



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	4691
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	4691
82-17(5) – Loss of RCMP Members – Moncton, New Brunswick (Ramsay).....	4691
83-17(5) – Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women (B. McLeod).....	4692
84-17(5) – Department of Lands Overview: Progress Post-Devolution (R. McLeod).....	4692
85-17(5) – Education Renewal and Innovation Action Plan Update (Lafferty)	4693
86-17(5) – Creating Northern Prosperity (B. McLeod)	4694
87-17(5) – Minister Absent from the House (B. McLeod).....	4695
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	4695
Funding for New Education Initiatives (Bouchard)	4695
Gardens and Growing Forward Program (Bromley)	4696
Congratulations to East Three Secondary School Graduates in Inuvik (Moses).....	4696
Elder Abuse Awareness Day (Bisaro).....	4697
Minister of ITI as Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations (Dolynny)	4697
Aboriginal Head Start Program and Junior Kindergarten (Nadli)	4698
Compensation for Flood Damage to Traditional Hunt Camps (Blake)	4698
Rising Rates of Skin Cancer (Hawkins)	4699
Summer Events in the Beaufort-Delta (R. McLeod).....	4699
Tlcho Government Recipient of 2014 Human Rights Commission Accessibility Award (Lafferty).....	4700
REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES	4700
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	4705
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	4706
ORAL QUESTIONS	4707
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	4717
RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS	4717
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	4718
MOTIONS	4718
Motion 22-17(5) – Funding to Implement Junior Kindergarten (Hawkins).....	4718
Motion 23-17(5) – Appointment of Sole Adjudicators (Blake)	4728
Motion 24-17(5) – Extended Adjournment of the House to October 16, 2014 (Moses)	4728

FIRST READING OF BILLS	4729
Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015	4729
Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act	4729
SECOND READING OF BILLS	4729
Bill 29 – Human Tissue Donation Act.....	4729
Bill 30 – An Act to Amend the Public Service Act.....	4729
Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015	4729
Bill 32 – An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act	4730
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS.....	4730
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	4739
THIRD READING OF BILLS	4739
Bill 31 – Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015	4739
Bill 26 – An Act to Ament the Elections and Plebiscites Act.....	4739
ORDERS OF THE DAY	4741

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Thursday, June 5, 2014****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:32 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Good afternoon, colleagues. I would like to wish everyone a happy Inuvialuit Day today.

---Applause

I'm supposed to have a day off, though.

---Laughter

First, I would like to say Happy 30th Anniversary to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. Thirty years ago I was a little kid in Tuk watching our land claim being signed. To see where it has come from to now, it's awesome. I'm a proud Inuvialuit. I would like to thank everybody up in IRC for doing all the good work they are doing for us in our local communities as well as our community corporations. Thank you for all the work you're doing for the beneficiaries.

Today I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate all the students in Nunakput for graduating from Arctic College, to our graduates in the communities and all the determination and hard work they've done to get to where they are at in their life. One thing today, I'm a really proud dad because my son is graduating today in Whitehorse, Yukon.

---Applause

I would like to congratulate my son Matthew, and my daughter Kirstin, who will be graduating in Tuk. To all the graduates in Tuk, I'm proud of you all and the accomplishments you've made. I hope they take the opportunities for post-secondary education, do a little bit of travelling and I wish you all the best for the exciting time life has to offer you. To all the hunters on the coastline who are hunting geese, please be safe in traveling and happy hunting to you all. To all the people who are hunting all over in Nunavut who are still on the coast hunting on the Yukon side, happy hunting. It's a good day today; it's our last day here.

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 82-17(5):
LOSS OF RCMP MEMBERS –
MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK**

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart, shock and sadness that I speak to you today about the tragedy that occurred last evening in Moncton, New Brunswick. Three RCMP officers have lost their lives and two officers have been injured in the line of duty in a way that makes no sense to any of us.

I know that I speak for all of us in extending our deepest condolences to the families of the members who gave their lives, and to the families of every RCMP officer serving in New Brunswick, in the Northwest Territories, across Canada and throughout the world. I have family in Moncton, so this strikes very close to home for me.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honour to have the RCMP as our territorial and national police service. It is an honour to work with Superintendent Ron Smith and all the members and staff of RCMP "G" Division who work hard to make our homes and communities safer places, and to witness the commitment that members of the RCMP bring to their job every day, knowing the risks they face. These are our community members, friends and neighbours.

Mr. Speaker it is not certain what took place last evening, but when tragedies such as this occur, it strikes deeply in the heart of all of us. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of the fallen members and the entire RCMP. I sincerely hope that our condolences bring some comfort to them during this very difficult time. We pray for Moncton. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Our thoughts and prayers are with the members' families back in Moncton.

The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 83-17(5):
FEDERAL/PROVINCIAL/TERRITORIAL
MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR
THE STATUS OF WOMEN

HON. BOB MCLEOD: As Members of this House are aware, the Government of the Northwest Territories will host the 32nd Annual Meeting of Federal-Provincial/Territorial Ministers responsible for the Status of Women on June 19 and 20, 2014, in Detah. I look forward to co-chairing this important meeting with the Honourable Kellie Leitch, the federal Minister for the Status of Women.

My colleagues and I will discuss a number of key priorities shared by federal, provincial and territorial Ministers. One issue that has been a long-standing priority of Ministers is ending violence against women and girls. This is an issue for all of us and a particular challenge in the North as Aboriginal women and girls experience violence at a disproportional rate in the Northwest Territories and across Canada.

The Government of the Northwest Territories has a number of initiatives aimed at addressing the issue of violence against women and girls in the Northwest Territories. We work with local organizations that are helping women, men and families to prevent violence. At the meeting in Detah, we will share how the Government of the Northwest Territories is working with community partners to develop action plans to reduce poverty, develop the economy and keep our communities healthy and sustainable.

Status of Women Ministers will also be discussing their work in promoting and advancing women in leadership. This includes fostering women's active participation in community, regional, territorial and federal electoral processes and increasing the number of women appointed to corporate boards. We also want to encourage women's participation in growing economic sectors like resource development and other non-traditional occupations. This is an area where we are seeing progress in the Northwest Territories. On a recent visit to Inuvik, I was particularly impressed with the number of women that I saw driving 40-tonne rock trucks as part of the construction of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project. As Members are aware, many of our industry partners are looking for ways to increase the number of women in their workforces in many of the trades and non-traditional occupations.

While we have made much progress in advancing women in leadership, including within the Government of the Northwest Territories, there are many other women who face barriers and miss opportunities to contribute to the success of our territorial prosperity. Increasing the role of women in leadership is about equality, but it is also about the contribution that women will make if they are

given the opportunity. It is about strengthening our territory for the benefit of all Northwest Territories residents.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to this meeting. It is an important opportunity for the federal, provincial and territorial governments to come together to discuss how, by working together at all levels, we can address the serious barriers to equality that continue to exist in Canada today. By coordinating our efforts, we can improve the safety, security and prosperity of women living in every community all across our country. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Lands, Mr. R.C. McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 84-17(5):
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS OVERVIEW:
PROGRESS POST-DEVOLUTION

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the long-term health of our land, water and environment is critically important to Northerners. Devolution has given the Government and Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories new powers for managing the land and its resources sustainably and responsibly. The new Department of Lands has been established to help fulfill our new responsibilities and meet the expectations of Northerners. I am pleased to speak to Members today about the work that the new department has been doing since April 1st.

The role of Lands is to manage, administer and plan for the sustainable use of public land in the Northwest Territories in a fair and transparent manner that reflects the interests of its people. It is responsible for land use administration, including permitting and securities and for compliance and enforcement in relation to land use. It plays a key role in coordinating our government's participation in reviewing projects going through the development approval process. It is also responsible for developing land use sustainability standards, guidelines and policies guided by the Land Use and Sustainability Framework released in the last session.

Mr. Speaker, the new department is successfully meeting the challenge of protecting the northern environment already. On our first day there was a spill incident. When the spill was reported, inspectors were immediately called into action. Our quick assessment and enforcement advice ensured the spill was cleaned up in a timely fashion without harm to the environment. In total, there have been 38 inspections completed by the regional office inspectors since the beginning of April, and of those, there is one compliance issue under formal investigation.

Project assessment coordination is an important component of the resource management function that Lands became responsible for post-devolution. The Department of Lands is responsible for coordinating GNWT participation in project reviews, ensuring government takes a consistent, thorough and timely approach to reviewing development applications. Since April 1st the department has provided technical advice or coordination and input into nine project submissions on behalf of the GNWT. Our effective and efficient process for environmental assessment coordination supports the responsible, sustainable management of NWT resources and ensures that Ministers have sufficient time to review and agree on a government response and forward that information to the board.

Managing northern lands and natural resources sustainably requires clear priorities and a consistent approach that is supported by land use planning. The department has already begun discussions with Aboriginal governments on land use planning processes in unsettled regions, a land use plan for the Deh Cho region and a review of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan. Research and development of a recreational leasing policy has also begun, as this is a pressing issue in the Northwest Territories. This important work is detailed and complex, Mr. Speaker. Although I expect to see progress immediately, I also recognize that this will take some time in order to ensure that all parties are comfortable with the proposed plans before moving forward.

Requiring securities as a part of the development approval process helps ensure potential environmental liabilities can be remediated and the northern environment protected. Under devolution, GNWT departments now have responsibility for administration of securities related to their respective legislative mandates. Lands is responsible for holding and coordinating land-based securities for resource projects such as securities related to land use permits or surface leases. In order to institute a coordinated and government-wide approach to management of financial assurances and potential liabilities on public lands, the Department of Lands proposed the creation of a liabilities and financial assurances division. I will be moving to establish this office in the coming months and will update Members on its role and activities as work proceeds.

Since April 1st, staff have been developing departmental processes and procedures, filling vacant positions, implementing a building relocation plan, developing consultation, French language communications, and divisional work plans and attending required training. This work has provided the foundation for the department to begin focusing on its priorities.

As a new department and in taking on new legislation, there were several immediate matters that needed to be attended to. Several small legislative amendments were required, a plan to create the NWT Surface Rights Board was developed, and Lands continues to work with the federal government to implement the changes to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, resulting from the federal government's Regulatory Improvement Initiative, including the implementation of timelines.

Although much has been accomplished since establishing the Department of Lands on April 1st, Mr. Speaker, there is still a lot of work to complete. One of the most important priorities for Lands is the amalgamation of the Northwest Territorial Lands Act and the Commissioner's Land Act. This work will begin soon and will be a significant effort which will take several years to complete.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident that the team we have established is well placed to make significant progress on the priorities that have been outlined for Lands. Again, recognizing it will take some time, we are committed to working with all landowners to responsibly and sustainably manage the lands, waters and natural resources of the Northwest Territories for the benefit of current and future generations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 85-17(5):
EDUCATION RENEWAL AND INNOVATION
ACTION PLAN UPDATE

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, our work on Education Renewal and Innovation is well underway, with more feedback, information and support coming forward as we share our work with northern stakeholders and experts in the field.

As you know, we have held extensive engagements with many of our stakeholders, including our education partners. This inclusive approach has continued into the development of the action plan. As we speak, the ERI team is out in the communities and regions talking to the public, teachers, parents and students. Early feedback from these meetings is very positive and people are engaged and asking good questions. All this feedback will help shape our three-year action plan.

Because we have heard from many education authorities that we need to get out into the communities, the finalization of the action plan will be a little delayed. I now expect the draft action plan to be ready this fall, coinciding with the development of business plans.

Mr. Speaker, education is changing around the world. Studies and research are emerging daily on

the need for change, that our children are not prepared for the world today. We agree, and we are gratified to learn that others do as well.

In fact, we are hearing from national and world leaders in education and related fields, providing us feedback on our proposed approach.

This past January some of you had the opportunity to meet Dr. Stuart Shanker, a world authority on self-regulation. He wrote:

“My immediate thought when I read Directions for Change was that it presents us with an inspiring “vision for the future” that applies to all children in Canada. Directions for Change will not only shape the future of the NWT but will, I hope, be read and embraced by the entire country.”

