our future leaders.

Today I want to talk about the Northern Youth Abroad Program. The Northern Youth Abroad Program specifically is designed to meet the unique needs of youth living in isolated communities in Canada's North, specifically the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. This program was initially designed to help find Nunavut teachers to help with the success in education. Yesterday we went through a little theme day here, talking about the challenges that we have in the Northwest Territories, and yet we have an organization down in Ottawa that's providing these types of services to our youth in the Northwest Territories.

Today was the deadline for applications for the Northern Youth Abroad Program. There were 44 applications across the Northwest Territories; however, the group will only select 20 moving forward when they're putting the program on. Some of the successes that this program has done for students in the Northwest Territories is increased graduation rates, it's given students high school credit and it's also given people the opportunity to volunteer in the North, allowed volunteering in the South as well as create volunteer abroad students, specifically in Africa.

This program works on developing leadership development, healthy living, producing self-confidence and self-esteem in our northern youth. Like I said, although today was the deadline, they are going to accept applications until November 12th. I encourage all Members to speak to their youth in the communities, as well as all educators to get their students signed up for this program. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONDOLENCES ON THE PASSING OF TU NEDHE RESIDENTS

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

...who have passed away in the past month; although one was in June, I've waited.

Mr. Speaker, George Fabien was born July 15, 1926, and passed away at age 86 on June 23, 2013. The late George Fabien was born and raised in Fort Resolution from a large family. Today Elizabeth Beck of Yellowknife is the only living sibling in his family.

Elder Rosa Fabien was born February 23, 1921. She passed away at the age of 92 on October 10, 2013. The late Rosa was born Mariane Rosa

Lafferty in Fort Rae, daughter to Jean Baptiste-Seehe Lafferty and Adeline Ekfwitcho.

Rosa and George were married in Fort Resolution April 12, 1951, and were married for over 61 years. They lived a long and happy life; however, they had no children of their own. They had many nieces and nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews and great-great-nieces and nephews. They were loved by their families and they dearly loved their family members.

John Bjornson was born on January 26, 1948, and passed away at age 65 on October 28, 2013. John was originally from Estevan, Saskatchewan, and moved to Fort Resolution in 1972 where he decided to make his home permanent. John was a carpenter/contractor as well as a business owner of a building supplies store in Fort Resolution. John is responsible for providing homes for 50 percent of the community through his contracting business. John is survived by his wife and daughters, Rosie, Natasha, and step-daughter Pamela, son Rowen, along with seven grandchildren.

Elder Marcel Norn was born on May 8, 1932, and passed away at age 81 on November 1, 2013. Marcel was born and raised in Fort Resolution. Marcel is survived by his children George Lafferty, Dwight Norn, Raymond Norn, Marcella Fabien and Trina Balsillie; his sisters, Nora Rhinlander and Joan Delorme; and his brothers, Bill Norn, Joe Norn and Stanley Norn. Marcel is also survived by many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

The community of Fort Resolution mourns the loss of this respected elder. Marcel always made the point of participating in community meetings, events, and kept himself aware of what was happening in the community. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pass my condolences on to the family and friends of George and Rosa Fabien – Rosa was originally from Behchoko – John Bjornson and elder Marcel Norn. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was glad to hear our colleague from Hay River South talk about Remembrance Day and remembering those who have gone off to battle to give us the freedom that we enjoy today. We have a lot of holidays during the year. Christmas and Easter I always thought as two of the most important ones, but I always thought Remembrance Day was another day that we should always make sure that we pay respect to those that have given their lives so we can enjoy the lifestyle that we have today.

I spoke to students in Inuvik a number of years ago and I talked about the fact that we look up to hockey players and actors and songwriters and rap stars and I think sometimes we have our priorities mixed up. My heroes are those that went to war and sacrificed their lives so we can enjoy the life that we live today. When you're younger, you don't pay much mind to it, but as you get older and you have children of your own, grandchildren of your own, you realize that this is an opportunity that so many of these young gentlemen were not able to have, men and women.

I was reading an interesting article called Letters from the Front and it was excerpts of letters that they had written to their families back home. One line always got me, and that was a 28-year-old private sent a letter home saying, "I give my life willingly for my country, knowing that it was given in a righteous cause." That was the attitude that so many of them went with. They were scared, the letters talked about the fear that they had, but they still went because they felt it was still the right thing to do.

I think, not only today but as we go on and the memories get older and older, we should teach our children and grandchildren, those who come behind us, to never forget the sacrifice they made. They even made the sacrifice so that people can go out and give white poppies, which a lot of Veterans don't agree with, but we have that type of freedom because of the sacrifices these gentlemen and ladies made, so let's never forget that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 1-17(5): STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE REPORT ON BAKKEN SHALE FORMATION TOUR

Introduction

MR. HAWKINS: As part of developing the Northwest Territories' policy approach to hydraulic fracturing, representatives of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure joined a delegation led by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment on a tour of the Bakken shale formation in Saskatchewan and North Dakota, between September 29th and October 4, 2013.

The delegation, made up of the Minister; Members of the Legislative Assembly; staff from the departments of Environment and Natural

Resources, and Industry Tourism and Investment; the Northwest Territories Geoscience Office; the National Energy Board; and leadership from Sahtu communities, travelled to Regina, Stoughton and Estevan, Saskatchewan; and Williston, New Town and Mandaree, North Dakota. The group met with a large number of people representing the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy, including Minister of the Economy, the Honourable Tim McMillan; the Saskatchewan Geological Survey; Cenovus Energy Incorporated; Crescent Point Energy Corporation; Statoil; the City of Williston; the State of North Dakota; the Consul General for North Dakota; members of the Three Affiliated Tribes Mandaree, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation; ONEOK Incorporated; and Cheveyo Energy Incorporated. The standing committee thanks all presenters for their time in meeting with the delegation and their thoughtful responses to questions and comments. Committee members also thank the Minister and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment for coordinating the tour and making it possible for the entire delegation to participate.

Existing land use plans, the devolution of land and resource management, and self-government agreements place the Northwest Territories in a much different position than jurisdictions in the Bakken. Our situation also differs widely in terms of volume of activity, infrastructure, workforce and regulatory regime, but valuable lessons can still be drawn from the delegation's experience. The committee's observations may be summarized under three broad themes highlighted in a presentation by City of Williston Commissioner Brad Bekkedahl: planning, people and partnerships. Members would also like to take this opportunity to comment on the tour's scope and further committee direction on this important issue.

Planning – Get Ahead of the Challenge

A resounding message, by far the most emphasized to the delegation, is the need for effective planning and preparation for development. Presentations at provincial, state and community levels highlighted infrastructure, regulatory, environmental and social needs.

Mr. Speaker, this being a lengthy report, I now would like to pass a portion of it over to my colleague Mr. Bromley, Member for Weledeh, to continue.

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

Infrastructure

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Shale oil development in the Bakken area has placed immediate and unrelenting strain on all types of infrastructure. Transportation infrastructure is a primary concern. There are currently 9,322

producing wells in North Dakota, and the state expects that an additional 2,000 will be drilled this year. The average drilling rig requires at least 2,000 truckloads of materials and supplies, which has an equivalent impact of 25,000 light vehicles on roadways. A single loaded truck raises approximately 100 pounds of dust per mile on gravel roads, coating vegetation and reducing air quality and visibility. The state has enforced seasonal load restrictions, but allocates millions annually to new road infrastructure, maintenance and dust control to meet industry-related traffic demands.

The increased number of trucks has resulted in hazardous driving conditions and serious accidents. Emergency services continue to be delivered largely by local volunteers, resulting in post-traumatic stress disorders and burnout among their ranks. Presenters in North Dakota strongly recommended identifying main arteries, bolstering existing corridors and working with industry to plan service roads and access needs.

Two exploratory wells will be drilled in the Northwest Territories this season. The impacts on roads highlight the need for responsive planning and maintenance for our comparatively fragile seasonal and all-weather roads.

The committee heard that although it requires more time to develop and incurs greater capital costs, pipeline infrastructure can reduce the amount of truck traffic and mitigate the hazards associated with transporting large volumes of water, wastewater and oil via road and rail. Natural gas pipelines can also reduce the amount of flaring and associated greenhouse gas emissions. It is estimated that a billion dollars' worth of natural gas is flared annually from the Bakken shale.

Municipal infrastructure is another area that requires well-thought-out planning. State of North Dakota officials highlighted significant demands and need for preparation in the areas of:

- zoning and land use planning;
- water and sewer services;
- electrical supply;
- road infrastructure;
- airports;
- housing;
- public safety services, including emergency service providers and law enforcement;
- schools;
- hospitals; and
- recreational facilities.

The committee encourages Sahtu leadership and Government of the Northwest Territories

departments to work with industry to determine community needs and plan accordingly.

Geological Information

Extensive sampling and geological mapping has allowed the Province of Saskatchewan to collect comprehensive information and three-dimensional imaging of the province's subsurface. This baseline information can play a key role in industry, research and regulatory decision-making and the protection of water resources. While the Northwest Territories may not have the resources required to offer similar services at the present time, the tour of the Saskatchewan Geological Laboratory highlighted the value of gathering and archiving accurate information and making it accessible, at least on a partly cost-recovery basis.

Regulatory Preparation

The devolution of land and resource management affords the Northwest Territories a significant opportunity to design and implement a responsible regulatory regime. Representatives of the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy recommended enacting legislative and regulatory instruments that establish and enforce meaningful consequences for industry. Saskatchewan has looked to Alberta for many of its regulations.

Some features of the Saskatchewan self-disclosure-based regulatory approach include:

- comprehensive baseline water and geological information;
- disclosure of the chemical composition of fracturing fluid and, more importantly, in their view, identifying and monitoring transformed chemicals in well flowback;
- explicit guidelines for the management and disposal of contaminated water; and
- environmental protection, remediation and enforcement provisions.

The province has scheduled Crown land sales six times a year, and makes land available through leases, exploration licences and special exploratory permits. A liability management program includes a requirement for operators to pay a monthly security deposit to fund environmental protection and remediation programs.

The committee heard that despite ever-increasing permit applications and oil and gas revenues reaching over 1.5 billion annually, Saskatchewan regulatory staff and program funding has remained stable. The division experiences greater position vacancies than before, and few positions are dedicated to fieldwork.

Both Saskatchewan and North Dakota had established regulatory regimes, royalty and taxation structures before intense development of the Bakken began. The establishment of an effective

royalty regime is a significant area of planning for the Northwest Territories to address.

The committee heard the view that a key to successful development is to implement taxation that balances economic viability for industry and a jurisdiction's revenue needs. The Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy felt it had reached a competitive level of taxation, while still being able to collect resources for government priorities. The committee members noted, however, that Saskatchewan royalty rates had decreased while the amount of drilling activity increased. Unlike either the Northwest Territories or North Dakota, the province has not established a heritage fund.

North Dakota collects a combined production and extraction tax, with revenues divided between the state and municipalities. Thirty percent of all royalty revenues are directed to the state's Legacy Fund. The fund is established under legislation that does not allow any portion to be accessed until 2017, and then, only with the consent of two-thirds of the state legislature. In addition to the Legacy Fund, North Dakota allocates royalty revenues to six other trusts established to fund infrastructure projects and community needs related to intense development. Unlike the Northwest Territories, North Dakota also has the ability to tax its non-resident workforce based on earnings within their jurisdiction.

Large oil revenues have resulted in disparities between oil-producing and non-oil-producing counties. The state notes that it is a challenge to mitigate regional disparities since infrastructure and programming pressures are greater in areas with more industrial activity.

Wildlife

A significant concern for members of the delegation was the lack of a clear plan to address wildlife. The tour did not include a presentation from the Saskatchewan Ministry of the Environment, and in North Dakota, members heard that a plan to address wildlife and habitat issues had been delayed due to the rapid pace and scale of development. When questioned about wildlife concerns, a state legislator noted his view that wildlife could move and take care of itself! This situation demonstrates to the committee that if adequate planning to address wildlife and other environmental concerns does not take place in advance of, and alongside, development, it will likely be neglected. Wildlife is highly valued in the Northwest Territories and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Sahtu leadership have significant roles in ensuring continued wildlife and habitat protection.