We recently also received a letter from Dr. Allan Luke, an international leader in education research. In his letter he indicates that the work he is doing in Australia strongly supports the approach we are taking:

“We have a decade of evidence from Australia but also from the U.S. and New Zealand systems that “back to basics” approaches – no matter how appealing to many – simply do not begin to address the core issues that, I believe, your Directions for Change document addresses head on... What is so laudable about your work is that it is “whole scale” – at the system and school level. It offers a realistic but positive overview of challenges, and then proceeds to provide a larger template for moving schools and classrooms, teachers and administrators, students and communities forward.”

Mr. Speaker, this is the feedback we are receiving from experts that live and breathe educational change. To see these words volunteered to us after a review of our Directions for Change is emphatic reinforcement that we are doing good work, it is work we need to do, and work that is moving in the right direction.

I will be tabling a collection of northern, national and international comments on the framework later today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 86-17(5):
CREATING NORTHERN PROSPERITY

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, one of the aims of devolution was giving Northwest Territories residents the powers and authorities they need to turn northern potential into prosperity for themselves and the country.

I have said many times that the North is the future of Canada and that our potential is bright. We have

a strong resource base that includes diamonds, gold, tungsten, rare earth metals and other minerals. We have world-class oil and gas reserves that stretch from the Beaufort-Delta through the Sahtu and down into the Deh Cho. We have untapped hydro potential that could provide clean, affordable energy for our homes and businesses and drive economic growth at home and in the South. With all this potential, Mr. Speaker, it is time for this territory to make its mark on the national and international stage.

I am pleased to say that awareness of northern potential outside of our territory continues to grow. Last month the Conference Board of Canada released its “How Canada Performs Economy” report card, which found that the three territories are outperforming most of their provincial counterparts economically. GDP for the three territories combined is expected to grow by 3 percent, exceeding the Canadian average. This confirms earlier forecasts by the Conference Board that the GDP of the territories could double by 2020, driven by long-term global demand for minerals and metals.

The Northwest Territories received an A-plus on income per capita and an A on GDP growth, with real GDP expected to grow by 1.7 percent this year. They predict that high public sector investment and the anticipated development of a new diamond mine and three new metal mines this decade will help the economy grow and generate new jobs between 2016 and 2019. While our score on labour productivity growth was low, based on weakness in the mining sector, the Northwest Territories still has the highest labour productivity in Canada and is second only to Norway among 16 international peers the Conference Board used for comparison in drafting its report.

This positive outlook for the North was confirmed late last month with the release of a policy brief from the Centre for International Governance Innovation, called “The Northwest Territories and Arctic Maritime Development in the Beaufort Area.” The report called the Northwest Territories “arguably the most promising economic region in the Canadian Arctic in terms of public and private potential, scale of resources, variety of transport routes, well-functioning territorial government and close cooperation with neighbours.” Our territory was noted for its impressive achievements in responsible resource and community development, and devolution was cited as an important step that will enhance our economic self-reliance.

For all these positive predictions, though, the CIGI stated that the lack of adequate transport corridors and infrastructure arising from complex permitting regulations and governance is preventing the territory from fully realizing its economic potential. The report's authors called for greater federal fiscal

leadership and planning and recommend the Government of the Northwest Territories use devolution as a new opportunity for enhanced land/marine partnerships with the federal government, similar to federal/provincial nation building transportation projects in the South.

Mr. Speaker, these two reports and their recommendations highlight the message I have been delivering since I became Premier: The Northwest Territories has the resources to create prosperity and drive economic growth here at home and across Canada. Federal partnership and investment in the Northwest Territories continues to be necessary and will help this territory create jobs and economic opportunities that will benefit all Canadians.

Our government is doing its part to capitalize on the North's potential. Devolution was an important step that gives Northerners the tools they need to manage and promote responsible, balanced development that creates prosperity while protecting our land and environment according to northern priorities and values. We continue to plan for and invest in strategic infrastructure projects that support economic growth and development, projects like the Mackenzie Valley fibre line, hydro expansion, the Mackenzie Valley Highway and the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk highway, which includes a substantial financial investment from the Government of Canada.

Our government's agenda for prosperity is about more than just economic development, Mr. Speaker, although economic development is a foundation that we must have for success. Our agenda also includes plans for social and human development like education renewal, early childhood education, the Anti-Poverty Strategy and Mental Health and Addictions Plan. It includes plans for sustaining and protecting our environment like the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, Water Strategy and Energy Conservation and Alternative Energy initiatives. Our agenda includes plans for sharing the benefits of a prosperous and environmentally sustainable territory with all communities and regions through initiatives like decentralization and regional recruitment and capacity building initiatives, supported by plans like the Economic Opportunities Strategy and Mineral Development Strategy, that will help grow and support diversified economies throughout the Northwest Territories.

The Northwest Territories is being recognized across Canada for its great potential, Mr. Speaker. We have known all along that we can be a strong, contributing member of Confederation. Now is the time to fulfill our promise and build the strong, self-sufficient territory we have described in our vision, in partnership with the Government of Canada, Aboriginal governments, community governments,

business, non-governmental organizations and all the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 87-17(5);
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Michael Miltenberger will be absent from the House today to meet with the federal Minister Joe Oliver in Toronto. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Colleagues, today I'd like to rise and draw attention to the gallery of Andy and Delphine Langlois. Our Clerk's parents are here visiting. They are formerly from Yellowknife but they're living in Vernon, BC. Welcome to the House.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Bouchard.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
FUNDING FOR NEW
EDUCATION INITIATIVES

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to see some youth in the audience today. Like you indicated today, there are quite a few graduations going on in the Northwest Territories.

I guess I'd like to speak about the education system right now. It's in a bit of turmoil and the fact is there are lot of DEAs and authorities that are looking at what's going on in the education system today.

Junior kindergarten is being rolled out by the government. We've had lots of questions in this House. This session has been mainly about asking... Every MLA has asked questions on junior kindergarten or education renewal and what the situation is.

They are definitely in turmoil. People currently in the education system are doing their hard work, and I don't doubt that the Department of Education and the Minister are trying to make our education system better, making graduation levels higher and getting people educated in the Northwest Territories.

But right now there's turmoil in how they're doing it. How these two initiatives are being funded is under question in a system that was already under stress. You know, student-teacher ratios and people not having enough assistance, not enough people to support the youth that we have in our system.

We continue to ask questions and I'll have more questions today on how we're funding these

programs without any additional funding. It is causing turmoil throughout the Northwest Territories and it seems like the Department of Education wants to steamroll these initiatives through without even consulting or getting feedback. They're getting tons of feedback on how are we supposed to do this, how can we do this with the same amount of dollars.

I will have questions for the Minister of Education on junior kindergarten. It is very difficult. It is frustrating from this side that we're not getting much direction from the department on how we can do all this work without any additional funding. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GARDENS AND GROWING FORWARD PROGRAM

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of my fondest memories from early childhood was visiting O'Callahan's amazing and magical cabbage patch near where the Explorer Hotel now stands.

In those days if you wanted fresh vegetables here or, indeed, anywhere in the NWT, you usually grew them yourself. Back then, home and market gardens throughout the Territories supplied people with enough vegetables to meet their needs for a healthy diet. After losing that tradition, the Growing Forward II Program, a joint funding program between Canada and the GNWT, was meant to support a local produce revival. Unfortunately, red tape and delays, changing rules and inconsistent management are delaying delivery of this vital support to an industry that is extremely time sensitive. While pouring timely and large pots of money into the Take A Kid Harvesting portion of the program, growers' applications and appeals are literally delayed for months.

Community gardeners are increasingly frustrated. After debilitating delays, delivery of the wrong soil products and other royal faux pas, we had hoped ITI would be tuned up this year. No such luck. Sadly, we see a repeat pattern this year.

Meanwhile, however, the Yellowknife Farmers Market is moving forward with the unhesitating support of the City of Yellowknife. I am very pleased to note that this Tuesday the market opened for the first evening of the year. With more vendors than ever and more customers than ever, leading to long but excited lineups, it was a very successful start to this year's season.

While we were busy here in session, Marianne, my wife, was able to attend the market and come home with two bags of fresh lettuce and spinach, amongst other purchases. Last night, on the 4th of June, we ate our first fresh local green salad of the season.

These market pioneers in food security are bringing back the old days in new ways. Last year the exchange at the Yellowknife Market Garden not only led people to a more active lifestyle that was better for our environment and health, they contributed half a million dollars to the local GDP and a stronger community. I have even greater expectations for market success this year. Please join me in congratulating Yellowknife Farmers Market launch of year two.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: With this activity and fresh greens on the table, I'm really getting in the mood for summer, and I bet you are too. I'd like to wish you, my colleagues and staff and all of your families the very best for a safe, fun and restorative summer. I'd like to say that for all the people of the Northwest Territories as well.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONGRATULATIONS TO EAST THREE SECONDARY SCHOOL GRADUATES IN INUVIK

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Over the last two weeks here we have been coming down hard on the Department of Education with some of the programs they've been implementing, and it's also people from the public and other organizations, but sometimes we have to draw attention to and we can't overlook some of the successes that we see with these guys, the department, and the support they give to our students.

Tomorrow is going to be a big day in the community of Inuvik as we graduate our second graduating class from East-Three Secondary School. At this time I'd just like to congratulate the 36 graduates reaching a significant milestone in their lives and setting a standard for future grad classes. Thirty-six is probably one of the biggest graduating classes we had out of Inuvik. A lot of these students I've seen grow up through the elementary school system and helped assist in coaching them, so it's great to see them reach this milestone. I congratulate them and wish them all the best.

Actually, I also want to congratulate and recognize any of the graduates who had to face extra challenges by coming to Inuvik to do their schooling from some of the surrounding communities.

I'd also like to give special thanks to the teachers for all that they do to assist our youth to succeed and graduate and be able to walk tomorrow. Not only them, but we had assistants, we had school staff in keeping the school operating, and they all

had a big part in seeing these 36 students walk tomorrow and receive their diploma.

The commitment and hard work of these graduates has finally paid off and tomorrow will certainly be one of the biggest days of their lives. I just want to give a quick message to these students that I wish them the best in their future endeavours in whatever they do, but I've always been a big supporter of education and I hope a lot of them continue to further their education whether it's in a trade, a skill or go receive post-secondary education in an institution down south or enrol in the Aurora College system as well.

Tomorrow the graduation ceremonies take place. I know there are going to be a lot of happy faces. Minister McLeod and myself attended last year, and a lot of the individuals that were there, we saw a lot of families who actually were so happy and filled with joy to see their students graduate. Sometimes it was the first child in their family to graduate.

Tomorrow, I think, is going to be a very happy day for a lot of people in Inuvik. Families, friends, educators, supporters, but a special thanks to the parents who get these students up in the mornings, get them out the door to the classrooms and make sure they get their homework. As I said, tomorrow will be the biggest day in the lives of these students. I just hope that they celebrate responsibly. These graduates are role models and leaders for their younger siblings, their peers and the community of Inuvik.

Good job. I just wanted to express my happiness to the graduates and their families and the community of Inuvik.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ten days from now, June 15th, is Elder Abuse Awareness Day, and I'm wearing purple today to again highlight and bring awareness to the problem of elder abuse.

Elders make a difference in our communities every day. They are deeply involved in our communities, and their contributions, big and small, benefit NWT residents of all ages. Elder abuse, though, is a significant threat to the older residents of the NWT in both small communities and larger centres. In the last 30 years or so, elder abuse has become an increasingly important issue and is now seen as a public problem that needs attention.

The NWT is celebrating Senior Citizens Month for the first time this year and we're the first jurisdiction in Canada to set aside a whole month, this month of June, to recognize and spend time with older adults.

Just a reminder, elder abuse is defined as any kind of physical, sexual, psychological or economic abuse as well as neglect. Perhaps surprisingly, male elders are at almost the same risk for abuse as female elders. Elders are taken advantage of because they are physically frail or have diminished capacity. Family members often extort money from their elders or force them to sign over property. Elders, unfortunately, are an easy target.

Mr. Speaker, elder abuse does not discriminate. It happens in institutions as well as private homes and to elders of all ages.

Our elders should be respected and honoured. They hold the wisdom, the history and traditional knowledge of our communities and our territory. We must not ignore elder abuse, and understanding it gives us the power to fight it.

Society has to recognize that elder abuse and neglect is occurring and raise awareness of the problem. We must inform health and social services practitioners and the general public about elder abuse. We all must know how to identify the signs of elder abuse and know where to find the help to combat it.

We need to use the media to change attitudes and reduce stereotyping of the elderly. We need to educate our elders, as well, to help them fight back.

All of these actions bring the problem of elder abuse out into the open and encourage acknowledgement that it is a problem and let's start to eradicate it.

So to all my colleagues, on Sunday, June 15th, wear purple as you did on Monday. Find an elder, show them the respect they deserve and let them know you care. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MINISTER OF ITI AS REGULATOR OF OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are just taking our first steps in a new regime in which a Minister responsible for non-renewable resources is also the regulator of these developments. This structure is quite common across Canada, but this is now a new reality for the Northwest Territories consensus-style of government.

I believe many Members of this House are still a bit perplexed on how we will plan to collaborate as a Caucus in our roles in consensus government with senior bureaucrats and other key stakeholders to establish a balanced and reasonably sustainable approach to project development in the Northwest Territories.

Therefore, today I wish to provide a homework list of my top eight questions for the Minister and

department to work on during our down time this summer. At times the regulator is privy to information that would not be in the public's best interest to disclose or debate, such as a company's net profit projects, so how will situations like these be dealt with in response?

How can we ensure that information disclosure will respect the public's best interest and not place any corporation, agency or other organization at a significant advantage or disadvantage?

How will corporate involvement and development of government programs and strategies, such as the Mineral Development and Economic Opportunities strategies, continue under this new regime?

How can we ensure that all residents of the Northwest Territories will have the opportunity to be represented in the Legislative Assembly's decision-making process?

Will the Legislative Assembly be able to convene a joint committee on matters related to oil and gas operations similar to the Yukon's current all-party committee on hydraulic fracturing?

Will Regular Members and committee staff still be able to participate in fact-finding missions, representations or other reviews of oil and gas development and technology?

How will decisions be reached in situations where the views of departmental advisors differ widely from the oil and gas committee or the Members of the Legislative Assembly?

Finally, Mr. Speaker, outside their review process, are other Cabinet members allowed to make their opinions known to the regulator?

Clearly, my concern today is how consensus-style government will withstand the rigour and complexity with that of devolution authority and regulatory control. The Cabinet and Premier are now tasked to ensure transparency and accountability and I look forward to hearing responses to my concerns the next time we gather.

Until then, to all my colleagues, residents of the Northwest Territories and to you, Mr. Speaker, I wish everyone a very safe summer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nadli.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ABORIGINAL HEAD START PROGRAM AND JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have been paying attention to the debate about junior kindergarten. At this point several things are clear, but the debate is like a puzzle with a few missing pieces. It's clear that junior kindergarten is just one component of the Early Childhood Development Action Plan. It's being delivered without new

funding by addressing the pupil-teacher ratio. It will be free and optional, providing alternatives for parents who need daycare. This is especially valuable in small communities where no daycare options exist. I get all of that, Mr. Speaker.

What I'm concerned about is how junior kindergarten will affect Aboriginal Head Start sites in the eight communities where they are operating. For the past 17 years, with the funding from Health Canada, the NWT has hosted several Aboriginal Head Start programs. They are now operating in Fort Providence, Hay River, Fort Smith, Yellowknife, Behchoko, Paulatuk, Inuvik and Fort McPherson. All combined, over 200 preschoolers attend each year.

The Head Start program focuses on Aboriginal culture, language, school readiness, nutrition and social skills. Parents and elders are actively involved. The curriculum has been refined in recent years, so it's a really impressive operation, exactly what our preschoolers need.

Yesterday on the radio, some disturbing comments were voiced by Ms. Reanna Erasmus, an experienced Head Start educator and chair of the Western Arctic Aboriginal Head Start program. Ms. Erasmus is worried that junior kindergarten will duplicate the Head Start program and jeopardize its viability. She also wonders if the quality of JK programming will match the quality of Head Start programming. Ms. Erasmus says the Education Minister has rebuffed any discussion on modelling the new program off the existing one. She said, "We don't like the idea that Minister Lafferty may be unintentionally killing the Aboriginal Head Start program." Ms. Erasmus says, "It's too expensive and there aren't enough children to warrant running two early childhood programs in the small communities."

Those are pretty strong words, Mr. Speaker. I want to know the extent to which there's truth in them.

I will have questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON COMPENSATION FOR FLOOD DAMAGE TO TRADITIONAL HUNT CAMPS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my statement is on members of my constituency who are either full-time or part-time harvesters.

Many of our people in the Northwest Territories have cabins on the land where they go to harvest food for their families or where they take their children to teach traditional survival skills. Culture is high on my list of priorities, Mr. Speaker, and it gives me great pride when I see families who spend

time on the land, who take time to share their cultural values with their children and who, at the same time, are surviving off the land.

Many people in the Mackenzie Delta in my communities of Tsiigehtchic, Aklavik and Fort McPherson, still live on the land. They go for the spring, summer, fall and winter. Each season brings an abundance of wildlife, trapping, fishing, harvesting, and the list goes on.

When you are in the bush or on the land, it gives you a renewed strength and energy and makes you proud of what you are doing. I want to remind the Members that in the spring of 2013 there was a flood in the Mackenzie Delta. During this flood, cabins were damaged by water. Some cabins were ruined by the ice jamming and the majority of these cabins are unlivable.

Disaster compensation forms were filled out and these people who had their cabins ruined have been denied any kind of compensation. Like I've said, all these people take time to go out on the land to spend time with their families, to teach children to eat our healthy, traditional foods. Our policy needs to be revisited in order for cabin owners to have some sort of funding coming to them so that they can rebuild their cabins, take their children back to the land and to continue teaching and sharing what we were taught.

It's been over a year and our constituents continue to wait for answers regarding these flood claims. When will the department give us answers? I would also like to know when they last visited their policy and revised it. How soon can the department take another look and reconsider these claims? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RISING RATES OF SKIN CANCER

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to use the occasion today to speak on something that is very important to many of us and it actually touches many of our lives.

The Canadian Cancer Society has just released their statistics report for 2014. It provides an estimate of cancer rates for Canada for the current year and highlights cancer trends.

This report is prepared annually through the partnership of the Canadian Cancer Society, the Public Health Agency of Canada, Statistics Canada, and they also have partners in provincial and territorial cancer registries.

This year's report includes a special chapter on skin cancer with the emphasis on melanoma, which is the deadliest form of skin cancer and a very

common form of skin cancer among young Canadians. Melanoma usually appears on the skin, but can be found in the eyes or in the lining of the nose, mouth or even in a person's private parts.

Like these types of skin cancers, it's about 90 percent preventable. Melanoma rates are on the rise in Canada, which highlights the need for better efforts to ensure we work to prevent these things. Tanning beds and sunlamps give off ultraviolet rays, which we all know are many times stronger than the natural light. The Canadian Cancer Society, in tandem with the World Health Organization, recommends that no one under the age of 18 use these types of tanning equipment.

On many occasions I have raised this particular issue and even in late 2013 – as the Minister scrambles to catch up on this issue in his briefing notes. Frankly, the Department of Health did act, so he doesn't have worry. He doesn't have questions today.

The fact is the Department of Health did listen to this issue that I've been raising and I'm very thankful for that. Last year the Government of Canada introduced legislation under the Public Health Act prohibiting youth from using tanning beds, another good step in ensuring that we're fighting the battle against melanoma rates and certainly taking care of our youth where it matters.

I, as many people know, have been a long-time champion of this particular problem, but I have to thank the Canadian Cancer Society, the Alberta-NWT Division not only for their inspiration and insight but certainly their stewardship on what they provide Canadians and Northerners for advice. Their goal is to help people by bringing awareness to this problem, and they are doing a great job of it. They believe if we could focus on melanoma and educate the public about the risk of skin cancer and the prevention steps, we can do much better.

We can't do it alone, but we need everyone to join in on this fight, become more aware and take better care of ourselves. If I may finally say, Mr. Speaker, as we roll into the summer, we all know what that means. Northerners want to be out more on the land or the beach, whatever the case may be. So cover up, take care of yourselves, especially your loved ones. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUMMER EVENTS IN THE BEAUFORT-DELTA

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Being this is the last day of session, I wanted to use this as an opportunity to highlight some of the events that are going to be taking place

in Inuvik and the Beaufort-Delta during the summer, but before I do that I want to express, on behalf of some of the Members who went to Hay River last night, our appreciation to the organizers of the Hay River Track and Field Meet for their hospitality. It was a great event, one that we always support and I think the kids appreciate that.

The one memory that stood out, though, was at the opening ceremonies, without prompting, you had close to 900 kids belting out O Canada as loud as they can. That was really something to see. It made you proud to be from the NWT and proud to be Canadian when you see our young people doing that without prompting.

We're also working on a four by 100 relay team for next year. I think they meant 400 metres, not 100 feet. So we'll have to do a little bit of training. We'll have tryouts and whoever can survive 100 feet is on the team.

Okay, that part of it is done. I want to talk about some of the events that are going on. Again, as Mr. Speaker pointed out, today is the 30th anniversary of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement and they've done a fantastic job preserving the Inuvialuit culture and giving the Inuvialuit opportunities to succeed. They have an excellent post-secondary school support program, as do the Gwich'in. I think we have fantastic post-secondary school programming in the Northwest Territories, supported by our Aboriginal government.

Also this summer in Inuvik is the Inuit Circumpolar Council will be holding their annual general meeting, I believe, July 21st to the 24th and we'll have over 600 delegates from Alaska, Russia, the NWT and Canada and Greenland and this is a good opportunity again. It's going to be a fun time to see the cultures of all the other Inuit people from across the circumpolar world and this started out in, I think, 1977 they had their first meeting in Barrow and it just built upon this.

So we're looking forward to that. Their theme this year is "One Arctic, One Future" and as my colleague from Boot Lake pointed out, the Aurora College grad we had just recently and we congratulate all those that have graduated, and I think the Premier pointed out that there was only one male amongst all the graduates. So the ladies have done a fantastic job and a lot of them do it raising families, too, which makes it that much more incredible. So hats off to them.

East 3 grad is happening and my colleague and I... Well, he said it's going to happen tomorrow. So he and I are going to show up tomorrow. We'll be the only two there because it's actually happening on Saturday. So we'll wait till then, Mr. Moses.

Inuvik Petroleum Show is happening in June. Again, it's another exciting opportunity for people in

Inuvik, and even with the slowdown we still have a lot of industry people coming. We appreciate that.

The Gwich'in Assembly is taking place in Aklavik August the 19th to the 21st.

So I wanted to just highlight a few of the events that are taking place in Inuvik, and being that we're just starting the summer I want to wish all my colleagues here a safe summer, and all the people back home, summer is a great time to get out with the family, enjoy what the Northwest Territories has to offer. Thank you.

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

**MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
TLICHO GOVERNMENT RECIPIENT OF
2014 HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
ACCESSIBILITY AWARD**

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] I would like to tell the House about things that are coming up in our region in the Tlicho Nation. We have received a letter from the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission. We have received a letter from them, the Tlicho, and on the letter, Whati, Gameti, they have now opened an office for them and they will be representing disabled people and elders. They will also be able to support all the disabled people by providing the facilities for disabilities. So that will be happening in the Tlicho region.

I am the MLA, so I would like to recognize the work that they have done and I would like to recognize that there will be an opening. So I would like to say thank you to our community and the Tlicho region. Mahsi.