People – Leadership Working Toward Common Goals

Workforce development has been identified as a key piece of Sahtu exploration readiness.

Presentations highlighted the need to enhance and establish training facilities and opportunities for workers, both in the oil industry and related service fields.

Shale oil development has significant socio-economic impacts associated with the creation of many permanent and temporary high-paying jobs. The Northwest Territories should anticipate that a large number of non-resident workers will be housed in industry camps. Presenters described crew camps as a "necessary evil." They provide an appropriate solution to the accommodation needs of non-resident workers, but have resulted in many negative social impacts, and increased pressure on municipal services. The Three Affiliated Tribes put a moratorium on crew camps on their land, due to disruptive behaviour in their communities. The City of Williston is making significant investments in housing, schools, health care and recreational facilities to encourage workers and their families to relocate to the area more permanently.

The Three Affiliated Tribes offered a lot of comment on the impact of development on their people. Benefits include 99 percent employment, unparalleled opportunities for Aboriginal entrepreneurs and businesses, improved community programming, and profits from royalties that, with proper planning, will secure the financial future of tribal beneficiaries for generations. Drawbacks include increased crime and substance abuse, disorganized road construction and heavy truck traffic throughout traditional territory, flaring, spills, impacts on wildlife and housing shortages. People who lack financial responsibility and life skills have suffered rather than benefited from increased activity and resource royalty collection.

Presenters recommended the Northwest Territories promote cultural awareness and understanding between communities, industry, and new residents, as well as education in healthy lifestyles and financial management. They also see that right now, the Northwest Territories has the opportunity to take control of the pace and scale of development.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask that you have Mr. Hawkins continue with the report. Mahsi.

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

Partnerships – With All Those Willing to Share the Risks

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The North Dakota Association of Oil and Gas Producing Counties noted its generally positive experiences with its industry partners. A representative of the Three Affiliated Tribes Tribal Economic Development Office, or TERO, shared his experience that oil companies' priority is to make a profit, but they are generally willing to work

with communities and governments. Statoil emphasized its commitment to collaboration and open communication with stakeholders. North Dakota officials recommended that governments work closely with industry to determine needs and priorities.

The Three Affiliated Tribes deal directly with industry as a self-government. Through TERO, it implements a priority procurement policy and, like Saskatchewan, has developed a database of Aboriginal-owned businesses that industry can access to source goods and services. The TERO database also verifies the capacity of a company to perform the work a potential contractor is seeking.

The Saskatchewan Ministry of the Economy discussed a number of other initiatives designed to encourage partnerships and business development:

- The Empower Program provides coaching, mentoring and training for entrepreneurs and established small business, through a funding partnership with industry.
- The annual Aboriginal Business Match provides an opportunity for businesses and industry to form partnerships through an e-profiling system that connects potential business partners on-line before they meet in person at this increasingly popular event.
- The Saskatchewan government is currently working on a northern opportunities forum to further support the Aboriginal Business Match.

As groups cooperate on creative solutions to challenges, and identify and work toward common goals, we share the risks, but also the benefits, which may be far greater than we could realize on our own. The committee recommends that, as much as possible, the Government of the Northwest Territories look for opportunities to form and foster strong partnerships between industry, communities and Aboriginal governments.

Scope of Tour

As committee members reflect on their experience of the Bakken tour, they identify elements of shale oil development that were not included on the agenda, such as water withdrawal and permitting processes, waste confinement and disposal, pipeline infrastructure, and in-depth discussion of the social and environmental impacts of the resource boom.

The tour did not include the opportunity to view any of North Dakota's open waste pits, nor was there any formal discussion of the impacts of flooding in the area earlier this year. While many presenters spoke candidly, there was limited discussion about how jurisdictions quantify environmental liabilities or how communities cope with homelessness and addictions.

Through committee initiative, the tour group heard from a regional wildlife manager and local resident who shared observations that taxes and cost of living have increased substantially while, for many people, quality of life has declined overall, especially for those who have not been able to take advantage of the activity. The same individual commented that effects on wildlife and habitat were not being addressed in mitigation activities and encouraged tour participants to ask further questions in this area.

After the tour's conclusion, members learned that a large oil spill, linked to inadequate monitoring, occurred in the area during the time the committee was there. This significant event was not mentioned to participants, and only appeared in the media two weeks after the spill began.

The committee recognizes that in order to accommodate some of these issues, other components of the tour would have been missed. The exclusion of these elements highlights areas where the committee might focus in the future. Members raise these issues to draw awareness to impacts that cannot be overlooked as the Northwest Territories develops policy on the use of hydraulic fracturing.

Next Steps

Hydraulic fracturing continues to gain public attention in the Northwest Territories. It is to our immediate and long-term advantage to develop a responsible, well-informed policy on the use of this technology and ensure that all voices are heard on this important issue. The tour of the Bakken formation increased participants' awareness of the impacts of shale development, and the need for planning and action. While the Northwest Territories is in a very different position than either North Dakota or Saskatchewan in terms of its level of development, to the degree that lessons learned in the development of the Bakken are accurately shared, they are valuable to future development in the Northwest Territories.

The standing committee would like to embark on further fact-finding and explore areas that were overlooked on its Calgary and Bakken tours, and hear from the public and interested organizations on the use of hydraulic fracturing in our jurisdiction. As leaders and decision-makers, the committee wants to ensure we act in the best interest of the Northwest Territories, our land, our people and our resources.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the report of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure on the Bakken shale formation tour.

MOTION TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT
COMMITTEE REPORT 1-17(5),
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
REPORT ON BAKKEN
SHALE FORMATION TOUR 2013,
CARRIED

I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that Committee Report 1-17(5) be received by the Assembly and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Committee Report 1-17(5) is received and adopted. Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Premier.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize all the Pages that work in this session and specifically two Pages from Yellowknife South, Kaitlyn Hayward and Matt Walker. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to recognize a couple of Pages from Inuvik Twin Lakes. We have Mr. Cameron Wolki-Jacobson and Mr. Andrew Clark. We appreciate the work that all the Pages have done this past session. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I, again, would like to recognize some Pages: Shiri MacPherson is actually in the House this time, daughter of our Law Clerk; Jacob Shubert, I don't know if he's in the House; and Niva Stephenson. I know Niva's proud papa is in the gallery today and I'd also like to recognize John Stephenson, a constituent of Weledeh. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I'd like to welcome my good friend Mr. Jai Zachary. He's in from Summerland visiting for the next few days. Welcome to the House. I thank everybody here for taking in our proceedings here today. Thank you very much. Item 7, acknowledgements. Mr. Bromley.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 1-17(5):
COUNCIL FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF
NATIVE DEVELOPMENT ECONOMIC
DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR
AWARD RECIPIENT SARAH ERASMUS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to recognize constituent Ms. Sarah Erasmus, co-owner of Erasmus Apparel, in recognition of her receipt of the Economic Developer of the Year Award during the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers Annual General Meeting in Winnipeg last week.

Ms. Erasmus was nominated for the award and selected by the board as one of two candidates from nominees across the country. While actually attending the AGM to speak at the youth panel there, she learned of the board's selection. Sarah's presentation at the AGM sealed the deal and she won the award.

Mr. Speaker, all of us in Weledeh, indeed across the NWT, are proud of this local young entrepreneur. Well done, Sarah.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 8, oral questions. Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 22-17(5):
PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT
YOUTH TRAPPING

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of ITI. Yesterday we talked about education with Minister Lafferty, and another view of education is with the hunters and trappers in the Sahtu region. I want to ask the Minister of ITI what types of programs we have for our on-the-land professors who want to take out young students to train them how to be a good hunter and trapper, and also to be a good person.

What kinds of programs are there that young people can apply for and what types of programs are there for the elders and trappers to take these young people on the land to sustain our traditional economy? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have the highly successful Take a Kid Trapping Program that is provided through the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment. We also involve the departments of ENR and MACA in that work. It is aimed at school-age children in getting them out on the land with trained trappers in the smaller communities. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: The Take a Kid Program is one of the most successful programs that I've witnessed in this government. It's a good program; however, it's geared towards high school students. I would like to ask the Minister what about the students who are outside the school-age system, the 18, 19 and 20-year-olds that are walking around, young men, ladies, where they want to go out with a trapper, what type of funding support can they give to them so that they can go out to the trapline.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. The current program, the Take a Kid Trapping Program, does not have the capacity or the financial resources to allow for it to take kids that are outside of the school system. I think the Member is talking about young adults or youth between 17 and 22 or 23. That's something that perhaps as we move forward it's something that I could talk to the officials at the Department of Justice, also the officials at Health and Social Services and the Ministers about perhaps getting some programming dollars for that segment of the population. It's important that they are given the ability to get out trapping and learn the trade by folks that know it well. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. With this idea that the Minister is putting out there, would he be able to, within this fiscal year, direct his staff to work with the other departments such as Justice, Health and Social Services, and Education, Culture and Employment to look at a new structure of a program through their working groups or the committees in the Sahtu to say this is something that's unique, it's different, where we can support these younger adults that want to learn about trapping and their way of life?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. Like I mentioned, it's an area that we don't cover off currently. It was highlighted in the Economic Opportunities Strategy as well. Again, by working with Justice, Health and Social Services and ITI, and also perhaps ENR, we can look at a way to address that segment of the population the Member speaks of and get some programming for those individuals as well. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We know the government is going to be entertaining some of the main estimates in the next couple of months. Is this something that the Minister can foresee that it's something where we could have some of these discussions within the main estimates?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. Time will be very tight and I don't want to get expectations up, but certainly I will discuss this idea, this option with folks at ITI and at Justice. I know the Ministers are listening, as well, to the Member's concerns. Whether or not we can actually get something up

and running for the business plans that are coming up, that remains to be seen. I don't want to make any promises I can't keep, but I'll certainly take the idea and try to do something with it. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 23-17(5):
POLICING SERVICES IN TSIIGEHTCHIC

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions will be for the new sheriff in town, Mr. Ramsay.

---Laughter

Following my statement, as you know, the community of Tsiigehtchic has been requesting a detachment for a number of years. So I'd like to ask the Minister if the community were to build a detachment, would the department enter into negotiations to lease the building and have a police officer stationed in Tsiigehtchic? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been Justice Minister now for just over a week and I have yet to be fully briefed by the RCMP on the situation of detachments around the Northwest Territories. But with the community of Tsiigehtchic, I know that the RCMP is working with the community on the idea of getting accommodations in the community for RCMP members that are travelling in from Fort McPherson, which could have RCMP members staying in the community for up to eight days a month, which certainly improves the situation currently.

We're also looking at RCMP community officers in Tsiigehtchic, as well, that would act as a liaison between the RCMP and the community with help in investigations and certainly be on the front line in the community in the event of an occurrence that the Member spoke of during his statement. Thank you.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you. That's good news. I'd like to ask the Minister, will the Minister work with the community to have a special constable situated in Tsiigehtchic. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. As I highlighted in my previous response, that is something that the Department of Justice and the RCMP are currently working on to help address the needs in Tsiigehtchic. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 24-17(5):
DISCLOSURE OF CHEMICALS USED
IN HYDRAULIC FRACTURING

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Environment today and I would like to follow up on the Minister's refusal to our citizens' request to investigate the issue of unknown fracking chemicals being released into the environment.

While on a fracking tour, we learned that not only are the chemicals that are injected in the wells often not disclosed, but that under the intense pressure and heat found deep in these wells, the injected chemicals react with each other and with the stuff that is in the ground and create new chemicals.