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

**Reports of Standing
and Special Committees**

**COMMITTEE REPORT 9-17(5):
REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE
2012-2013 ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE INFORMATION AND
PRIVACY COMMISSIONER
OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your Standing Committee on Government Operations is pleased to provide its Report on the Review of the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories and commends it to the House.

**MOTION THAT COMMITTEE REPORT 9-17(5)
BE DEEMED READ AND PRINTED IN HANSARD,
CARRIED**

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Frame Lake, that Committee Report 9-17(5), Report of the Standing Committee on Government Operations on the Review of the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, be deemed as read and printed in Hansard in its entirety.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Committee Report 9-17(5) is deemed read and is to be printed in Hansard in its entirety.

Introduction

The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP) Act came into force on December 31, 1996. The law was created to promote government accountability by balancing access to government information with the protection of individual privacy rights related to that information.

Under the act, the Information and Privacy Commissioner (IPC) is appointed for a five-year term as an independent officer of the Legislative Assembly. The act requires the Commissioner to file an annual report on her activities and authorizes the Commissioner to include recommendations for amending the legislation to improve the act's efficiency and effectiveness.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations conducted a review of the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on February 11, 2014. Members would like to thank Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts for her report and for her appearance before the committee at the public review on April 25, 2014. The committee also wants to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Keenan Bengts for her continued commitment and dedication to all matters relating to access to information and the protection of privacy by public agencies in the Northwest Territories.

Commissioner's 2012-2013 Activities

In 2012-2013 the Commissioner opened 16 new files, down from 27 in 2011-2012. Of the 16 new files, seven dealt with health information. Ms. Keenan Bengts completed 12 review recommendations, an increase of two over the previous year. Of these recommendations, seven were focused on the collection, use or disclosure of health information. This, undoubtedly, prompted the

Commissioner to call 2012-2013 "the year of health privacy concerns." As noted in the Commissioner's message at the opening of the report:

"The issues ranged from patient concerns about the way in which their personal health information was being shared within the confines of a health authority to concerns raised by patients who were also employees of one of the Northwest Territories' health authorities who questioned whether or not fellow employees or supervisors had access to their personal health records. And, once again, there were cases of misdirected faxes containing personal health information." (page 7)

Of the cases resulting in review recommendations, the recommendations of the IPC were adopted in full by the relevant public body in six cases; partially adopted in two cases; not applicable in two cases, as no recommendations were made; and not accepted in two cases.

Eight public bodies were involved in 14 matters before the IPC in 2012-2013. Of these, the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, the Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment each had two or more matters before the IPC.

Recommendations for Legislative Change

As already noted, the Information and Privacy Commissioner is authorized to make recommendations for legislative change. This year the Commissioner highlighted five legislative issues. Of these, four relate to long-standing recommendations raised in her past reports and forwarded to this House by the standing committee: new health privacy legislation, access and privacy legislation for municipalities, the need for a general review of the ATIPP Act and what a revised act might include. In addition, the IPC has raised another matter for consideration, that of access to information and protection of privacy by First Nations governments.

Implementation of New Health Information Privacy Legislation

Again this year the Information and Privacy Commissioner has made her concerns known regarding the potential for breaches of privacy within the health and social services system, which were heightened with the move to electronic medical records in 2010.

Of the breach-of-privacy complaints reviewed by the IPC in 2012-2013, two illustrate the problems that can arise with respect to the handling of medical information. In the first example, Review Recommendation 12-106, a complaint was brought against the Beaufort-Delta Health and Social Services Authority (BDHSSA) by a complainant

who was also an employee. This individual requested that access to his paper medical records be restricted to protect the privacy of his medical issues from coworkers, after he received care at the Inuvik Hospital. Pursuant to his request, the paper records were immediately secured. However, when the complainant later grew concerned about his electronic records, he requested an audit and learned these records had been accessed 12 times outside the period during which he received medical attention.

The IPC's review of the audit confirmed that the majority of times the records were accessed it was for legitimate reasons, but revealed that for several of the entries it could not be determined who was accessing the records and no reason had been recorded for the access. The BDHSSA argued there was no evidence to suggest that the information on the file had been improperly used or disclosed.

In commenting on this case, the Commissioner expressed the opinion that "the onus lies on the health authorities to provide evidence that all access to an individual's personal health records is proper and for a legitimate reason under the act... Individuals have a right to know who has accessed their records and for what purposes. If the health authority cannot do that, there is a flaw in the system." (pages 23, 22)

The IPC made six recommendations, detailed on page 24 of the report. Recommendations included: conducting a thorough privacy impact assessment on the electronic record system; removing generic computer names and passwords from the computer system; taking steps to ensure every access to the system includes a reason; instituting a system of regular random audits on the system; and improving training on privacy for staff, including regular messaging about the importance of keeping health records private. The BDHSSA accepted all of the recommendations in full.

In the second example, Review Recommendation 12-109, a complaint was brought against the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority (YHSSA) by an employee of the GNWT who required accommodation in the workplace as a result of physical and psychological challenges and who was concerned that his physician had improperly disclosed personal health information, including a psychiatric assessment, to his employer.

The IPC found that, while no actual disclosure had occurred in this instance, because the information in question was recovered from the employer unopened, there were a number of problems with the processes around disclosing medical information. In commenting on this case, she found that "While the oath of confidentiality is meant to prevent the discussion of personal information

outside of the workplace, this does not address unauthorized or inappropriate access to personal health records. These are two different...issues." (page 31)

The Commissioner recommended that a system be developed for dealing with consents, including a place on forms for patients to provide any instructions, and that when patients request disclosure, a note be made on their files. These recommendations were accepted by the YHSSA.

Review Recommendation 12-112, by comparison, illustrates a case in which the recommendations of the IPC were not accepted by the health and social services authority in question, which is not named in the report.

In this complaint regarding breach of privacy and improper use or disclosure of personal medical information, the complainant, an employee of the GNWT, was asked to obtain a letter of prognosis from his physician. He signed his consent on a form provided to him by his employer, which was to be completed by the employee and his doctor. The complainant understood the doctor would complete this letter and return it to the complainant for delivery to the employer. Instead the doctor forwarded the completed form and letter to all Human Resources staff members, copied on the original letter requesting the prognosis.

The health and social services authority argued that because the complainant signed a form consenting to disclose health information to "the GNWT" that this was sufficient to authorize disclosure of personal health information to everyone copied on the form. Regardless, the Commissioner concluded that there had been a breach of privacy.

In commenting on this case, the Commissioner noted that the doctor's report "should have been directed only to the complainant's supervisor... This is not just semantics or a technicality. This is about the law which restricts public bodies and employees of public bodies from using or disclosing the personal information of individuals except in accordance with the act." (page 37) The health and social services authority in question did not accept that providing a copy of the doctor's report to all of those copied on the request was a breach of the patient's privacy because "the result was ultimately consistent with the purpose for which the information was collected and compiled."

The IPC recommended that the consent form be revised to clarify ambiguities, that all health care workers be given more training and that procedures be developed to clarify what is required of health care workers when consent is being obtained.

The health and social services authority did not accept the recommendations and did not agree to review their own practices, but ultimately agreed to forward the IPC's recommendations to the GNWT's

Human Resources and Health and Social Services departments.

The committee notes that, with the heightened duty to accommodate employees suffering from illness or injury, circumstances requiring the disclosure by physicians of employee medical information to the GNWT are only more likely to occur in future. Therefore, it is incumbent upon health and social services authorities in the NWT and the departments of Human Resources and Health and Social Services to ensure that the forms employees are required to fill out are clear and unequivocal regarding consent.

The IPC has noted in past reports that the number of complaints focusing on concerns about the privacy of health information points to the need for health information privacy legislation. The new Health Information Act was approved on March 13, 2014.

In her report the Commissioner noted that she was pleased the legislation is under development – it had yet to receive assent at the writing of her report – but cautioned that effective implementation will rely on educating health sector workers and the public. The IPC suggested that the public needs to understand how their personal information will be collected, used and disclosed and that health information custodians will need to develop new policies and procedures.

The committee wholly concurs with this observation and strongly encourages the government to work with NWT health and social services authorities to ensure that all staff members are educated about their responsibilities under the act and that members of the public are provided with the information they need to understand how the new legislation will impact on the use and disclosure of their medical information.

The IPC also pointed out that the necessary resources will have to be put into the oversight function so that the office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner will be able to take on the inevitable increase in workload brought about by the implementation of the Health Information Act. The Commissioner advised the committee that she will be bringing forward to the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly a business plan which will include a proposal for additional resources, and she asked for the committee's support for this evolution of her office.

While the committee feels that it is premature to offer support for the proposal until it is received and reviewed, the committee is supportive, in principle, of the work carried out by the IPC and of the provision of adequate resources to enable the Commissioner to properly fulfill the mandate of the office.

Information and Privacy Legislation for Municipalities

The three northern territories are the only Canadian jurisdictions that do not have information and privacy legislation for municipalities. Municipalities collect and retain significant amounts of personal information about citizens and employees. There is no recourse in the Northwest Territories for citizens when this information is improperly used, nor are there any rules governing citizens' access to municipal information.

Since 2007-2008 the IPC has been encouraging the GNWT to find ways to include municipalities under the ATIPP Act or under their own legislation. The Commissioner has repeated this recommendation in her 2012-2013 Annual Report.

Two years ago the committee recommended the implementation of access and privacy legislation for municipalities, with a bill to be brought forward within the first two years of the 17th Assembly. The government's response, TD 51-17(3), tabled October 17, 2012, acknowledged the importance of the issue, recognized that this recommendation was outstanding and noted that a working group, led by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, was established to review how all NWT municipalities may be brought under existing access and privacy legislation and to develop a discussion paper for stakeholders.

Last year the recommendation was again repeated that the GNWT expedite work on bringing municipalities under access to information and protection of privacy legislation. This time, in its response, TD 114-17(4), tabled October 17, 2013, the GNWT indicated that "the estimated timeline for this initiative is as follows:

- complete background research – January 2014
- complete discussion paper – March 2014
- circulate discussion paper to key stakeholders – April/May 2014
- draft "What We Heard" report – June 2014
- develop final report and recommendations – July to October 2014.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations strongly recommends that this work, which has been outstanding for many years, be completed by the government in accordance with its own timeline and without further delay.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories make every effort to complete the work necessary to bring municipalities under access to information and protection of privacy legislation; and

that the government table its review report and discussion paper in the 2014 fall sitting, identifying next steps and resources necessary to complete this legislative initiative within the life of the 17th Assembly.

Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

In her 2012-2013 Annual Report, as in her four previous reports, the Information and Privacy Commissioner again recommended a general review of the ATIPP Act. The Northwest Territories ATIPP Act has now been in force for 18 years. Access and privacy laws in other jurisdictions, and indeed other statutes of the Northwest Territories, provide for regular reviews at five- or 10-year intervals.

The IPC calls upon the GNWT to do a comprehensive review of the ATIPP Act, echoing the Information and Privacy Commissioners of Canada who, at their 2012 Annual Meeting, acknowledged that most access and privacy legislation in the country today has remained relatively unchanged since the 1980s and called upon federal, provincial and territorial governments to modernize and strengthen these laws. A copy of this call to action is appended to the IPC's report as Appendix A on page 52.

In its response to last year's standing committee report, TD 114-17(4), the GNWT reiterated its commitment to undertake a comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and provided, as part of its response, a progress report on the review. However, the government qualified its commitment by noting that "the scope and pace of advancements noted in the progress report factor in the competing priorities and the resources of the (GNWT access and privacy) office which currently has one dedicated position focusing on GNWT initiatives."

The committee is pleased that work to review the ATIPP legislation has commenced and appreciates the challenges associated with limited resources and competing priorities. The committee notes, however, the Commissioner's observation that information is one of the most important natural resources in today's world. The committee joins the IPC in urging the GNWT to review the ATIPP Act to ensure it can effectively address changes in government practices, such as public/private partnerships, outsourcing and shared services models; changes in technology, such as electronic medical records; and changes in the public's expectations of government accountability and the corresponding growing demand for government accountability, as demonstrated by activist whistleblowers.