Is the Minister of the Environment aware that what goes down is not necessarily the same as what comes back up? Mahsi.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe so, especially based on the edifying comments and statements I've listened to the Member make in this House over the last couple of weeks about the issue of fracking, the trips and some of the particulars as it relates to those particular practices. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. Great to hear the Minister was listening. Section 2.(3) of the NWT Environmental Rights Act states: "Where there is a conflict between the terms of this act and the terms of any other enactment, this act shall prevail to the extent of the conflict." The approvals given under the MVRMA do not demonstrate that the release of the unknown chemicals into the environment is safe.

Is it not clear to the Minister that there is a conflict here and the environmental rights of NWT citizens should prevail? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. In regard to the first part of the Member's comment and question about which law would prevail, it relates to other territorial legislation. When there's territorial legislation and federal legislation, then it has paramouncy. It overrules territorial legislation. That's one issue.

The other issue is I'm convinced that the process that was put in place to approve those two wells, those two applications, was under the NEB, what's voluntary and what they say in the questions part of their filing is they fully expect the proponents to disclose, which they've done. At the same time, we are currently, as well, as a government, working on our own fracking guidance document, which we have shared with the committee and we want to

make sure we have the best practices there that will capture those specific concerns. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. Such power. The Minister can shove aside the environmental rights of our citizens at his will.

Under Section 4.(4) the Minister is obliged to carry out an investigation and that the only reason that the Minister may discontinue an investigation is whereas per section 4.(6) "the Minister is of the opinion that the release or the likely release does not constitute a threat to the environment."

Is the Minister of the opinion that the release of unknown contaminants into the environment does not constitute a threat to the environment and the public trust? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. What I am satisfied with is that we have a process under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, with the boards, with the environmental assessments that were done, the Sahtu Land and Water Board, with the NEB that addressed the issues, that we have a piece of legislation that pre-dates those acts. It does not have the ability to overrule federal legislation just from a legal point of view, and even if it did, I don't believe that would be a requirement because I don't think there are the concerns raised by the Members. I think it's been covered by the NEB, by their document, by their new filings, and as we move forward there will be continued full disclosure, and as we take over we will be putting in place those best practices as well. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. Clearly, the Minister is breaching through smoke and mirrors now. The NWT Environmental Rights Act is clear. The Minister is obliged to investigate the environmental rights of our citizens in our own legislation for the Northwest Territories people. We all know that in spite of talk of best practices, things don't always go according to plan. When something does happen, how will he explain to NWT taxpayers that they are on the hook for a polluted lake and that he refused to even investigate when he had a legal obligation to do so? Hopefully it's as small a concern as that. Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. Those concerns are captured in the approvals and in all the conditions that were attached through the approvals for those two projects. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 25-17(5):
INVESTMENTS IN HIGHWAY NO. 7

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to follow up on my Member's statement on Highway No. 7 with the Minister of Transportation. I'd like to know the type of investment in Highway No. 7 for the years 2014-15. Can he outline how much work they will be doing to Highway No. 7 for the next fiscal year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoché. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In the plan, DOT has \$3 million scheduled for 2014-15. That would be used for resurfacing and chipsealing sections of that highway. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you. Just in terms of chipsealing a section of Highway No. 7 from the B.C. border towards Fort Liard, it's about 36 kilometres. Twenty kilometres of it has already been reconstructed, so we're looking at reconstruction of another 16 kilometres. Residents are looking for chipsealing some of those kilometres, the ones that have already been constructed, about 20 kilometres. Is that in the plan? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. That is part of the plan, plus I think there will be some more gravel put on some other parts of the highway, but chipsealing the balance of that is part of the plan.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I am glad to hear that. Also, recent developments around Fort Liard, Highway No. 7, lots of traffic coming through. There's some exploration going on across from Fort Liard. I'd like to know, does the Minister know if industry is also helping us invest in our roads this particular summer and perhaps this winter as well. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. The department has been discussing with industry, increased usage of the road due to economic activity. So, yes, the department is aware of that and has been discussing the possible impacts to the road with industry.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. At the end of my Member's statement, I also invited the Minister to come and tour Highway No. 7 and speak with the chief of Fort Liard. His first reaction was I'm glad there's a new Minister, but that Minister must come and ride Highway No. 7 probably closer towards the springtime if we can organize it. Can the Minister do that? Thank you very much.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. I would like to travel down Highway No. 7 with the Member,

provided I drive. I'm afraid he will hit every pothole. Thank you.

---Laughter

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

QUESTION 26-17(5):
SUPPORTING A NORTHERN FILM INDUSTRY

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I will have some questions for the Minister of ITI dealing with a different type of industry in the Northwest Territories and that's the film industry.

We have a growing and a strong, dynamic group of individuals in the Beaufort-Delta region, as well as here in Yellowknife. There was a report that came out called the Review of the Film Commission Mandate, so I want to ask the Minister, has there been any progress on work being developed on rebates for people that want to come up and do work, production companies that want to come up to the North and do work. Has there been any progress in looking at rebates for the film industry? Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Work does continue in that area. We have an application into CanNor, seeking some funding to allow us to continue to look at the best possible way to rebate or provide grants. Tax incentives obviously aren't going to work here, are deemed not to be the best option. So we need to look at other options to attract more of the film industry and filming to take place here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: Thank you. Currently the Yukon government and the Nunavut government offer rebates. Why can't the NWT come up with a policy of their own that offers rebates to some of these production companies? We have a very great group of individuals in the Northwest Territories looking at development and training.

Does the Minister see any type of funding to go into development and training for some of our individuals that are in the industry? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. Work continues, again, in this area. It's something we feel very strongly about. Obviously, it was highlighted, as well, in the Economic Opportunities Strategy. Last year we provided \$114,000 to 12 recipients to help with film projects here in the NWT through our SEED program.

As we move forward, it is very important that we ensure that we get this right. We can't just automatically create a program. We need to find where we fit in the scheme of things in providing

rebates or incentives to get filming taking place here in the Northwest Territories. We've had some great success. We need to see that success continue and it's important, again, that we make sure that we get this right. Thank you.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister mentioned there was a SEED program, and the SEED program for the current individuals and productions that do work in the NWT, there are some limitations such as the policy and the time and date of reporting.

I wonder if the Minister would look at reviewing the SEED policy and possibly adding more funding, increasing the funding that is allowed to these people in the film industry.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Again, through the Economic Opportunities Strategy that we just launched, it was identified that ITI should develop a pilot project to assess the merits of a northern expenditure-based rebate program. This is something we are going to look at. Options for funding the program are currently under consideration. It's something, I think, that has the potential to be very successful if we, again, do it right.

As far as SEED goes, that is something pertaining to the film industry that I can take back to the department if there is need, and I believe there is need to get more money out there to support the film industry here in the Northwest Territories. We have to find a way and a means to make that happen.

With SEED, there certainly could be some constraints to accessing funding through that avenue, but again, we have helped out. We've provided \$114,000 through that program, so that program is still going to be available to folks who want to avail themselves of that.

MR. MOSES: The NWT Film Commission falls under the Industry, Tourism and Investment portfolio of the department. Would it be in the best interest to allow a little bit more flexibility that if, possibly like the NWT Tourism, this commission becomes independent of the government so that they can run on their own timelines but also access funding from the government? Has the Minister had any discussions on that with his colleagues, in terms of possibly looking at that as a stepping away from the government?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: That's a very novel idea that the Member has and I believe it probably has some merit. It's something I'll take back to the department for consideration. We work very closely with NWT Tourism and continue to do so. We also work very closely with my colleague, Minister Lafferty at ECE. If there's a way to do this, we want

to, again, make sure we're doing the right things. Again, the Member has a good idea and it's something we'll take into consideration.

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

QUESTION 27-17(5):
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF
GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are addressed to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I'd like to follow up on my Member's statement. I want to ask the Minister with regard to the project team's response to the environmental assessment on the Giant Mine.

On October 21st this House passed a motion which said, "that the Government of the Northwest Territories accept the measures and suggestions contained in the report of the environmental assessment," and that motion was passed by the House.

Eleven days later the project team released a letter to the public, and that was signed by an assistant deputy minister from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. I'm finding it very difficult that we have, as a government, a motion that was passed to accept the recommendations of this report and we then get a response signed by an assistant deputy minister of one of our government departments which basically refutes the recommendation.

I'd like to ask the Minister if he can explain to the House who authorized the signing of the letter which was the response to the MVERB's report.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm the responsible Minister in this instance, and that responsibility is mine.

MS. BISARO: I understand he's the responsible Minister; I accept that, but he's also the Minister responsible for the environment in the NWT. He should be, in my mind, looking after the best interests of the residents of the NWT.

I'd like to know if the Minister can advise me, and advise the House and the general public, how he can be responsible for the cleanup at the mine on behalf of NWT residents, and at the same time, he is responsible for the regulation of the project, which in this case is rejecting the recommendations.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I can assure the Member and this House, and everybody listening, that I am indeed very cognizant in my responsibility as the Minister of Environment and

Natural Resources, and my responsibility to make sure that we do in fact protect the environment.

As the government, one of the governments involved, the federal government and territorial government, we have a responsibility to clean up one of the worst environmentally contaminated sites in the country. It's going to be a billion dollar project at the end of the day, and we are hard at work doing that. We get advice and recommendations from many quarters. We don't disagree with a lot of the work or intent of what's being presented to us through this report, but we definitely are of the opinion that they required some modification. We are the folks on the ground. We are the governments responsible; they're going to have to be accountable, and are accountable, for how that project is carried out.

We intend to continue working with all the involved parties, but we have an obligation, and our job is to make sure, at the end of the day, we have to pull all those pieces together and make the appropriate decisions, which is what we're doing in this case.

MS. BISARO: I'm afraid we have to agree the work that the Minister is doing is going to be in the best interest of NWT residents. This project, albeit they may be working hard at trying to do the cleanup, it's not in the best interests of residents. Over half of the recommendations are suggested by the Giant team. The project team is suggesting that over half of the recommendations be modified or rejected.

I'd like to know from the Minister why is it so important that 50 percent, more than 50 percent of the recommendations from the MVERB report, why is it so important that they be rejected. Cost should be a factor, as I mentioned earlier.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: There is not a question of have to be rejected. We did a review of the recommendations. We looked at them closely. We looked at how they all fit together. Some of them are sequential. There are issues related to time, to cost and to scope of the project. In spite of the Member's comments that money is no object, when you're in government, in fact, money is a constant object.

But very clearly, the concern is cleaning up the site. We don't want any delays. Some of the concerns, in our opinion, are that some of their recommendations, because they're sequential, for example, could add up to three to four years to the project. There is existing degradation that's going to continue, and we have to get on with the process of doing the freezing that's been agreed to of the 237,000 metric tonnes of arsenic trioxide.

We're going to continue to do all the work necessary and we're going to continue to work with the folks here. There are some issues that we don't agree with, and so, as the Member is fond of

saying, on some of these issues we're going to have to agree to disagree, I would imagine.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's unfortunate that the Minister feels we have to disagree on something which would go towards assuaging the concerns of residents, particularly here in Yellowknife.

I'd like to ask the Minister if he can tell me, one of the recommendations which was rejected referenced an oversight of the project, and there's no recognition from the response from the team of environmental agreements that have been worked on. There is no recognition that oversight is a very large concern for residents.

Can the Minister tell me, again, to this particular one, why is oversight of the project a recommendation that he is rejecting?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: With the issue of oversight, there has been a general agreement. There were, in fact, letters written where the Giant Mine Remediation Project Environmental Monitoring Advisory Committee would not make decisions with respect to the operations of the project. Operation responsibilities and decisions would remain with the developer in a joint letter in response to the review board on June 11, 2012. The question is what type of an oversight, and there's a difference of opinion between the oversight meaning a veto and oversight means best advice and recommendations as we on the operational side as responsible Ministers do the work necessary to remediate that particular site. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 28-17(5):
INDEPENDENT AUDIT OF THE
DEH CHO BRIDGE PROCESS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today, I talked about the need for what one could call an independent audit on the Deh Cho Bridge and certainly the process. We definitely need an independent audit that has teeth. Of course, as many of us will remember, there seemed to be always questions about internal information being released at a weird time, and certainly rumours about people calling the lender and harassing them about the incompetence of both government and the bridge management. That didn't play well on to the government when we were saddled with the \$200 million end cost, which really could have paralyzed this government.