The committee asks the GNWT to provide an update on the status of its work and to demonstrate its commitment to completing this work by ensuring

that an update to the ATIPP Act is introduced during the life of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation 2

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide an updated detailed progress report to this Assembly on work done towards a comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and that updates to the act be introduced during the life of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

Proactive Disclosure or "Access by Design"

The IPC recommended that any review of the ATIPP Act should include a consideration of the benefits of including the requirement for public agencies to plan for privacy implications at the outset when developing legislation, programs, policies or services. This can be done by requiring privacy impact assessments and instituting "privacy by design." This approach is a proactive way to ensure access to more government information, notes the IPC, suggesting that the GNWT should be exploring ways to do this through new and less expensive online technologies to provide a more streamlined and less formalized route to access most government records. As the IPC noted previously, "There is no good reason not to be providing more access to more government information pro-actively."

The committee feels that there is considerable merit in this approach, noting that in this information age it can only be of benefit to the government to plan for access and privacy considerations at the outset, rather than having to rely on remedial solutions in those instances when government's activities are found to be inadequate under the ATIPP Act.

Start a Discussion about ATIPP for First Nations Governments

The case which gave rise to Review Recommendation 12-108 in the IPC's 2012-2013 Annual Report highlights the matter of access to information and protection of privacy by First Nations governments.

In this case, a consultant requested a copy of the Barren Ground Caribou Harvesting Interim Agreement between the GNWT's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, ENR, and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, YDFN, a subject described by the IPC as being of some controversy and considerable public interest.

ENR met with YDFN and concluded that the loss of trust between the parties would outweigh the public policy benefit of accountability. ENR refused to disclose the agreement on the grounds that to do so would impair relations between the GNWT and YDFN.

During the review, the IPC sought direct YDFN input and learned they were strongly opposed to disclosure of the agreement. The IPC concluded the YDFN is not a public body under the act and, therefore, not subject to the same rules. She also concluded that ENR's concern about impairing the relationship was founded.

The Commissioner recommended that ENR fully analyze its position on disclosure, bearing in mind that "disclosure is the rule and exceptions should be interpreted narrowly," and that ENR carefully consider disclosing those portions already within public knowledge and those stating facts and background.

In light of matters discussed in Review Recommendation 12-108, concerning the Barren Ground Caribou Harvesting Interim Agreement between ENR and YDFN, the IPC recommended that the GNWT begin the dialogue about ensuring First Nations governments in the NWT are also required to provide access to information. The IPC recognizes that this is not a matter that the GNWT has full authority over, but recommends, nonetheless, that all levels of government begin the discussion.

The committee acknowledges this recommendation but notes that Aboriginal governments are autonomous, independent governments that are not subject to the ATIPP Act. Therefore, it is entirely at the discretion of these governments how they choose to address matters of access to information and protection of privacy regarding the information they collect and disclose.

The committee does note, however, that where the GNWT enters into agreements with other governments, the GNWT should be advising these governments as to its obligations under the ATIPP Act, so that there is a clear understanding of what information the GNWT may be required to disclose. This also points to the value of "access by design," so that the GNWT anticipates, in advance, the possibility of such requests and can factor this into planning future intergovernmental agreements or similar arrangements entered into with parties not subject to ATIPP.

Conclusion

The committee wishes to reiterate, again this year, how fortunate the people of the Northwest Territories are to have had the services of Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts as the NWT's Information and Privacy Commissioner. Ms. Keenan Bengts, a lawyer in private practice, has served in her capacity as the IPC since 1997. As noted in last year's report of the committee, this length of service provides the territory with remarkable continuity and expertise in the complex and evolving field of access to information and protection of privacy. The Standing Committee on Government Operations is grateful for Ms. Keenan Bengts' passion for

information and privacy rights in northern Canada and respects her work in reviewing complaints and making thoughtful, well-considered recommendations for legislative change. Members are committed to giving the Commissioner's recommendations due consideration, forwarding them as appropriate to this House and following up with the government on their implementation.

Recommendation 3

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

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 93(4) and move Committee Report 9-17(5) into Committee of the Whole for consideration today. Mahsi.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Hawkins.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize the grades 5 and 6 Mildred Hall class and their teacher, Ms. Deb Horen. Before I introduce them all, I want to thank them for being extremely patient and well-behaved. I know how tough it is sitting here listening to us. It's hard for us some days too. I'd like to quickly run through all their names and I'll do my very best to pronounce them properly. I'd like to thank them all for coming again today. I'd like to acknowledge Alexis Head, Anna Washie, Arayah Hudson, Ashton Moss, Azeen Murtaza, Brooklyn Bertram, Carter Yakeleya, Chloe Houle, Cody Taylor, Damon Dwojak, Fabiha Zihan, Tyson Williah, Jason Nguyen, Jordan Balsillie, Joseph Nayally, Kelsy Nayally, Madeline Maguire, Maiya Klengenber, Nathanya Liske, Odin Hall, Princess Duculan, Randy Porter, Riley McCullum, Riley Savoie, Royce Doolittle, Ryan Lafferty, Shayla Huynh, Shelby Lafond, Yamoza Beaulieu and Nahlin Jack, as well as I would also like to thank Jean Maguire, who is their educational assistant, who is there today. If everyone can give a quick wave to the camera, and I'd like to say thanks very much for coming.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm very pleased to have a Grade 6 social studies class from William McDonald School in Frame Lake. I'm pleased to welcome them here. I will ask them to rise so they can be recognized when I read their names, and I'll do my best not to mispronounce.

Ivan Ceria, Logan Clarke, Joshua Donison, Safiya Hashi, Dylan Heaton-Vecsei, Cace Heffernan, Ethan Kirizopoulus, Mia MacInnis, Riley Menard, Rae Panayi, Justin Powder, Nathan Shereni, Anusha Sivakumar, and they're accompanied by their teacher, Melanie Parisella, and their executive assistant, Carolyn Sauvageau. Welcome to you all.

I also would like to welcome here this afternoon the chairs of the two Yellowknife school boards: Mr. John Stephenson, chair of Yellowknife Education District No. 1, and Mr. Simon Taylor, chair of the Yellowknife Catholic Schools Board, and the assistant superintendent for business from YCS, Mr. Mike Huvenaars. Welcome all. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would also like to recognize all the students in the House today. It adds a certain energy to the room. I would also like to recognize that there are undoubtedly students from Weledeh, that's the Old Town and Niven Lake and Ndilo and Detah. I certainly recognize Rae Panayi, a neighbour from down there in Peace River Flats. Welcome to the House. Mahsi.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's great to see so many students here. I'd like to welcome them all to the Assembly today. I also wanted to recognize one of our Pages, Delaney Beaton, who is with us today. She's a Grade 8 student at St. Joe's. I'd like to thank her for her work and all the work that the Pages have put in for Members during these last two weeks. Thank you very much.

I also want to recognize both school board chairs: from YK1, John Stephenson; and from YCS, Simon Taylor. I know Mike Huvenaars, the assistant superintendent, is here as well. Welcome, folks. I know I have two schools in my riding of Kam Lake, two great schools: N.J. Macpherson and St. Joseph, so I'm glad to see the folks here today. Thank you.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to introduce to you and through you a number of people. Some of them have been introduced here today but I think I need to re-emphasize that. From Range Lake we have Mr. Mike Huvenaars, superintendent, and on the floor of the House here we have Page Sommer Snow, who is with us here. I would like to thank all the Pages. They have done a good job this week. Of course, our students, as indicated, our proceedings go a lot better with our students here in the gallery, and of course, our board chair is here with us today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. I would like to recognize my two Pages that I have here this week from Sachs Harbour: Calysta Lucas-Kudlak and Cheyenne Gully. Travelling with them is Kim Lucas. Welcome to the House.

Item 7, acknowledgements. Mr. Nadli.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 10-17(5): PREMIER'S AWARD FOR COLLABORATION, THE WILDLIFE ACT WORKING GROUP – SUSAN FLECK

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to acknowledge Susan Fleck. Susan, yesterday, was the recipient of the Premier's Award for collaboration. Susan was part of the Wildlife Act Working Group. Susan Fleck is a part-time executive director with the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee in Fort Providence.

Susan was the director of wildlife from December 2005 until September 2011, when she lived in Yellowknife.

Susan was very much involved with the ENR personnel working group that faced an immense challenge in dealing with the 2012 bison anthrax outbreak in the summer of 2012.

She traded 25 employees for 25 sled dogs when she moved to Fort Providence. I'd like to congratulate Susan today.

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 11-17(5): OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER AWARD, ELDER CATEGORY – MARGARET MILLER

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Margaret Miller, this year's recipient of the Outstanding Volunteer Award for the elder category.

They say that time is the most precious thing we can give to others as we only have a set amount of it. If we give someone our time, we give away a little bit of our life that we'll never get back. Giving our time is the simplest contribution we can make to help others and to make our community a better place.

Ms. Margaret Miller is one of the most dedicated and hardworking community members in Inuvik. It would be hard to find an organization, fundraiser or an event in town that she has not been a part of. Margaret has volunteered for the Great Northern Arts Festival, the Inuvik Food Bank, Santa's Elves, and Arctic Paws, just to name a few.

May her example be an inspiration to others.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Item 8, oral questions. The Member for Range Lake, Mr. Dolyunny.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 364-17(5): FUNDING FOR JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMMING

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There has been a lot of debate around junior kindergarten and much of that has to do with funding or the apparent lack of funding that is provided to educational authorities to implement this new program. Most of this criticism was around the funding and, I believe, not the merits of junior kindergarten itself. Again, my questions today will be for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.

I think the burning question here today, and I think in the minds of many, is: Why did the Minister just not seek additional funding to pay for junior kindergarten?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I guess simply put is that we don't have the new funding available to us. I've been trying to get some actual numbers from Finance where our financial situation is and obviously we're not in a positive in that regard. In a perfect world, obviously, we would be seeking additional funding, but since we don't have that at this point, I had to work innovatively and creatively within our department, so that's what we have done. We've reached out to the PTR that's available to us. We're still under our legislated level, so you'll have to keep that in mind. We're at that point.

MR. DOLYNNY: I'm sure the Minister will receive more questions on this topic later today. I have heard the Minister say countless times, and many times, that the graduation rates in small communities have declined. This is a disturbing trend and I think everyone here is very concerned. All the more reason to avoid, in my humble opinion, diverting funding from K to 12 to junior kindergarten.

My question to the Minister of ECE is: How can graduation rates in these small communities be improved if ECE is just pulling away money from K to 12 and just putting it into junior kindergarten?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The Member for Inuvik congratulated 36 graduates, and that's just one area that we should be proud of and we'll continue to push that forward. An investment in JK is an investment in the K to 12 overall school system. That's what we're doing. Out of the \$150

million that we distribute to the school boards, we're using that funding to educate those individuals so that they can graduate and continue on to post-secondary.

Our research shows us that investment in early childhood of a child's life has the greatest impact on their lifelong learning and part of their journey as children and grown-ups, and you know that 10 of our smallest communities do not have any education programming. Those are some of the investments that we'll continue to do, and that means that parents who believe their children will benefit from quality programs for four-year-olds have no options. I believe we're doing what we can to assist those individual communities.

MR. DOLYNNY: I have listened carefully to the debate over the last few months and even today and have listened to constituents who are afraid that junior kindergarten will reduce the funding available to children with special needs especially requiring one-on-one attention.

My question to the Minister of ECE is as follows: Can you assure this House and the parents of the Northwest Territories that funding for students who require extraordinary assistance will not be affected through the implementation of junior kindergarten?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I can assure that will be the case. We're inclusive schooling. The special needs that are provided to education authorities through what is called inclusive schooling and that funding will continue. We're not touching the funding. We're dealing with the PTR at this point to deal with the JK. Junior kindergarten implementation, obviously, will not take away from approximately \$26 million in inclusive schooling funding that education authorities receive on an annual basis. The amount of inclusive requirement is the fact that it is set out in legislation, so we have to work with that as well. At the end of the day, we're not even going near inclusive schooling on this particular subject, but we're dealing with the PTR.

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

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My last question to the Minister of ECE is: In light of all the confusion around junior kindergarten and the strong reaction we are getting from both parents and school boards, would it not be wise just to wait one more year to implement junior kindergarten and that maybe we'll have more money in place so that we can work out all these problems?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: There has been a lot of debate going back and forth between myself and the school board chairs and the school boards across the Northwest Territories. We've met just as recently as last month and I did listen to the school board chairs. We are going to have over 600

individual students registered over the two-year timespan. The fact is that 23 communities are ready to take on the role of JK. At the same time, I've been making some amendments to our initial stand where I provided optional junior kindergarten. At the beginning it was mandatory and everybody had to do it, but after listening carefully to the Members, I have decided that it will be optional. At the same time, I've allowed half-time as well as an option. At the beginning, at the get-go it was full-time. In those two areas I've allowed some flexibility and we're making some changes along the way.

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

QUESTION 365-17(5):
PUPIL-TEACHER RATIO AND
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN FUNDING

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will continue the conversation and questions about junior kindergarten that my colleagues have been asking for the last couple of weeks. There's a lot of frustration and it's almost to the point where, you know, we're very frustrated with the process. My questions for the Minister today are the pupil-teacher ratio that he indicates 16 to 1, is this a ratio that each school will be looked at independently or is he looking at the complete authority at a 16 to 1 ratio, because there's a big discrepancy between the smaller centres and the larger centres in what the ratios are.

Is the Minister going to commit to doing the pupil-teacher ratio in every school?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We have to follow the act, as well, the Education Act, which does speak to territorial-wide PTR of 16 to 1. That's the legislation level that we're working with that's before us. We'll continue to work with the school boards at that level. Mahsi.

MR. BOUCHARD: Mr. Speaker, that's part of the difficulty and the fact that if you're dealing with a small centre and you only have three or four students, then that ratio is thrown off completely in some of the bigger communities, Fort Smith and Hay River, for example, in the South Slave, where the ratios may be 25 or 30 to 1.

I'm just wondering if the Minister could look at individuals, especially on the implementation of junior kindergarten.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I did commit to providing additional new money to those educational authorities that exceed 16 to 1. Those are areas that we'll look at. Then again, we have to keep in mind the Education Act. It's territorial-wide PTR and it is 16 to 1.

Yellowknife came at us with additional potential students projected, so we looked at that. Other community schools, other regions, those are discussions that we've had with them as well. Mahsi.

MR. BOUCHARD: Again, the same question is the difficulty in the fact that when you have an authority, such as the South Slave District Authority, where there are small communities, large communities and medium-sized communities, those ratios are thrown off by some of the ratios in the smaller communities where there is maybe only three or four students to one teacher, whereas in the bigger centres you have 25 or 30 students. That 16 to 1, in theory, should be held accountable to every school, let's say every local district education authority at least.

Is the Minister willing to look at that opportunity for the larger centres that have been thrown off by the smaller ratios?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, in order to do that, we need to change our legislation, the territorial-wide PTR, so I would have to come back to this House to do that. Mahsi.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll continue on the PTR. I'm just wondering if the Minister can give me a definition of what PTR includes, because there are questions of whether our principals, vice-principals and classroom assistants are included in PTR. Are they included in the PTR?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, the number of educators used to calculate the PTR includes regular classroom teachers, principals, assistant principals and program support staff. It's important to know that Aboriginal language and culture specialists are excluded from this PTR. Those are just some of the highlights. The principals are covered. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 366-17(5):
ABORIGINAL HEAD START PROGRAM AND
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAMMING

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. About 17 years ago the Aboriginal Head Start program in Fort Providence was established, like other existing Aboriginal Head Start programs in the North. At that time it was the communities and the schools that worked together and basically developed a proposal to Health Canada and made a submission. That's how the Aboriginal Head Start programs were started. It was basically a community initiative at that time.

I wanted to ask the Minister, can the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment explain why the decision was made to offer junior kindergarten right away in small communities where Aboriginal Head Start programs currently operate? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. First, I'd like to congratulate the Aboriginal Head Start program for their 17 years of their journey on the program itself. As the Member stated, it has been successful. It's part of the federal funding.

The junior kindergarten is an optional program to those communities that do not have educational programming. Those communities that offer Head Start programming or preschool, it's still part of the option for parents to pursue, if they wish to do that. It is part of the option to deliver that in the communities. Mahsi.

MR. NADLI: Would the Minister consider delaying or suspending at least the options of communities that raise their concerns, and see if there's going to be a pause in terms of trying to reflect upon the next step? Mahsi.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I believe it was in my Minister's statement, as well, that if we delay junior kindergarten in those communities, obviously it will be detrimental to those individuals, whether they are four-year-olds in the communities.

Aboriginal Head Start has been very successful, but we have to keep in mind that I represent the whole Northwest Territories and I represent the population of the Northwest Territories. That's the reason why we're going forward as part of the option to deliver those programs into the communities that will benefit this JK. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. NADLI: According to Ms. Reanna Erasmus, a few years ago she began working with the Head Start program. The plan was to have programs like Aboriginal Head Start in the communities, and then something changed. In the last eight months or so, the department stopped consulting with Head Start people and all of a sudden there was a junior kindergarten.

To the Minister: Why hasn't the department sat down to determine how Head Start can inform the development of junior kindergarten in those communities? Mahsi.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, in fact, my department has sat down with the Head Start programming and there have been quite a few interactions. There has been correspondence, obviously going back and forth from my department to that organization, and I can provide that information to the Member, that clearly highlights all the days that they've met and the discussions that

my department has had. Not only the Aboriginal Head Start programming, those individuals that we've met with engaged Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative and early childhood development.

We have engaged with the communities throughout the Northwest Territories. Based on the feedback came JK. Obviously, we are working with the Aboriginal Head Start program, and the JK is based on the Denendeh curricula as well.

Part of the process is we need to collaborate even more, so that's what we're doing. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the key word is collaboration. The expectation that is, indeed, that as we're going down this path, we would work together.

In Fort Providence there has been a JK pilot project running since October. We have Head Start running there as well. The children go to junior kindergarten in the morning and they come to Head Start in the afternoon. The program manager, Joyce McLeod, has had to contact parents and ask them to please come and get their children because they are very, very tired. So we know for a lot of the children, a full day is too much. That's just one of the problems that are happening with the combination of junior kindergarten and Aboriginal Head Start, yet there has been no program evaluation. No one has called Joyce McLeod to find out how the junior program is impacting Head Start in Fort Providence. This is a big oversight, Mr. Speaker.

How does the Minister account for that? Mahsi.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, those are the discussions that we need to have. I am going to Fort Providence and I will be meeting with that organization.

We have to keep in mind that you're talking about eight communities. I am responsible for 33 communities and I want to deliver the most effective programming, that's JK, into the communities. JK is based on Dene Kede and Inuinnaqtun curriculum that recognizes northern culture. It makes learning experimental.

This is the curriculum the program came out with. We have to make it a success in the communities. That's what I'm committed to. In Fort Providence and other Aboriginal Head Start programming, we will be working with them. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 367-17(5):
IMPACT OF JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN
ON DAY HOMES

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like the Minister of Education today to stand up and explain the changes that are coming with junior kindergarten. He needs to enlighten the community and certainly the territory that if you have a day home, they've been telling everyone it will be fine.

What evidence can he convey that it will be fine? Just a few days ago, I brought up in this House the departmental staff keep telling these day home owners, whether they are licenced or unlicensed or part of the Montessori program, you're going to lose money and it's time to budget better. I would like to hear the Minister's perspective on how everything will be fine with his master plan. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. When the Member first raised that issue with me about day home owners, there was a misunderstanding where apparently my department told them they needed to be ready for these circumstances. I met with my department. I questioned them and they came back and are providing the support that's out there. Through my department, we have a variety of programming. We will continue to support those day home operators as we did in the past for how many years now? We will continue to do that, Mr. Speaker. We want them to be successful. We don't want them to be out of business. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: I'm really happy to hear we are going to continue to support them, but we listen to the Minister of Education saying we support them by the amount of kids they have, so we give them money per kid. But if we're taking the kids away, are we just going to support them because we want to support them?

It was the Minister's staff who told the day home owners that you have to budget better and if you can't do it, bring us your paperwork and we'll budget for you. They also told them that they need to accept that there will be a loss and they need to accept it.

How does that work when he's saying now he's going to take care of them? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: As I indicated earlier through this session, JK is optional. It will be up to the parents to decide if they want to take their kids to JK or continue with the day homes. The budget, everybody has to budget, not only in my department but daycare operators, day home operators, they have to budget too. These are reporting mechanisms. We have to work with them. Those are some of the facts that we share with them. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. HAWKINS: We've heard the Minister on the record say we'll take care of them. We've had staff tell these day home operators if they were better budgeters, the changes wouldn't be noticeable. Mr. Speaker, all we hear is that JK is optional. That's what I'm asking.

What is the evidence that people will choose to pay \$1,000 a month per child to go to the day home versus go to a free program? That's what we want to know. Where's this evidence in this ludicrous statement that I hear over and over again that it will be up to the parents, it's optional? They will choose to pay rather than take the free program.

I don't know a single person who would pay \$1,000 a month if the program was free across the way. Give me the evidence, I want the evidence, everyone wants the evidence, the public wants the evidence. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I don't know how I can justify this, but the junior kindergarten that we're rolling out into 23 communities and then going on to regional centres next year and the following year will be to Yellowknife. I've indicated in the House that my department will be working very closely with the daycare operators, day home operators and we will continue to subsidize them. We have done that.

Again, junior kindergarten is optional for the parents. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister continues to fail to explain the science behind his philosophy that if we can give free spaces away, but he's convinced the option before the parent would be that they would rather pay \$1,000. That's their choice. So what we're doing is sinking the opportunities created by these day homes, whether they are licenced or unlicensed or Montessori programs.

Would the Minister finally put the evidence on the record so we can have a true, fact-based discussion on this problem? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: The day home operators are not sinking. Maybe that's the view of the Member, but in my view, we will continue to support them. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 368-17(5):
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN – FACT SHEETS

MS. BISARO: My questions today are also addressed to the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment as a follow-up on some questions I asked yesterday about the Minister's statement and the JK fact sheets he tabled in the House, and also

on the package of facts that he tabled in the House. At the outset, I want to advise the Minister that I ask these questions not just for Yellowknife schools and school districts but for all NWT school boards and schools because they are all affected by the changes ECE has proposed.

Portions of the Minister's statement were very disturbing to me. He made much of the fact that Yellowknife school boards will receive an infusion of funds, but conveniently neglected to mention the amounts that are being removed from their budgets. The net impact on YK and regional centre school districts is negative and I would ask the Minister to confirm that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My department met with the school boards and called every school board to identify what their financial situation will be with each and every school board. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: I guess I have to assume, since the Minister isn't answering my question, that the answer to my question is yes, it's a negative impact on school boards. Using numbers from the department itself, numbers that have been agreed to by school districts and also Education, Culture and Employment, Yellowknife Catholic Schools will see a reduction in their budget as follows: \$277,000 in year one; \$744,000 in year two; \$1.137 million in year three. In year three, as the Minister stated yesterday, they will get funding for junior kindergarten of \$960,000. The end result is a budget reduction of \$177,000. Add in the one-time top up to keep PTR at 16 to 1, which the Minister and the school boards agree with, the net result is a budget increase of \$580,000. The Minister left out the revenue losses that Yellowknife Catholic Schools will face, unfortunately. If you add in those revenue losses from the preschool program that they run, and I forget what the other one is, the net result is a deficit of \$436,000.