I will focus my questions to the Minister of Transportation, certainly the new Minister of Transportation, new on the file. Would he be willing

to launch an independent audit on the Deh Cho Bridge Project as soon as possible? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time the department is moving forward with a retrospective evaluation of the bridge and carrying out the work. We're also doing an analysis of what we have found and monitoring as we do some additional work to repair anything that could be an issue on the bridge. At this time the department feels that carrying out this type of work, doing the monitoring, retrospective evaluation of the work and so on, would be more valuable than doing another audit. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: It was my understanding that the former Minister promised this and other people have been promising that we will have an independent audit. Quite frankly, if the Department of Transportation is monitoring themselves, we might as well just surrender to the results already because it does seem somewhat biased. I'm not trying to be mean here today, but self-evaluation really only works well when you're, I guess, meditating.

I ask once again for the taxpayer, for the people in the Northwest Territories, would the Minister look at launching an independent audit that had teeth so we could truly understand who helped cause so many problems in this Deh Cho Bridge process and so we can get to the bottom of this and solve this problem, not only looking back but also looking forward? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, as the Member may be aware, the Auditor General has looked at the bridge, and the mid-project performance review was completed by the Auditor General. All of the recommendations that were put in by the Auditor General were carried out by the department. As I indicated, information I have at this time, all indications are that there is not an issue and that anything that we are picking up during the monitoring and the usability of the bridge and everything, if there are issues, the department is carrying out corrective measures. Right now we are thinking that an evaluation of what is happening with the bridge and how the bridge was done, looking at what happened during the midlife audit are all things that we're incorporating and don't really feel that we should commit to calling another audit of the bridge at this time. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, the Auditor General looked at a certain area. The Levelton Report looked at a certain area, but it never looked at investigating on who worked to derail the project, who released information, who harassed the lender, of that type. Those are the things the taxpayers deserve answers to. We have 200 million reasons to ask ourselves, did someone try to scuttle this

project from day one. That's the question I am after, not one of those things. The Department of Transportation looking at themselves I highly doubt that they will look at themselves under that type of scrutiny.

My question once again is: Would the Minister be willing to look at an independent audit now that I have cited all of those concerns that we need to get to the bottom of? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, the Deh Cho Bridge meets and exceeds all of Canada's national bridge codes when it was constructed and completed. The department doesn't see an issue with the bridge. If there certainly are issues that we are unaware of, then I would welcome getting that information. If we were to receive information indicating that there are certain problems, if we were to receive information that there may have been some wrongdoings during the construction or dealings with the construction of the bridge, we will certainly look at that. If that means bringing in an auditor to look at that, we would do that. We would like to do the right thing. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, I think I've highlighted some of the reasons and I'm happy to repeat them again. I said that because the lender pulled the loan and the GNWT became saddled with it, I think we should be investigating exactly why that happened, what led up to that and what information caused such destruction and angst for them to do that.

What more information is the Minister looking at or need to look at in order to say, wait a minute, something happened here, we almost paralyzed the government with this situation. As such, once again I ask the Minister, would he be willing to launch an audit to look at this situation. We have the date, the time, the place and we know all the players in this situation. What's stopping him?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, as far as the loan goes and how the lender had pulled the loan from the...(inaudible)...is something that the department has looked at. At the time this had occurred, this decision was made; however, I don't have the details of specifically what had occurred, what had occurred in the inner workings of the loan and so on. I am prepared to gather that information to start with. I can look at that information and determine if I do see that there was an issue wrong with it, then I will share it with Members across the floor. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 29-17(5):
 INUVIK TO TUKTOYAKTUK
 HIGHWAY PROJECT COSTS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are to the Minister of Transportation today. Once again we find this government buying a pig in a poke. We are spending hundreds of millions of dollars of our citizens' precious infrastructure dollars in a black hole project whose costs we do not even know. Having authorized \$70 million for '14-15 for the Inuvik-Tuk highway, we are now an incredible \$160 million into this project, and we do not even have a firm estimate of the cost. We are just saying it's capped at \$300 million so we are going to shoehorn it into this estimate. How can this be? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I do believe that we have a fairly decent cost estimate on the cost of the Inuvik-Tuk highway. Although the budget is just under \$300 million, we're expecting the actual construction cost to be well under that. There will be other additional costs such as design, engineering and so on; however, the actual construction costs of the highway would be under that. The department is confident that we will come within the budget that we set. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, as per our worst fears, this is looking more and more like the Deh Cho Bridge Project, only worse. We are going into it with our eyes open. Is there no law on the books to protect our residents' money by saying the government must have a firm estimate of a project cost before committing to it? If not, does this Minister agree that we should have one? Mahsi.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Like I indicated, we think we do have a good estimate. As the Members know, the money that we are getting from the federal government is not going to be just money given to us without us having proper estimates and so on. So before the money from the federal government starts to flow into our coffers, we have to be able to demonstrate to the federal government that we know what we're doing and what the cost of the road is going to be. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: As we pour money down this black hole, which we know will drain our coffers for decades to come, we are hearing rumours that the gravel being laid is sinking into the tundra. Mr. Speaker, what is the Minister not telling us about this albatross?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: That's not the report that I am receiving. The report that I'm receiving is the construction from the Inuvik side and the construction from the Tuk side is going well, that all of the material we're putting on the road is not disappearing into the tundra. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hear that the gravel being used is primarily fine material, it's almost sand with the odd boulder in it, some of the worst material with which to build a highly challenging project in the most challenging of all environments and we still don't know what we're paying for royalties on this under-grade stuff.

What is the gravel situation and what are the costs, Mr. Speaker? When will we give this project a critical review to test its real mettle?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I don't know the various costs of the components broken down into the cost of gravel and so on. As far as the royalties go, yes, we are getting close to coming up with a price that we're both happy with between ourselves as a government and the land claim organization who owns the land. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 30-17(5):
 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF
 GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask a few further questions for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. I'd like to follow up with some of the things he referenced in some of his answers, one of which disturbed me when the Minister, at one point, said get on with it, we need to get on with the project. It goes back to my unfortunate feeling that everybody connected with that project wants to just get on with it and they aren't willing to consider residents' concerns.

The Minister mentioned delays that would be caused by accepting recommendations by the environmental assessment report, but I'd like to know from the Minister, if he can explain to me, why the environmental assessment took five years to get done. My understanding is the government had a great deal to do with the length of time for that EA.

Can the Minister tell me if we, at that point – we, the GNWT – were doing everything we could to move the EA along? Were the delays caused by this government or another government? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that all the parties did the best that they could to move this process along. It's very complicated and there are a lot of players. There's a lot of interest, lots of advice and recommendations and all the decisions being made on the process and the decisions made were on

what was going to be done in terms of freezing and those types of things all took time. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister, yes, things take time, but I don't think it should take five years for an environmental assessment. Goodness knows when it took that long for the pipeline, people were screaming that it was far too long.

The Minister quoted from a letter from 2012, I believe he was referencing the Oversight Working Group at that point, and I feel strongly we need an independent oversight group, which apparently has been rejected, or which I know has been rejected. So the Oversight Working Group, from my understanding, has not met since September of 2012, shortly after the letter I think the Minister referenced.

I'd like to know from the Minister if this oversight group has not met in over a year's time, how am I to be comforted that we have good oversight on that project. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As MLA, I think the Member would be very hard to comfort on this issue. It's clear she wants total acceptance of the report, and no questions asked, cost is not an issue, those types of things don't matter and somehow that report should be taken totally as is because a lot of people provided their recommendations. They did a lot of work. We appreciate the work, we're looking at the work and using a lot of the recommendations, but no responsible government would be wise just to take things at face value without taking a look at them, especially when we've invested hundreds of millions of dollars we have and are going to continue to invest in this project. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: I have to ask the Minister how he can say that they are taking a look at them when we have a letter from the project team which rejects these recommendations.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We've accepted some, we've modified some and we've rejected some. It's not accurate to say that we've rejected the recommendations. We have an obligation to be thorough and due diligence and look at the work that we're doing, look at the advice and recommendations from other parties, and we've done that. We've agreed with some, modified some and some we've rejected.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To the Minister, one of the ones that have been rejected that I've referenced several times is an independent oversight. If we have to accept a non-independent oversight body, the Oversight Working Group has been working on an environmental agreement. It's been worked on for many years. I'd like to ask the Minister when will the oversight group get back to

the table and finalize this environmental agreement. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We're prepared to, and want to, engage to resolve this issue. The letter is very positive about what we still see as the potential for the role of an oversight group when it comes to advice and recommendations as opposed to final say and vetoes. So we have to resolve that issue. It's a very fundamental one, but there's still a lot of good work that can be done. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 31-17(5):

CORRIDORS FOR CANADA III PROPOSAL FOR A MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Transportation. I'd like to talk to the Minister about the Mackenzie Valley Highway. The Minister has a proposal called Corridors for Canada III. I want to ask the Minister if there's any type of signal or indication on the efforts on the part of the Government of the Northwest Territories, as to where that proposal is within the Government of Canada to see what type of support we'll have to start building that important highway.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Our Corridors III proposal has an element there that is targeting the Mackenzie Valley Highway and we are looking at a budget that has been released by the government on things of national significance. They have \$4 billion in there and we are trying to get a piece of that to do some of the work for the future Mackenzie Valley Highway. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: We talked earlier about the increase of oil and gas in the Sahtu and I want to ask the Minister if he has had any type of preliminary discussions with his federal counterparts to see that this important proposal seeks a favourable response so we can start developing the resources in the Sahtu in a responsible manner and that the Mackenzie Valley Highway is a must for the people in the Northwest Territories.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: At this time we are discussing the feasibility of perhaps traveling to Ottawa to discuss this directly with the Minister, or waiting for the federal government to do the allocations based on whichever way they intend to allocate the money that's put into all of this, including money for the Building Canada Plan or any money as far as municipal infrastructure. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. The delegation that actively lobbied for the Inuvik-Tuk highway did a

successful job. I'm sure they can use some of their points as to how to start working on the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Specifically, I'm speaking from Wrigley all the way up to the Dempster Highway. I'm looking at a huge chunk of the road into the Sahtu, and with the oil and gas activity, I've asked the Minister, is there a game plan from the Government of the Northwest Territories when they go down to Ottawa to lobby the government, who then would see the importance of this highway, along with the activity that we could start earlier in building the Mackenzie Valley Highway. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Yes, our intention is to lobby the federal government with the whole Corridors for Canada III. We have not completely determined how we are going to do that, but we are developing a plan to approach the government. Whether we do it and communicate with them in writing or if we communicate with them face-to-face is something that we have yet to determine. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think one of the most effective ways is to lobby, to go down face-to-face with your partners to show the benefits of the Mackenzie Valley Highway from Wrigley further up north. I want to ask the Minister, is that something the Members will have some input on as to what type of lobbying will seek the most benefit from our proposal in Corridors III.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. Again, we haven't made a final determination of what that lobbying would look like. We can keep the Members advised as we move through the plan to determine how we hope to launch our lobbying efforts with the federal government. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 32-17(5):

DEH CHO BRIDGE PROJECT DEFICIENCIES

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first set of oral questions was, if I may define it as chapter one on the Deh Cho Bridge today. Now chapter two, I'd like to talk about the deficiencies and certainly the outstanding deficiencies left on the Deh Cho Bridge. I see the Minister is flipping papers so I'll do a little bit of a stretched out intro.

The issue is such that we need to fully understand what the deficiencies are. So, I'd like to ask the Minister about some of them in particular, but let's start off by enlightening the public. With the list of deficiencies, although I don't have them, would the Minister be willing to table publicly what all the deficiencies are and what we estimate are the true costs of outstanding deficiencies, as well, can we compare that to the amount of money we still have

left on the project to address all these deficiencies? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Minister of Transportation, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure of what deficiencies the Member is speaking of. I know there was some work being completed on the bridge and that work is underway. I think the majority of that work is completed at this time. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. There are a lot of deficiencies and I understand are still outstanding on this particular bridge. As such, that's why I was asking for it publicly. I don't have a copy, but I can certainly start with one of the deficiencies to enlighten him.

As I understand, right now the scour rock issue at the Deh Cho Bridge is still outstanding and I thought it was being addressed through a negotiated contract. Would the Minister be able to confirm if there was a negotiated contract to solve the scour rock problem and, as such, is it still in place? Because I certainly have seen not one but two tenders on the same issue come forward. So if the Minister could enlighten the House on that. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. The piers have been mapped with scour rock over the past summer. There has been a stockpile of rock, 6,000 cubic metres of rock has been stockpiled. A public tender for shaping and placing the rock is out and it closes today. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. So, then, there are deficiencies. Okay, so how much was the negotiated contract negotiated for with the folks in Fort Providence in partnership with Ruskin? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. As I indicated, the tender for shaping and placing of the scour rock, the tender is out. The bids are in and the tender is closed, but I don't have the costs because I don't have the evaluation of the tenders at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final, short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How much is left in the reserve to address all these deficiencies and would the Minister table publicly a list of all the deficiencies so we know what we're dealing with? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you. There is \$7 million left to do any of the deficiencies. There's a list of deficiencies beyond the piers, the scour rock around the piers. I can present that. I could table it. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 33-17(5):
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF
GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are in follow-up to my colleague Ms. Bisaro's questions with respect to the Giant Mine. I'd like to ask the Minister of the Environment, I know he's aware that there's a potential conflict of interest here with the proponent, the double role that the government is playing in this case being that there is no mining company and we are both the proponent and the regulator. Now the federal government has developed a firewall to try and keep the processes separate between the regulatory side and the proponent side.

Do we have such a firewall between the two components to avoid such a conflict of interest in the GNWT's situation? Mahsi.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We as well try to make sure we work to make sure we have those same type of firewalls. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks to the Minister. I'm glad we have that and I hope the Minister at some point can explain to us in detail how that works. But for now, I'm sure I heard the Minister say that he has rejected some of the environmental assessment recommendations, accepted some and proposing to modify some, accept, reject and modify, but I'm not aware of any decisions having been made at the Ministerial level yet on these environmental assessment recommendations.

Was the Minister speaking for himself or was he speaking on behalf of the proponent team, the actual project team, which is the proponent in this case?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: At this juncture, I was speaking to the contents of the letter that was written to Mr. Spence and signed off by both governments.

MR. BROMLEY: I'm sure we'll see in the Hansard tomorrow exactly what the words were, but I think they were very plain. The Minister said I have rejected some, I have accepted some, and so on.

Could the Minister tell us what exactly has he done here? Has he suggested that he has accepted, rejected and proposed to modify some to the federal Minister, and where is the clarity on this conflict of interest situation?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: No, I haven't spoken to the federal Minister directly on this issue.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Just the other part of that question, I'll repeat it here, was: Has the Minister made decisions on these recommendations as to whether to reject, accept or modify them specifically?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: What we were talking about in the House today, as I just indicated, was I was responding to questions related to the letter that has been posted and written to Mr. Spence, and that is the extent.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Time for oral questions has expired. Item 9, written questions. Mr. Bromley.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 3-17(5):
COST OF INCOME SUPPORT AND RELATED
INCOME SECURITY PROGRAMS

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister responsible for the Social Envelope Committee of Cabinet, the Honourable Glen Abernethy.

1. What is the current annual cost to administer each of the 16 income assistance and other income security programs mentioned in point 2 on page 5 of the recent Auditor General's Income Security Program Review? For the purposes of this question, "cost to administer" is defined as GNWT salaries, overhead for office space, travel, per diems and other program delivery-related expenses.
2. What are the current total annual payments made to clients under each of the 16 income assistance and other income security programs mentioned in the recent Auditor General's program review?
3. How many clients do each of the 16 income assistance and other income security programs mentioned in the recent Auditor General's program review assist annually?
4. Could the Minister provide a copy of the latest Market Basket Measure of poverty for each NWT community or, if not available, a commitment on when this will be available?
5. Prior to the Income Support Program reviews associated with the Auditor General's report over the last few years, when was the last comprehensive review of income support programs and what was the title of the report produced on that review?

WRITTEN QUESTION 4-17(5):
COST EFFECTIVENESS OF GREENHOUSE
GAS REDUCTION INITIATIVES

My questions are for the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

1. Could the Minister provide a "Class D" type estimate on the cost effectiveness of the government's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions of NWT society during the last fiscal year, 2012-2013? For the purposes of this question, "cost effectiveness" is defined as the total costs, including all funding paid by the GNWT for programming funding, salaries, travel and overhead dedicated towards implementing the actions listed in Appendix 1 of the 2011-2015 Greenhouse Gas Strategy divided by the total reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that are estimated to result over the project lifetimes of projects initiated that fiscal year. This should produce an estimated cost per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions reduced over business as usual for the fiscal year.
2. For further comparison, could the Minister provide the same dollars per tonne cost effectiveness calculation for each of the rebates under the Energy Efficiency Incentive Program?
3. Could the Minister provide the same cost effectiveness calculation for the Commercial Energy Conservation and Efficiency Program?
4. Could the Minister provide the same cost effectiveness calculation for the NWT Energy Conservation Program?
5. Could the Minister provide the same cost effectiveness calculation for the NWT Alternative Energy Technologies Program?

MR. SPEAKER: Order! Order! Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Ramsay.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 13-17(5):
 ABORIGINAL TOURISM:
 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A
 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following, entitled Aboriginal Tourism: Recommendation for a Strategic Action Plan.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 14-17(5):
 2012 PUBLIC SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT,
 GOVERNMENT OF THE
 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled 2012 Public Service Annual Report, Government of the Northwest Territories.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 15-17(5):
 ACHIEVING OUR PRIORITIES: BELIEVING IN
 PEOPLE AND BUILDING ON THE
 STRENGTHS OF NORTHERNERS

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled Achieving Our Priorities: Believing in People and Building on the Strengths of Northerners.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

TABLED DOCUMENT 16-17(5):
 NORTHWEST TERRITORIES HOUSING
 CORPORATION ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Annual Report, 2012-2013.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 17-17(5):
 PACKAGE OF MATERIAL IN SUPPORT OF
 MOTION 6-17(5), STRENGTHENING MUNICIPAL
 ENFORCEMENT OF LIQUOR LAWS

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a number of documents here in support of the notice of motion I gave yesterday on strengthening municipal enforcement liquor laws. I also have a number of letters of support of that same motion from Yellowknife city councillors Niels Konge, Rebecca Alty and Linda Bussey.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. 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 7:
 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
 (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1,
 2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, I will move that Bill 7, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 17, motions. Mr. Yakeleya.

Motions

MOTION 3-17(5):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO FEBRUARY 5, 2014,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on November 7, 2013, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, February 5, 2014;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to February 5, 2014, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. Ramsay.

MOTION 4-17(5):
APPOINTMENT OF LANGUAGES
COMMISSIONER,
CARRIED

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: WHEREAS Subsection 15(1) of the Official Languages Act permits the appointment of a Languages Commissioner by the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, after the approval of the appointment by resolution of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly considers the appointment of a Languages Commissioner essential for ensuring recognition of the rights, status and privileges of each of the official languages and compliance with the spirit and intent of the Official Languages Act;

AND WHEREAS the term of the Languages Commissioner has expired;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is of the opinion that the appointment of a Languages Commissioner should now be made;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that pursuant to Section 15 of the Official Languages Act of the Northwest Territories, Snookie Henrietta Catholique of Yellowknife be appointed as Languages Commissioner;

AND FURTHER, that the appointment be effective December 1, 2013.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 5-17(5), which I gave notice of yesterday.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Menicoche.

MOTION 5-17(5):
EDUCATION RENEWAL AND INNOVATION,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, colleagues, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. WHEREAS, the Education Renewal Initiative represents sweeping and significant change to the delivery of kindergarten to Grade 12 education in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS testing shows that more than 25 percent of NWT students are not at the academic level they need to be for their age;

AND WHEREAS the Grade 12 graduation rate for the NWT is 52 percent and may be declining;

AND WHEREAS many students emerge from NWT schools without the tools they need to succeed in life, and without sufficient knowledge of the core curriculum;

AND WHEREAS an increased focus on early childhood development is known to improve learning performance throughout a person's life;

AND WHEREAS many of our youngest students enter school without development of the communication and learning skills needed to succeed in school;

AND WHEREAS more than 35 percent of NWT children in kindergarten are significantly behind in their development (including as many as 60 percent of five-year olds in some communities), as measured by the Early Childhood Instrument;

AND WHEREAS changes to the education system will have a substantial impact on students, parents, teachers and administrators;

AND WHEREAS public and community involvement are critically important to the success of the Education Renewal Initiative;

AND WHEREAS in considering the areas of the NWT school system requiring improvement, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment

consulted widely with its partners in education, carrying out 30 “engagements;”

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) set and publish concrete targets for early childhood and student achievement within a prescribed time frame, and describe actions to be taken to achieve the targets;

AND FURTHER, that ECE and the Department of Health and Social Services substantially increase and improve community-based, GNWT-supported early childhood development programs and resources to support them;

AND FURTHER, that ECE now involve more communities, parents and teachers in implementing education renewal, and to promote greater understanding of this initiative;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. You saw Members of this side of the House rise one by one yesterday to express their deep concern about this Education Renewal Initiative put forth by our government. Throughout the day it became clear that it was a government initiative with consulting their partners, but it's not the people's initiative. That's what I heard when I did my tour in the fall time, is that people were excited, they want to be involved in the education renewal. They pointed out to me clearly some of the shortcomings that I wasn't able to get a good answer on yesterday. Some of the shortcomings are: top students in my small schools are failing Alberta standards; top students once again are shown time and time again that what they are being taught is not what they are expected to learn, and I don't see that in the Education Renewal Initiative at all.

I'm urging the motion partly speaks to getting back out there to the small communities, to all the communities, to speak with the teachers, the students, the educators and the parents and get everybody involved in forming a truly Education Renewal Initiative.

Time after time in past Assemblies, we talked about changing the education system, but we want real changes and we want real results. We're talking about devolution. We passed three or four pieces of legislation that's going to make us our own power in this great Northwest Territories. I was talking about resources of land and water, subsurface rights, but the most important resources are people, the students and the people here. We have to educate

them. We have to have the base. We have to have them well educated enough so that we can take over our own land into the future and that's really important. It is not important for the Department of Education to roll out stuff and say this is how we're doing it. It is more important for them to hear and roll it back and make those changes that people want.

I see a future where our children are not some poor statistics that show that we're not learning, we are not graduating, we're not graduating enough. We must set a standard. We must set a goal. The motion speaks about it. What is the department's goal? One of the goals ought to be that we will never fail these achievement tests, that we will have graduates that can go to Alberta, that can go to B.C. or other institutions and not have to retake subjects or else, worse yet, have the shame of not even knowing what's happening down there and coming home by Christmastime.

I have often said in this House we track our students right up to Grade 12, but we don't track those that do not succeed in southern institutions and they come home. It's disempowering when we tell them that they're passing, we tell them that they've graduated, but yet they cannot succeed down south when they go to higher institutions of learning time after time. Here we have an opportunity with the Education Renewal Initiative to say, let's do this right. We have to create a future, and our future is our children, and involving everybody and building a truly Educational Renewal Initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very happy to rise and support this motion. As people probably know, I have a bit of a passion for education. The intent of this Education Renewal Initiative is to use the most current educational research finding and promising practices of the 21st Century. That's the intent. I'm not sure we're getting there, but we will.