I would like to ask the Minister, does he agree with me that this one school board, as an example, will suffer a considerable hit to their budget?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: What the Member is referring to is revenue generation through business. That was at the discretion of the school board to decide a few years back to offer...now it will be called JK, junior kindergarten. So, obviously, again, it will be up to the parents to decide. The school board has two years to decide on that. So, Mr. Speaker, those are the discussions that we've had both with YK1 and YCS and NWT school boards on these implications. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: To the Minister, yes, they are numbers, but they are numbers that have been agreed to by the department and the school board.

I made mention yesterday of some conflicting statements in the fact sheets. I need to ask the Minister again the same questions to clarify what his answer was and which one of the statements in the fact sheets is correct.

When a district implements a junior kindergarten program in the fall of 2014, for example, and it would not be in Yellowknife but one of our small communities, will the school district that is running that program receive funding for those new JK students in the year the program starts or a year later as is the usual practice now according to the school funding formula? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, as has been indicated in this House, the PTR funding has been re-profiled across the Northwest Territories on a three-year phased approach. If an individual community is delivering the programming to the community and there's a surplus of students that accidentally show up, those students would be identified through extraordinary funding through my department, my shop. We would provide that to the school board and it would be up to school board, at their discretion, if they're going to hire an additional teacher or not, based on the funding we provide to them, based on the number of student enrolment. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if the Minister didn't understand my question or if he's trying to avoid answering it. I was not talking about extraordinary funding; I was talking about junior kindergarten students starting a program.

The Minister spoke yesterday about per student funding and he mentioned that as the NWT, compared to Canada, we get a great deal more. We do fund our school districts better than the provinces, but we are very close to the funding announced for our sister territories, which you omitted to mention.

In looking at the fact sheet, it looks like the per student amount includes capital funding dollars. If that's the case, it's no wonder our number is higher. Apart from having higher operating costs in the North, we certainly have higher costs to build in the North.

Can the Minister please tell me if the \$22,000 per student figure that he quoted yesterday includes capital as well as O and M dollars? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, as I stated in this House, the \$22,000 per student is one of the best in the country and we will continue to be proud of that and we will continue to invest even more in those areas. However we justify the number, we're the best in the country. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 369-17(5):
NORTHERN ABORIGINAL
COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETIES

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going to follow up from some questions yesterday that were brought into the House, asking the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment about the Northern Communications Society. I'll switch it up here a little bit and give him a break from answering these junior kindergarten questions.

I recently had some meetings with some of the individuals from the Northern Communications Society and they informed me that there was a proposal given to the Department of Education, Culture and Employment back in December. As Members know, we didn't go through a business planning process when we went through our operations budget for February and March. Not seeing it in the main estimates during our operations budgeting, I just want to ask the Minister, was that proposal incorporated into the main estimates for operations, and if not, what is the update on that proposal and can we see some kind of action on it in this fiscal year? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. We have been working with the CEO of NCS over the years and working with the federal government on their behalf as well. We have bent over backwards to deal with their financial situation. We provide funding on an annual basis, based on the reporting mechanism. There are some challenges we're faced with within their management, within the federal government, within GNWT working with both parties. We will continue to provide those annual contributions. The proposal has been submitted to us. We are ready to release the funding, but there are some areas of challenges we're faced with within the organization, but we're trying to resolve those at this point. The federal government is of the same view as well. We are working very closely with NCS on this particular subject. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOSES: I recall maybe a couple sessions ago, or maybe a few sessions ago, I did bring up some questions about funding to the NCS. I know one of the challenges that occurred was their reporting. Yesterday in the House the Minister stated that the reporting was good and that they were getting reporting on time.

Can I ask the Minister, just for clarity for myself and clarity for the staff at NCS, what are those challenges and what kind of challenges are keeping

us from giving this organization the funding to get our information from the government into the communities through five of the Aboriginal languages that they broadcast in to people of the Northwest Territories? What are those challenges?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, part of the challenge, obviously, with NCS is their financial situation due to the fact that revenue from the federal government is not consistent or delivered in time. Due to that fact, there is a deficit situation. If we as the GNWT provide funding, it gets chewed up by the deficit. We don't want that. We want the money directly to the Aboriginal broadcasting so they can continue their job. Those are some of the challenges I'm faced with as the Minister when I want to release the funds.

Again, it's a very serious issue that we're dealing with, with the CEO of NCS, and we'll continue to do that. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MOSES: Knowing full well that this government does support the Aboriginal languages and that this organization in particular does broadcast in five Aboriginal languages, this government should take some responsibility in ensuring that information is given out to residents of the Northwest Territories through this media opportunity. We're making decisions, waiting for funding from the feds when the feds might not even know how this organization is operating and the effectiveness of this organization to get the messages out.

I think the big problem with the NCS is that bridge funding from the end of the fiscal year to when they get that funding. I know that the government does do contribution agreements with them; they are looking at that proposal. Why can't we speed up the process, knowing full well that they get their reports in on time and that they do give out good messages to residents of the Northwest Territories? Why can't we get that funding to NCS sooner than later? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I think the real challenge is with the federal government because I believe they are a year or two behind. We provide funding, again, based on their reporting mechanism. That's an area that we are working out with the management of the NCS.

At the end of the day, there is a challenge before us, but we are working very closely with the CEO to resolve that issue. My department met with the CEO just last week to identify some of the options. Once the information is available to me, I can definitely be sharing with the standing committee just an update of the situation with NCS. We want that organization to continue broadcasting in all official languages and I fully support that as well. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we talk about the federal government, we have this program with CanNor, and CanNor has done a lot of great projects throughout the Northwest Territories. One of the issues and challenges for Northern Communications Society is their community transmitters. As Mr. Dolynny stated yesterday, they're operating on a shoestring budget, but he was talking about we're a digital watch society and, so, Timex and digital. You know, get the information out a lot sooner than later.

Would the Minister lobby, on behalf of the Northern Communications Society, with CanNor to lobby for that funding so we can upgrade our community transmitters throughout the Northwest Territories? Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I totally agree with the Member. I have been doing that since I got on board in 2007 as the Education Minister, because we knew that this was a real challenge that NCS was faced with. Losing our language in the Gwich'in area is a prime example. We've been investing into NCS. We knew the federal was kind of lacking in the reporting mechanism or contribution, so I met then with the Minister of Heritage, Minister Moore, to share that information and share our concern. I spoke as an advocate for NCS. I will continue to do that with the new Minister, Shelly Glover. As soon as I get positive results, I will be sharing with the standing committee. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 370-17(5):
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN FUNDING

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Returning to the topic at hand, the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment made statements in the House yesterday, which despite bemoaning the lack of facts, fell far short of the full truth on school board funding and junior kindergarten. Because of those omissions, the statements were very misleading and unhelpful. The Minister presented, again, only some of the facts, those recognizing budget increases demanded by the Education Act to meet legislated PTR rations, but he ignored the net impacts of his total funding plans which yield substantial and cumulative net losses in funding to school boards.

Why is the Minister continuing to give statements that confuse rather than provide full information on this issue?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I tabled the fact sheets. I made a statement on the fact sheets, all the information that we received by the school boards. There are always numbers changing. Sometimes it's out of my hands. At the same time, the latest information that I received, I shared that with the general public through the Legislative Assembly and...(inaudible)...we are working with.

MR. BROMLEY: I have before me a finance sheet of agreed upon figures of the Yellowknife Catholic School Board signed off by the Minister's finance director and the senior finance officer for YCS – and that will be tabled later today – that clearly shows the ECE/YCS agreed upon numbers for board funding projections. There are undeniable deficits that for conservative enrolment predictions accumulate to \$1.67 million by year four all in. The impacts of this fall on the backs of our students, and this is true for many school boards.

Why is the Minister not owning up to these budget reductions so we have can a discussion based on full and accurate information?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I'm trying to find that \$1.6 million. It doesn't show on here. There is a deficit for year-end, \$435,000. After we contribute on the third year, \$960,000, \$757,000, and year two, \$219,000. That's money that we contribute to the school board. Sure, he can table this document. This is a document we can work with.

MR. BROMLEY: I said we'll be tabling this document and it's got the Minister's senior official's signature on it. ECE has failed to increase the departmental budget over the last few years to the extent that they have not even met the increase in the CPI, the Consumer Price Index. That says something, but now that we do have full information here, even though the Minister cannot seem to put the numbers together and out in words here today, we do have full information.

Will the Minister finally give serious consideration to address the real budget issues that have become clear? That is, the Minister's funding plans yield budget deficits that accumulate for YCS, as an example, to negative \$1.67 million by '17-18, in the conservative case, a deficit that is typical of YK 1, Hay River and Inuvik as well. For example, he could simply allow the proven Aboriginal Head Start program to continue in eight communities, providing both a basis for significant savings and an opportunity for a comparative evaluation of the two programs at little cost, and again, the department could put in to this House. We're not stingy when it comes to education.

Will he do this and start to address these on the basis of real numbers which will be tabled today?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: At the end of the day, the Members are asking me to go after new

funding which, obviously, we don't have. I do not have that in my back pocket. The GNWT doesn't have it. Again, it's the words of the Finance Minister that we have to be innovative, live within our means and exercise fiscal prudence, the public money, to take a hard look at where we spend our money and if we do better by re-profiling part of it. We've done that. My department has done that. We will continue to work with the school boards to make it a very successful project.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a budget session in a few months' time, so there is plenty of opportunity for this Minister. Clearly, there are serious communication issues with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. We haven't seen even an evaluation of the pilot project in Fort Providence and what the impacts of that were on the students, on the families, on the Aboriginal Head Start program. Basic stuff, and everything that comes out of the department communication is confusing and lacking in facts, just like the Minister's responses.

What will the Minister do to not only address the current confusion of the personal and professional angst, time and money and even distraction to the Minister himself that this has cost, but also what will he do to put in place the policies and mechanisms needed to ensure this debacle does not happen again?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We did a pilot project in the three communities and there will be an evaluation on that.

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

QUESTION 371-17(5):
PEEL RIVER FLOOD CLAIMS

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have questions for the Minister of ITI in follow-up to my Member's statement. Last year, in 2013, we had a major flood in the Mackenzie Delta from the Peel River and there were about 20 cabins that were flooded, some by two or three feet. There were actually three cabins that drifted away down the Peel River.

I'd like to ask the Minister, out of roughly 20 claims filed, why was there only one claim approved?

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for his questions and his concerns regarding the Harvesters Assistance Program that the Department of ITI has. We have \$15,000 earmarked for that program on an annual

basis and we are currently reviewing the criteria for claims to be filed for access to that funding. We are going to continue with reviewing the criteria.

In the last couple of years, the Member is correct, we've had flooding both in the Inuvik region and also in the Sahtu and we've had to find funding from within the Department of ITI. Two years ago it was close to \$80,000 and three years ago it was \$80,000 exactly. We do need to come up with a way to fund that program and review the criteria so that more people can get claims approved when they need the funding.

MR. BLAKE: The policy states the applicant must earn roughly 20 percent of their earnings on a yearly basis from on the land.

Will the department make changes to that policy?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I give the Member a commitment that we will look at the program criteria and understand there are number of elders that are out. Some of those cabins belong to elders who don't necessarily earn a living or are retired.

Again, that criteria is under review and it's something I can commit to the Member that we will look at that issue.

MR. BLAKE: Many of those elders and people that do live out on the land do not sell what they make out there. A lot of them share it with their families or barter with other people for other goods.

Will the Minister overlook the policy and help my constituents rebuild their camps on the land?

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: I will commit to go back to the department and have a discussion with them about how fast we can move forward with a review of the criteria, and if there are individuals that have had applications in whether that new criteria could apply to those applicants or whether they'd have to reapply, we will try to sort that situation out for the Member in the Inuvik region. Thank you.

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

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Minister ensure that happens over the summer? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. Yes, I can assure the Member that I'll have that discussion immediately with the department. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 372-17(5):
TENANT BILL OF RIGHTS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to ask questions to the Minister of Justice regarding residential and tenancy issues. I'm not going to get into the nuts and bolts of the particular issue, but I think the public is well aware of a recent

circumstance that I had to help a family here in Yellowknife Centre, but it spoke broadly to types of problems in this area at large to constituents that belong to all of us in some manner or form. Since that incident, actually, I've had a lot of calls throughout the city of Yellowknife about problems that they've had.