Education systems are very complex and changing them requires multiple concurrent initiatives. It requires motivation and collaborations if we are to make the change successful. Given the additional layers of complexities in the NWT, it's even more important to ensure that we get the process right at the beginning, that we ensure that all the necessary partners are at the table, to make sure that NWT students are given the best opportunities for success, that the final product is going to make a difference, that it will be welcomed by students, staff and community members, and it's even more critical as we move from the framework that we have now seen tabled into the action plan which the Minister tells us is coming.

From my conversation with educators on the front line, so to speak, the teachers in the classrooms,

the principals, board members and so on, I hear that they have not been rigorously consulted; never mind rigorously consulted, they haven't even been consulted in the development of the framework. That must be changed as the department goes to producing this action plan. Every teacher, every parent, every school trustee must get a copy of the framework to provide input into the action plan as we go forward. Any education renewal should be ongoing, it should be local and it should be continuous.

Most education renewal across North America is based not only on research findings, but also rely on relations with university and experts in university, professors and experts in educational reform. I don't know, but I would hope that the NWT has engaged educational research experts to provide guidance on this huge project, to take advantage of the experience and the knowledge of education experts that are out there. I hope that the department will continue to use experts for peer review through the development of an action plan and then the implementation of that action plan. It's extremely important that we are working on a plan, but we are also getting it reviewed by people who do this work and to make sure that we're going in the right direction. We often say we have to get it right and we have to get it right from the start. Well, this is a case where any action plan that we put forward for the next 10 years has to be right in year one, not right in year five.

We have some examples of connections that we already have with our experts. We have a relationship between the University of Saskatchewan and our NWT Teacher Education Program. Have we engaged the people at the U of S in this Education Renewal Initiative? I don't know. I haven't seen that in any of the literature that I've seen.

A question that I haven't got an answer to, as well, is whether or not the ERI document was peer reviewed before it was tabled and/or made public.

I have some other concerns about the Education Renewal Initiative. Where did the education authorities fit in this process? How does ECE expect to address the responsibilities that fall directly under the education authorities? How will the department ensure the accountability of the education authorities? And we heard that question from the Auditor General's report on education a couple of years ago.

There's mention many times in the ERI document of training of teachers and educational staff. Will the financial resources be there for these ongoing training sessions? Will the teachers be given the time away from their regular classroom and other duties in order to take the training?

There are a number of items in the ERI document that can't be measured. Community involvement is

one. There's a fairly large section on the commitment of the department to involve teachers in the community, to involve the community and the schools, but I don't know how ECE expects to monitor that and how they expect to encourage that. It's a very difficult thing to tell a community that this is what you have to do.

Junior kindergarten is a concern. You heard about that yesterday, and the motion states that we need to substantially increase and improve community-based, GNWT-supported early childhood development programs and resources to support them. I absolutely believe that and I do not believe that junior kindergarten is aptly named an Early Childhood Development program.

Attendance is not addressed in the ERI document. That's a concern for me and it's been identified as one of the major barriers to student success. That's been acknowledged by the Education department itself and it's been acknowledged certainly by Members on this side of the House. That needs to be addressed better in the ERI document as we go forward.

The timing of the implementation of this major change is a concern for me. From what I understand, the department is looking at implementing this change beginning in September of 2014 and that's a really short time frame. We have a framework and this is the beginning of November, we have less than a year in which to develop an action plan, set all the parameters in place to put that action plan into place and I think it's a very short time frame. It's going to have a huge impact on teachers in our schools. If you consider that it's September 2014, we've got new teachers potentially in some schools, it's the beginning of a new year, which is always a very stressful time, we're going to have new materials for them because there are plans to change curriculum quite a bit and there's going to be additional reporting because that's suggested in the ERI document.

Research suggests that the biggest, most consistent factor in student success is a good teacher and I have major concerns that teachers are going to be negatively impacted by the ERI document if we implement it in haste, if we implement it sooner than what it should be.

I am concerned that if we're not careful, what started as a genuine effort to renew education in the NWT will instead result in increased teacher workloads and increased teacher stress as the teachers try to make up for the gap that's been caused by the reduction in services and funding. We have to be careful that this Education Renewal Initiative does not end up putting the responsibility for implementation and success on the plates of school authorities and school staff.

The bottom line is that teacher stress and burnout not only affects the teacher, but it also inevitably affects the learning environment and interferes with educational goals. From that we get kids who can't succeed.

So, Mr. Speaker, I am fully in support of this motion. I do believe that we need to have concrete targets as is itemized in the first operative clause. I do believe that we need to improve our community-based, GNWT-supported Early Childhood Development program. I do believe that we need to involve communities and parents and teachers more in the further development of this ERI and I do believe we need a response from the government in 120 days.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support the motion. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've looked high and low and spent decades trying to find different solutions that will move our educational systems forward. However, recently, over probably the last decade, we've found exciting and informative advances in our knowledge about brain development and the development of our capacity to learn and to be healthy throughout life.

This has been exciting and it is becoming known throughout society now. It goes far to explain our failures to date in achieving our education goals. I believe our Education department is well aware of this, as are all of my colleagues. We've chatted about this quite a bit.

What is the crux here? First, brain development during pregnancy and the first three years of life is the biggest opportunity to ensure we have full learning capacity and health. Second, the neural pathways developed during this period largely dictate the future of a lifetime of well-being of this person. Third, if it doesn't happen during this period, it is very challenging and very expensive to play catch-up.

What are the implications? We need to put our money into early childhood development, supporting families, communities and community-based programs towards effective early childhood development. We should not continue to gnash our teeth and throw new money at our educational system until we have made clear and measurable progress at supporting our young children prior to their entry into the education system.

Few gains will be made despite our best efforts through the Education Renewal Initiative until this has been achieved. This should not stop us from pursuing the Education Renewal Initiative with existing resources to begin implementing our new knowledge about learning and teaching in today's environment.

Finally, we should not be putting dollars into junior kindergarten, again, until we have a comprehensive program in every community for ages zero to three. Mahsi.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Member for the motion and the comments of those that have spoken to the motion. It is a very critical issue, it's a big initiative and we've been listening carefully, there are notes being taken and we have an obligation to provide a response in 120 days. We want the same type of things for our children in the system. Now we're debating the best way to get there.

So, I appreciate the comments and, as this is direction to Cabinet, we will be abstaining. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising here today and supporting the motion. I'd like to thank Mr. Menicoche for bringing it forward.

Again, I'm always disheartened when I hear the Cabinet will always abstain on something that they truly believe in and have actually worked on in this initiative, but that's neither here nor there.

Yesterday when we talked about this in the House, I brought some very startling information, statistics. By the time a student gets to Grade 4, they've missed already half of a year of school, and by the time that same student reaches Grade 10, the average NWT student misses two years of schooling.

In the terms that we use out in the public, we call that truancy, or basically lack of attendance, and it's really disheartening when you look at the areas and the whereas's in this motion, when it says testing shows that more than 25 percent of our NWT students are not at the academic level they need to be for their age, and that by Grade 12, graduation rates are at 52 percent and they're declining. As they say in the Wildlife Act that we just debated here a few days ago, you can't measure what you can't count. The same holds true with our kids. You can't measure if they're not in their seats.

Clearly, all of these initiatives boil down to making sure that, first and foremost, we've got to have these kids in their schools. They've got to start being in the classroom, and that's not an easy task.

This Education Renewal and Innovation Initiative is definitely a step in the right direction, but quite frankly, when you look at the dialogue that we had, or at least I had with the Minister yesterday, it's clear that parents, educators, elected officials, municipalities, I'm really doubting if these people were involved with the framework of action. Unless

we involve the community in trying to find ways to get our students in the classroom, it doesn't matter what initiative we put, it doesn't matter what we spend. That money will be for naught.

It's critical that we also include our elders. Again, good ideas were brought here to the table, and all we heard was, "well, we might look at it." I think we're beyond the "we might look at it" phase. We're beyond the framework. We've got to start putting actions to this, and we've got to, again, make sure that we can get our students into their classrooms.

That also will take some initiative in terms of money, sometimes financial in nature, and with our budget system before us here coming up here in December, and we'll be talking about our upcoming operational main estimates in February, I'm going to be truly looking for this government, this Cabinet to put serious hustle behind the muscle. I want to see what we're doing for education. I want to make sure those dollars are being put aside for this initiative, because if they're not, I can tell you that I'll be asking the Department of Transportation to give me a couple kilometres, because when roads start trumping our kids, we have a problem.

I'll be speaking in favour of this motion. I would like to thank the Members here for bringing it forward.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: I just want to thank the mover and the seconder on this motion here. We're talking about education, which has been a long-standing issue in this government. This is not something new. Over the years, as an MLA, and as the Minister is well aware – this issue is not new to him – we've been talking about the quality of education for a long time. Whether it's in Yellowknife or it's in the small communities such as Colville Lake, we've been talking about the quality of our education and the quality of our certificates that we give our Grade 12 students, called diplomas.

When I read that we're the lowest in Canada in regard to our schooling, our education quality, that is shocking. I want to say to the parents and to the Ministers, would we stand for this. Are we going to stand for this? I know parents in southern Canada would not stand for this. If you're educated, you grew up in southern Canada, you would have a high quality of education. Parents would not stand for this. Why are we standing for this in the Northwest Territories? It's not okay.

Parents down in the southern parts of Canada will say, what's wrong with you guys. Why are you doing this to your children? Stand up, for Pete's sake, and fight for them. We won't stand for it in Ontario, B.C., Alberta. It's ludicrous.

I think that's a real challenge to us, because we've got some really smart kids in the North. Some of them are really good. They sacrifice, they do the work, and they make it through. They make it

through to university or college. Good for them. Good for the parents. They sacrificed. They know. But our indicators and our records show that that does not happen, especially in the smaller communities where Mr. Dolynny has mentioned. It's pathetic when you see students that are falling behind. It's pathetic that we're allowing this to happen. We as legislators, the ones who put their X beside us and said do something about this, that's what our job is.

I think we've really got to rethink and reload. I mean, there were students around this table here that had gone into the old system, Grandin College, Grollier Hall, Akaitcho. I talked about that in my Member's statement, that we've come out okay. We had to sacrifice, but we had to sacrifice to get a good education, so when we graduated, we knew that it was a good Grade 12 diploma, and you can take it to the bank and say cash this in because I have a career. I don't have to go down to the loans and say I need another year; lend me some more so I can pay off my debt. We had good education but it was at a sacrifice. That's what I'm talking about. We've got to emphasize that.

The young people, how is it that when you first take your children to school, they're all excited? They want to learn. You know, kindergarten, Grade 1, 2, but over the years, somehow, they seem to regress, and after a while, in Grade 10 or 11, they're like this and hard to talk to. They don't really want to share. How is it that they move through that system? I don't know. I mean, something happens. Where is that excited 6-year-old, 7-year-old, 8-year-old, all excited to learn, all that energy? Is it our system that dampens that spirit and soul, and that shuts down their individuality and creativity and spontaneity? And we're just telling them they will acquire this information and gain this knowledge. I don't know. There's some real serious thinking here. How do we take care of this in our school system?

Three more points I want to touch on. This motion is about our system here and it's about the relationship with families and involving the families into our school system. The real education begins at home, about values, belief and hard work and sacrifice. We cannot just send our kids and say to the teachers, take care of them for the next six hours. And by the way, little Johnny needs this, this and this, he doesn't like this, he doesn't want this. We have to be there with them. We have to be there with the teachers. They have enough on their hands to teach the children. We've got to build that relationship with the families.

We certainly learned a good lesson when the government implemented the residential school system, but we need to move from that and say that's no longer there, and move to a new system of

saying we want the families involved. How do we involve the families? There are ways.

My last two points, and again, one of the Members brought it up. It's no different for us being legislators in this government here. If we're not here, then we miss important information. It's no different than attendance. You can have the best curriculum, but if you don't have the student there, it doesn't do us any good. It's just like a sports team, I said at one time. If you're not practicing with the team and you only want to come when the games are, it's not good. You're missing key pieces of the information to be a good player. Just like school. You've got to show up to grow up and to be there. That's really, really key. That's what we've got to stress, and that's how we've got to work with the families.

My last point is that we need to do something new. It was done in the old TEST program in Inuvik with the skiing program. We have to look at something like that where it involves sports in school and it does wonders. We should have a TEST program in our school or one of our regions or something, so we can use sports as a means to put a group of students through a school system where they can excel at a national/international level. We had the first sisters, the Allens, the Lennies, the Cooks. We have all these great skiers. I say that we have wonderful athletes, also, so we could look at a TEST program that would help with our education.

I thank the mover and seconder for bringing this very important motion to the floor to have some discussion. I certainly look forward to working with the government on how to develop something within the next two years that could raise the numbers of our students in Canada and not be the lowest. It's not good to be at the bottom. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand here today and I want to thank the mover and seconder for bringing this motion forward. Yesterday we had a strong discussion and strong information brought forward to this House, so the public could understand why we bring motions like this to the floor of the House.

The Education Renewal Initiative is going to be a 10-year plan, so this government has the responsibility and the decisions to put what goes into this plan, something that's going to be concrete for our future leaders. As I mentioned earlier in my Member's statement, we do have an organization down south that is doing great work for our youth and yet we are having a hard time providing the same type of quality service here in the North.

Over the next 10 years, all the information that's going into this ERI document is going to be an investment. This government is going to have

probably one of the greatest investments in our youth and the return on our investments is going to be priceless. We are going to have people that are educated, with quality education and quality educators that are going to contribute back to the society and that's going to increase a sustainable economy here for the Northwest Territories.

In this motion it talks about community-based, GNWT-supported early childhood initiative programs and that's where we have to start our investment. As I said yesterday, I have taken a strong interest in education, more into early childhood development being part of this Legislative Assembly and will continue to support throughout my term.

Like I said, I will be supporting this motion and thank all Members who have stood up and spoke in favour of early childhood development and making sure that this document that goes out to the community, that this document gets input from the communities, from the educators, from all those that are involved in education.

Like I said, I will be supporting this motion. I hope that this government does the right thing and that we have a strong investment in the future of our territory and the future of our leaders and our students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, certainly I will be supporting the motion. I was proud to be able to second this.

Quite often, we often think of education as such an amazing thing and here we have an educational renewal document that many educators are telling me that they're concerned about the lack of input. If we want to do it right, we have to make sure we get off on a good foot. Any home builder will tell you that you can't construct a good, sound, quality home without building a solid foundation. I consider this 10-year plan, this renewal, should be a solid foundation, one that is so firm and so strong it cannot be cracked or questioned. It should be the equality that we would be looking to our gold standard, so when we look to the foundation, is that quality there.

A number of educators have told many of us, some school boards have told us, consultation in some manner might have felt like they walked in one door and were in a hurry to get out the next. Where is the community consultation? We've heard from a number of people. I, like Mr. Yakeleya, know differently. When I dropped off my children at school, I looked in their eyes and thought of hope and promise. I look to the teachers. I give my children to the teachers and I look at why they do their job, because they're deeply passionate about being involved with young minds, fostering

opportunity, giving them hope for the future. I, similarly to Mr. Yakeleya, question where does that hope sometimes go with some of these students. That alone should be a call to arms.

One of the most significant problems we deal with here today, and I will lay two of them out, are certainly education and health. This happens to be one of the pillars of why many of us are here, which is education.

We must work with our educators to ensure that they get the best plan to help work with our children. We must be behind the educators to do this. The educators must be involved. The best gift I can give my children, besides health, obviously, is a good education. I question have we given them the best gift.

Fostering this opportunity must be a relentless challenge we continue to ask ourselves. We must find ways to help build those skills and certainly build those abilities within our young people and certainly give the right tools to every educator to be able to help build that future that is limitless for every young person. But often we hear comments in the sense of statistics, as highlighted by Member Dolyunny, who is right. Kids aren't going to school. That should be a question in and of itself. Kids aren't finishing school with quality education. Where is the kicking and screaming? Kids that are graduating at the top of their class find that they're at the bottom of the class elsewhere. They can't even get into the class when they are actually tested. These are questions that need answering and I'm not sure that this education renewal is answering them in the way that needs to be done.

School boards want more, educators want more, MLAs want more, parents want more. We all want more out of this renewal program. I have yet to find someone who says this was the best we could have done.

I will be supporting this motion. I would say that, if it was my opinion, I think it needs to be reworked. I'm not suggesting those who didn't do their job didn't try; I just think we could do better. It's not for me, it's not for my colleagues, but for the kids that we want to give that limitless opportunity we call education to. Without that opportunity, we're denying them their rights. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. I will allow the mover to close debate. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'm very glad to hear the passion which a number of Members have been speaking about with the Education Renewal Initiative. I think it's important, as well, to tell the teachers, the principals, the assistants out there, they are doing good at their front-line work, they are working hard,

but we're talking about a system here that hasn't been working for a long time.

Our children are failing because we are failing, failing to ensure that they are the smartest and the brightest by having the best education system available. We're failing to support them, that they will support us in the future.

The 17th Assembly is going to be well known because of devolution. It's one of the legacy things that the 17th Assembly will leave behind, but I also want the 17th Assembly legacy to be about education renewal.

This will be a true legacy that this Legislature can leave behind. We simply must ensure our students are well educated for our future. We have to give them the drive and desire to learn. It's not enough to have an education mission statement. We need leadership and desire to make this change. We have to give them dreams. Is it because we stop dreaming? We have to give them dreams about being firemen, RCMP, teachers, engineers, doctors, management and MLAs as well. But we have to have a dream so that they can have the dream. I think it is the dream of Members on this side today. Let's have a true change to our education system by getting out there, hearing the teachers, the parents, the communities, and it's about having the right resources. I think we spoke about the wrong programming. We have to have the right resources and give them the right programming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Dolyunny.

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 6-17(5) which I gave notice of yesterday.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dolyunny, you may proceed.

MOTION 6-17(5):
STRENGTHENING MUNICIPAL
ENFORCEMENT OF LIQUOR LAWS,
CARRIED

MR. DOLYUNNY: WHEREAS alcohol abuse is a prevalent problem in NWT communities and is evident on Yellowknife streets and in the downtown core;

AND WHEREAS in 2011 Yellowknife ranked third out of 238 Canadian cities with a population of over 10,000 people for the severity of its crime;

AND WHEREAS alcohol abuse is one of the biggest challenges to policing in communities across the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS the enforcement of liquor laws can help to curb instances of open liquor, public drunkenness, underage drinking, the use of alcohol while operating a motor vehicle, and infractions under the Liquor Act by licenced establishments;

AND WHEREAS the enhanced enforcement of liquor laws helps to ensure increased public safety;

AND WHEREAS municipal enforcement officers currently have the authority to inspect licensed premises and to make liquor-related traffic stops, but do not have the authority to enforce liquor laws regarding public drunkenness, open liquor and underage drinking;

AND WHEREAS strengthening the ability of municipal enforcement officers to enforce liquor infractions would, in NWT communities that have a municipal enforcement presence, address a perceived shortfall in policing;

AND WHEREAS giving municipal enforcement officers the authority to fully enforce NWT liquor laws would enable a municipality to take on this enhanced responsibility only if the municipality chooses to do so;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the Minister of Finance undertake discussion and amendments to the Liquor Act or other legislation, as required, to provide municipal enforcement officers with the authority to enforce liquor infractions;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I'd first like to thank the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Alfred Moses, for seconding this motion allowing this debate to occur.

Mr. Speaker, this motion today is a culmination of some hands-on exposure, the first of which stems from my experience in accompanying local RCMP and municipal enforcement division officers during a number of summer ride-alongs. It was evident early on that the opportunity of expanding the scope of practice for municipal enforcement officers in the area of alcohol-related infraction clearly would have been beneficial in enhancing the public safety in our downtown core.

My second exposure was also echoed during the recent Yellowknife town hall meeting on public safety. It was evident then that residents wanted

tangible solutions to address the safety concerns of our walking trails and our downtown corridor.

These experiences allowed me to do the proper research and put pen to paper in seeking out these tangible solutions within our legislation.

As legislators, we have the duty to assist our local police forces to do their job as efficiently and effectively as possible. This motion today speaks to how we can do this by helping create the right legislative environment that promotes ease of enforcement to the issues that matter most to NWT residents.

We see the impacts of alcohol abuse on Yellowknife streets and in many of our communities, where public drunkenness and open liquor are, unfortunately, all too common.

It is also a well-known fact that alcohol is a factor in a vast majority of crimes committed in the capital city and we have the sobering statistics to confirm this. According to Statistics Canada Crime Severity Index, in 2011 Yellowknife ranked third out of 238 Canadian cities with a population over 10,000 people for the severity of its crime.

To add fuel to this statistic, this summer, while speaking with Northern News Services, Inspector Frank Gallagher, detachment commander for the Yellowknife RCMP, said alcohol abuse is the biggest challenge to policing in Yellowknife. Given these facts, it was indeed a surprise to learn that, unlike the RCMP, municipal enforcement are limited in their ability to enforce NWT liquor laws. They have the authority under the Motor Vehicles Act to make traffic stops if they suspect impaired driving on municipal streets and they have authority to inspect and deal with liquor infractions taking place in licenced premises, but they do not have the authority to deal with public drunkenness, open liquor or underage drinking. This means that our municipal enforcement officers are powerless to deal with public drunkenness even when we know abuse of alcohol is the single biggest factor contributing to crime on our streets.

Mr. Speaker, this is why we have the motion before us today. Our current legal framework does not make any sense to me. Peace officers, whether they are RCMP or municipal enforcement officers, have a duty to protect public safety and should be given the tools and authorities they need to deal with all liquor infractions.

Members of the public are scared in their own city and expect action. Enhancing the authority of municipal enforcement officers to effectively deal with all alcohol infractions can only serve to reduce the frequency of alcohol-related problems which, in turn, can help reduce alarming incidents of crime plaguing our community.

We owe a debt of gratitude to members of our police forces across the NWT for the hard work

they do and the sacrifices they make to keep our families safe from harm. This motion today spans a security blanket we hold dear, and speaks to the future discussion and possible amendments to the Liquor Act or other legislation allowing this expanded scope of practice to municipal enforcement officers to adequately deal with liquor infractions.

Of course, we fully realize that strengthening the ability of municipal enforcement officers will require proper training and liability to enable a municipality to take on this enhanced responsibility. This is a given.

However, this motion seeks only that the Minister of Finance undertake discussion and look at possible amendments to the Liquor Act and other legislation and nothing more. In the end, we know we have much consultation ahead of us to work with all NWT municipalities with municipal enforcement officers and the NWTAC, and we must, as always, make sure we have the right legislation in place so when a municipality is ready to act, they have a choice before them and are not waiting for legislative changes.

Again, I want to thank the House for allowing me to raise this motion today and I look forward to everyone's comments and support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. I will allow the seconder of the motion to speak, Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seconded the motion on the hard work of Mr. Dolynny and all the research he's done into this and taking the initiative to do the ride-alongs in the city of Yellowknife. We do have a growing concern in my community of Inuvik as well. It started out with the Town of Inuvik making this public, the town council actually, and going to the paper to discuss some of the issues around open alcohol in the downtown core of Inuvik on Mackenzie Road.

On my last trip home, I had a talk with the RCMP and how they've changed their policies so they won't have to deal with anybody who has open alcohol or under the influence in terms of not taking them into the jail cells and taking them to the hospital which, in turn, reflects more visits going to the emergency room. So, obviously, this is not only affecting the public, but it's affecting how people do their jobs. It's one of the biggest concerns for the RCMP, and it really exhausts the resources the RCMP has when they can be working and doing other work, such as drug enforcement or other crimes, that they could put their time and effort to.

I have stood in this House talking about mental health and addictions. This falls right into the same category. The motion itself is a study. I would like to see it taken one step further and have a policy in

place or amendments to the act. All it's doing is providing us with another set of eyes on the road. Obviously, bylaw sometimes do spot checks. They will be driving around the communities. If they see any infractions, they would be able to address them, but also looking at the protocols and regulations as we move forward on such an important issue, obviously under the proper training that will be required. It provides us with safer roads in our communities. It provides us with safer communities.

One suggestion that was brought to our attention from our staff sergeant in Inuvik, but also our CEO at the hospital, is maybe we bring up the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Minister of Justice and do a ride-along, such as Mr. Dolynny did here in Yellowknife, and we could see the real issues, not only on the streets of Inuvik but what's happening in the emergency rooms, and talk to the people dealing with these issues that are happening right now.

So I thank Mr. Dolynny for bringing the motion forward and I encourage all colleagues to support the motion and speak to it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the mover and the seconder of the motion for bringing it forward. This is a motion which I can fully support. I've spoken to the issue of alcohol in my own community and in all NWT communities many times. It's an issue which, unfortunately, is going to take very many years before it will ever go away. I suspect it won't ever go away fully.

It's been spoken to I think by a couple of the Members already, but alcohol is involved in, obviously, the majority of incidents that the RCMP and/or the municipal enforcement officers deal with. It takes up a huge amount of police time, and whether it just be somebody who is drunk on the streets or whether it be somebody who is drunk and then commits a crime, it's a requirement of the police that they have to deal with it, and much of the time they're dealing with what could be considered nuisance incidences.

This motion asks for the authority for municipal enforcement officers to be able to enforce liquor laws. Anything that is going to assist the RCMP and allow them to get away from having to handle nuisance calls, for instance, it will allow them to deal with the bigger crimes, which certainly happen all too frequently, unfortunately.

The motion asks that the authority be provided for municipal enforcement officers to be able to enforce liquor laws. It does not require that all communities will have to take part on that. It simply will give authority and it will be there for those communities who wish to take part, those that have municipal

enforcement officers and that they wish to expand that scope of practice of those officers.

I recognize that there are legislative requirements that would be required, and that again goes to what the motion is asking. The motion is asking for this to be looked into, to determine what kind of legislative amendments need to be made, to determine all the parameters around making this change and we can then determine whether or not it's something that we should go forward with. The fact that this is asking for a discussion of the issue is something that I fully support. It's not demanding that we do this, but it's asking us to look at it. Hopefully, it will turn out for the positive and then a community like mine, who has municipal enforcement officers, will be able to take advantage of that extra authority and improve the like, so to speak, in my community. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We appreciate this motion being brought forward. It supports the work that has been underway for some time with Justice and Finance on looking at this issue, looking at whether we need to change our legislation or whether in fact it can be done through community municipal bylaws. The City of Yellowknife expressed some time ago, as well, an interest in having this matter explored so that collectively we'll get to where we have to go. As this is direction to Cabinet, we will be abstaining. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Close debate. I'm just going to remind Members to put your hands up a little bit quicker so we can see it because I closed debate already, but I'm going to allow Mr. Yakeleya and Mr. Hawkins to go. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate this. I just want to say I'm going to support this motion because it talks about a discussion in looking at some of the possibilities of amending the Liquor Act or any other type of legislation with the issue that Mr. Dolynny talked about with municipal law enforcement and, of course, the authority to help with the issue here in Yellowknife and possibly other communities if they so choose.

So, I'm going to support the motion based on it entering discussions, not do anything but entering in discussion. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Undoubtedly, I have no issue whatsoever in supporting this particular motion.

We must seize upon every single opportunity to help solve this problem. This is not the panacea for this issue, but yet it is moving the file forward. Enforcement of liquor laws is a necessity. We cannot miss any opportunity to do this. We must not get distracted by the fact that, yes, this is a new adventure that we must be heading into, but we must see it as truly an opportunity to do something for this particular problem.

Abuse of alcohol certainly has been well stated, well written and will continue to be well argued about in this Chamber for many years to come, but by doing nothing works to solve this problem by ignoring this opportunity. So I would say that if we can find ways to further help inspections, to help decrease some of the problems, to help work in partnership with our RCMP partners, this is the right way to go.

It's been mentioned many times over the years, as well, and I've witnessed it myself when I used to work at the correctional centre many years ago, three-quarters of the people that were incarcerated all were there for some reason connected to some type of substance abuse. Although we're not here to debate addiction problems, what it does is further emphasize that people who are trapped in these terrible cycles of addiction, such as things like alcohol, need to be addressed. This doesn't necessarily address, again, the addictions issue, but continues to underscore about these problems being allowed to get out of hand.

What the innovation of this motion really speaks to is opening the doors to help solve the problem. This would be a missed opportunity if the government doesn't seize the message in this motion. As such, again, I will be supporting it. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, the public drunkenness, open liquor and underage drinking that has been mentioned as the focus of this effort is something that does need to be addressed and represents, really, a huge part, a huge bolus of the instances that our RCMP are forced to deal with, despite many other competing priorities. There typically are other resources that could be put to work to help in this regard.

I'd like to thank my colleague Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Mover, for bringing this forward and I will be supporting it. I also appreciate the recognition of the possible need for some training and that could be part of the analysis to avoid safety compromises, of course, and also some liabilities due to lack of training, or, of course, gross negligence in the delivery of program activity that could happen without training.

I also note, importantly, that I think the ability of municipalities to opt in or not is an important feature

and should be carried forward. This really is about public safety and it's a good move. I will be supporting it, as I mentioned, and I thank my colleagues again for their support. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. I'll allow the mover of the motion to have closing remarks. Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I know it's been a long day and a long couple of weeks, so I appreciate everyone allowing good debate on this. I want to thank the seconder, Mr. Moses, for allowing this debate to occur today and I want to thank all the Members here who took the time to speak towards this motion and provided some good ideas and some great thoughts. Of course, I want to thank Minister Miltenberger for again addressing it and I'm encouraged by his words today. I'd also like to thank the many residents who e-mailed and called in support of this motion in the last couple of days and, of course, the elected City of Yellowknife officials who took the time to write in some letters of support, which I've tabled earlier today. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I'd be remiss if I didn't thank our legislative research staff and our in-house legal support. Without them, I can guarantee you that this motion would not have seen the light of day here in the House. So with that, I'll conclude and I will be seeking a recorded vote. Thank you.

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

RECORDED VOTE

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Dolynny, Mr. Hawkins, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Moses, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Blake.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. McLeod – Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod – Inuvik Twin Lakes.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour, seven; all those opposed, zero; all those abstaining, five. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 7, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Miltenberger.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 7:

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1,
2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 7, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 7 has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 1:

REINDEER ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 1, Reindeer Act, be read for the second time.

This bill sets out the provisions of the Northwest Territories Act (Canada) respecting reindeer, including the regulation-making authority that will enable the Government of the Northwest Territories to substantially mirror the Northwest Territories Reindeer Regulations made under that act, as required by the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 1 has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

BILL 2:

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES ACT

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 2, Archeological Sites Act, be read for the second time.

This bill sets out the provisions of the Northwest Territories Act (Canada) respecting archaeological sites and artifacts, including the regulation-making authority that will enable the Government of the Northwest Territories to substantially mirror the Archeological Sites Regulations made under that act, as required by the Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 2 has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Premier.

**BILL 3:
SURFACE RIGHTS BOARD ACT**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 3, Surface Rights Board Act, be read for the second time.

This bill mirrors the Northwest Territories Surface Rights Board Act (Canada) in accordance with the requirements of the Northwest Territories Land and Resources Devolution Agreement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 3 has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

**BILL 4:
HEALTH INFORMATION ACT**

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 4, Health Information Act, be read for the second time.

This bill establishes rules regarding the collection, use, disclosure and security of personal health information that protects the confidentiality of the information and the privacy of the individuals that the information is about, while facilitating the effective provision of health services.

Consequential amendments are made to the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Elections and Plebiscites Act, the Electronic Transactions Act, the Guardianship and Trustee Act, the Jury Act, the Maintenance Orders Enforcement Act, the Mental Health Act, the Public Health Act, the Vital Statistics Act and the Workers' Compensation Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 4 has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Beaulieu.

**BILL 5:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
MOTOR VEHICLES ACT**

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act to:

- remove references to public service vehicles;
- add references to the registration permits, in-transit permits and short-term permits;
- define "driving record," and clarify who may obtain access to it and under what circumstances;
- allow a person to apply for an early renewal of a driver's licence up to one year before the date of expiry;
- allow the registrar to extend a driver's licence or an interim driver's licence for up to 90 days from the date of expiry;
- authorize the registrar to suspend a driver's licence;
- authorize the registrar to suspend or cancel drivers' licences if the registrar believes on reasonable grounds that a driver is not capable of operating a motor vehicle in a safe manner;
- remove the prohibition on the use of flashing red and amber lights;
- remove the potential liability of a child passenger for not wearing a seatbelt or not being in a prescribed child restraint system;
- prohibit a driver from riding a motor vehicle if unable to reach the foot pedals or floorboards of the motorcycle; and
- make other amendments to improve clarity and readability.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 5 has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

**BILL 6:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
MEDICAL CARE ACT**

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 6, An Act to Amend the Medical Care Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Medical Care Act to reflect the amendment made in the Canada Health Act respecting the eligibility of insured services of members of the RCMP.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 6 has had second reading.

---Carried

Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 7:

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1, 2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 7, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015, be read for the second time.

This bill makes supplementary appropriations for infrastructure expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 7 has had second reading.

---Carried

Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 4-17(5), Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission 2013 Final Report, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Before I report progress, I'd like to wish everyone a healthy holiday with your families and your communities. I will now rise and report progress. Thank you.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report from Committee of the Whole, Mr. Dolynny.

MR. DOLYNNY: Mr. Speaker, your committee would like to report progress and I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Do I have a seconder? Mr. Yakeleya.

---Carried

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

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 7:

SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1, 2014-2015

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 7, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015, be read for the third time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Bill 7, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015 has had third reading.

---Carried

Madam Clerk, would you ascertain if the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, the Honourable George Tuccaro, is prepared to enter the Chamber to assent to bills.

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. George Tuccaro): Mr. Speaker, Members of the Legislative Assembly, good afternoon.

In a few days we will remember those who fought and gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. We'll also take time to recognize those who put themselves in harm's way in peacekeeping missions. Best wishes on Remembrance Day.

I would also like to use this opportunity to wish every one of you a very joyous and safe holiday season and a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bill: Bill 7, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015.

Thank you, merci beaucoup, mahsi cho, quanani, koana.

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, before we adjourn today, I would like to thank the Pages who have helped us out during this sitting. Our Pages have been from Yellowknife, Hay River, Tsiigehtchic, Lutselk'e, Fort Simpson and Inuvik. Let's give them a hand.

---Applause

You have all done a great job and have been present in the Chamber during some interesting and important debates. I hope that we see all of you again, maybe attending as one of our youth parliamentarians or even coming back as a Member of this Assembly.

Colleagues, all the poppies I have seen in the Chamber these past weeks are a wonderful tribute to Remembrance Day. I know the day will be marked in all of your communities throughout the territory. I encourage all NWT residents to take a moment, wherever you may be on November 11th, to pay tribute to those who have served and to those who continue to serve in the Canadian Forces. We owe so much to the courage and sacrifice of these men and women.

Colleagues, I know that the work of government, no matter what side of the House you sit on, does not end when we conclude today. I know that Members are returning for scheduled committee meetings during the next few months, but we will not meet again formally and in this Chamber until the New Year, and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a happy holiday season. Members, I am sure you will join me in wishing all the residents of the Northwest Territories a healthy, safe and peaceful New Year.

Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Wednesday, February 5, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Acknowledgements
7. Oral Questions
8. Written Questions
9. Returns to Written Questions
10. Replies to Opening Address
11. Petitions
12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees

13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 4-17(5), Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission 2013 Final Report
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, February 5th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:58 p.m.