I think all this issue really boils down to is something interesting and I kind of thought this is where the problems should start being examined, which is a tenant bill of rights.

Now, we have the Residential and Tenancy Act, as we all know, and it's a document there to sort of provide a safety process and, of course, when you have grievances, you take it to the rental and tenancy officer, but that process can take a long time. So that's the issue, that this constituent, to take it to a hearing, is going to wait over seven weeks before they get their first hearing if they agree to implement the solutions. So, there must be faster ways to do this.

So I'm going to ask the Minister of Justice, what does he think of the concept of a tenant bill of rights that can be put forward quickly into action with quick solutions and provide some direction in cases of emergency waiting maybe seven weeks or more before a solution gets implemented? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Ramsay.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. During the summer of 2013, the Department of Justice distributed a consultation document on potential amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act. In response, we received 17 submissions to that. Submissions were received from housing organizations, landlords, territorial and community agencies and some individuals. The deputy rental officer and the NWT Housing Corporation also submitted responses to the consultation paper. Suggestions for improvements to the act were also received from MLAs and will be considered as part of the consultation.

The time, energy and careful thought that the organizations and individuals put into their submission certainly is greatly appreciated. The department has now completed an analysis of the submissions received and has developed a set of proposed amendments, which it plans to bring forward during 2014.

I also wanted to respond to the Member about the application made to the rental officer related to the recent incident that occurred at an apartment building here in Yellowknife that sustained flood damage. As this matter is currently before the rental officer, it would be inappropriate for me to comment specifically on that case. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. I'm not after this particular issue of the last part of the statement. I'm

talking about the broader picture, which is if incidents happen, what avails themselves to solutions? A bill, or I should say a tenants' rights bill, may be the solution. That's what I'm getting at. The Minister said any potential amendments coming forward wouldn't be coming, probably at the earliest, before fall of this year. So that's October or November.

So, in essence, what can the Minister do so we don't have circumstances like this when your apartment, whatever the case may be, be it flood, who knows, fire, who knows what the case may be that happens, that the tenant isn't shown the door and told figure it out, but, by the way, at the same time we're taking your rent away and they have to figure it out? Something has to be done. I'm looking forward to hear what the Minister has in his ability as Minister to do something.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. I will check with the department on whether or not it's too late to get another submission from the Member. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: It shouldn't be from the Member, I'm asking a question to the Minister. What can he do? What's the point of being Minister of a whole department? I'm asking you a question. What can you do as Minister? Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. We will continue to work forward with the process that we have in place. We've received submissions and we will be bringing forward amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act later this year, which will be debated in this House. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, the Minister is well within his ability to say I'm going to examine this issue in the public's good, but maybe he's more interested in I don't know what. I'm not going to suggest anything, I'm just saying I don't know what he's more interested in. Maybe he doesn't think that people are important. I do, and I'm certainly sure he's going to stand up and say he cares about them as well. But all I'm asking him to do is take this initiative very seriously that we should have some type of tenant bill of rights, because when a tenant is shown the door due to construction or delay or whatnot, the landlord continues to take their money and they're left at their own avails and we have to hope that the landlord steps up and makes sure that they are not left in the dark or on their own or on the street. That's the problem. So, frankly, I'm just looking for a bit of leadership on this issue that we will ensure that when families are in crisis, they're not left to the street, that's it, because a hearing could take three weeks, seven weeks, and if they don't appeal, that's fast. Thank you.

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you. I certainly do care about people. I've been in this position for almost 12 years now and I do take my job very seriously. If the Member is so inclined, he has got the opportunity to move a motion on the floor of the House if he wants to pursue his idea. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 373-17(5):
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN FUNDING

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to return to my line of questioning with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and see if I can, one last time, try and get some clarity as to two conflicting statements and a package of fact sheets, which the Minister tabled the other day.

I would like to know from the Minister when a Junior Kindergarten Program starts, say in September of 2014, will the school district that runs that program get the money in September 2014, or will it have to wait a full year to get it in September 2015 like they do now for most students? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister of Education, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. My department met with the superintendents of all regions and those 23 communities are rolling out their junior kindergarten programming. Part of the package will be for them to utilize the PTR, the funding that will be allocated towards the Junior Kindergarten Program. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thanks. I think that was a yes, but I'm still not sure and I would really like to get that question clarified and I think the school boards would as well. However, I guess I have to leave it at that.

The Minister has spoken in regards to the fact sheets and he has spoken, as well, in his statements to the pupil-teacher ratio and stated that we are 13.8 to 1. Across Canada the best PTR is 11.8 students to 1 in Newfoundland; the worst, so to speak, is 16.8 students to 1 in British Columbia. So I'd like to ask the Minister, we are currently at 13.8, but the road that we are on seems to be taking us to put our student-teacher ratio back to 16 to 1, the legislated PTR.

Is that the design of the Minister and the department that we will make sure that we go from 13.8 to 1 to 16 to 1 and put us at the very top of the list, which is the worst? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi. The ratio will vary from school board to school board. Some would have around 14.5, I believe, and some would have 15, 15.5, 16 and a couple of the school boards will be just beyond 16. But I did commit in this House that I will be subsidizing those

individuals who work beyond 16 to 1. So as the fact sheet indicates, we're at 13.8 at this point and then according to our legislation it's 16 to 1. So that's where we're getting back to our legislation level. Mahsi.

MS. BISARO: Thank you. I totally understand that things vary. We have small schools, we have large schools, and yes, we absolutely vary. The average across the territory is 13.8 to 1.

The Minister just said, if I heard him correctly, we're moving back to 16 students to 1, 16 to 1. Is that what I heard? Am I correct in what the Minister said? If that's the case, do we really want to go to the top of the list and be worst in the country for PTR? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: When we talk about legislation passed by this House, 16 to 1. So there has been a generous contribution over the last decade because we had money, we had funds at that time which we don't at this point. In order to roll out the junior kindergarten, we won't be the worse. British Columbia, as you see here, is 16.8, we are 16 to 1. Yes, it may be at the bottom, but it's something to work with.

Then we have our Finance Minister in Ottawa meeting with the Finance Minister of Canada. There could be some changes coming. Certainly, we can re-evaluate our situation at that time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will try to be short. Lastly, I would just like to ask a question of the Minister with regards to a couple of comments on the fact sheets, which bothered me. I did say earlier that something in the Minister's statement was disturbing and the fact sheets were disturbing as well.

There were two statements which I have difficulty with. "It is not unreasonable to expect the education authorities to absorb and plan for a minor decrease of 0.4 to 1 percent over a three-year period." That's hardly a fact, Mr. Speaker. The numbers are a fact, but the expectation is not a fact. I would also like to say, in another sentence from the fact sheet, "With the size of the education authorities' budgets and their flexibility on how they spend their budgets, we are confident that they can manage the successful introduction of junior kindergarten." I would like to ask the Minister how those two statements can be considered factual. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: I'm glad the Member raised that profile. The department expects that YCS will not only look carefully at the cost of JK, \$1.2 million, but also how they can restructure their overall programming in order to absorb the \$436,000 that the Member referred to earlier, Member Bromley. This should not be an

unreasonable undertaking given that their overall budget has consistently been around \$18 million from this government to the school board. This is an area that can be absorbed.

The \$436,000 represents approximately 2 percent of the overall budget. That's where it's at, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The time for oral question period has expired. Item 9, written questions. Mr. Bromley.

Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 19-17(5): LIABILITY FOR OPERATING SITES IN FINAL DEVOLUTION AGREEMENT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Lands. According to Section 6.5 of the Devolution Agreement, the GNWT assumes overall liability for the operating sites listed in Schedule 7, Part A.1 of the Final Devolution Agreement.

1. Could the Premier please provide the following information for each of the 13 sites listed:
 - amount of financial security currently held by the federal or territorial government;
 - the form of that security, e.g. irrevocable letter of credit;
 - the authority under which each security amount is held;
 - the expiry date of each security instrument;
 - the amount of security as set out in relevant water licences, land use permits, surface leases or other instruments for the specific site;
 - whether there has been an independent review of the liability; and
 - if there has been an independent review of the liability, what was that amount?
2. If there is a gap between the amount of security held and that which is authorized in relevant water licences, land use permits, surface leases or other instruments, does the GNWT still intend to take over the liability or will it exercise its right to not accept the site under Part 6.5 (d) to not accept that operating site?
3. How does GNWT plan to manage these liabilities and what are the plans to prevent any further public liabilities?
4. When does the GNWT intend to make public a list of financial securities held for the sites that it will manage into the future?
5. As of June 1, 2014, have any of the 61 sites listed in Schedule 7 Part E – Operating Sites

(Oil and Gas, Industrial and Mining Dispositions) been transferred to the GNWT, and what is the status of the financial security being held for these sites?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 10, returns to written questions. Madam Clerk.

Returns to Written Questions

RETURN TO WRITTEN QUESTION 17-17(5): NWT FUNDING PROVIDED TO EDUCATION COUNCILS AND AUTHORITIES

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois): [Translation] Mr. Speaker, I have a return to Written Question asked by Ms. Bisaro on May 30, 2014, regarding the GNWT funding provided to education councils and authorities.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment allocates school contributions based on School Funding Framework, which determines allocations primarily based on the number of full-time equivalent students.

Later today, at the appropriate time, I will table "Enrolments and Contributions by Education Authority," which provides total student enrolments by education authority in September 2013, as the determining factor in calculating 2014-2015 school year contributions. The "Enrolments and Contributions by Education Authority" document also lists basic school contribution funding allocations by education authority for the 2014-2015 school year, in total, as well as specifically for inclusive schooling and Aboriginal languages and cultural programs. Not shown in the "Enrolments and Contributions by Education Authority" document are additional contributions to education authorities, such as for extraordinary enrolment, student success initiatives and staff benefits that are distributed throughout the school year.

Because the Yellowknife education authorities are expected to collect school property taxes as revenue, the contributions provided to these authorities represents approximately 82 percent of the calculated amount as per the school funding formula. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Ramsay.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 108-17(5):
NWT ECONOMIC OUTLOOK 2014-2015

TABLED DOCUMENT 109-17(5):
25TH ANNUAL REPORT
VICTIMS ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE
OF THE NWT, 2013-2014

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Northwest Territories Economic Outlook 2014-2015." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I'd also like to table the following document, entitled "25th Annual Report Victims Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories, 2013-2014." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 110-17(5):
EDUCATION RENEWAL AND INNOVATION
SUPPORT DOCUMENTS

TABLED DOCUMENT 111-17(5):
ENROLMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
BY EDUCATION AUTHORITY

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Education Renewal and Innovation Support Documents."

Also, further to my Return to Written Question 17-17(5), I wish to table the following document, entitled "Enrolments and Contributions by Education Authority." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 112-17(5):
ACCOUNTING OF POTENTIAL COSTS OF
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN IMPLEMENTATION

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have an accounting of potential costs of junior kindergarten implementation for Yellowknife Catholic Schools which I wish to table. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 113-17(5):
RESPONSIBLE MINISTERS' DECISION ON THE
REPORT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
OF THE GIANT MINE REMEDIATION PROJECT,
EA0809-001

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a letter from the Yellowknives Dene First

Nation, the City of Yellowknife and Alternatives North addressed to the Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Honourable Bernard Valcourt, Honourable Gail Shea and Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, entitled "Responsible Ministers Decision on the Report of Environmental Assessment of Giant Mine Remediation Project, EA0809-001." Mahsi.

TABLED DOCUMENT 114-17(5):
SUMMARY OF MEMBERS' ABSENCES FOR THE
PERIOD NOVEMBER 5, 2013, TO MAY 27, 2014

MR. SPEAKER: Colleagues, pursuant to Section 5 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, I wish to table the summary of Members' absences for the period of November 5, 2013, to May 27, 2014.

Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions, Mr. Hawkins.

Motions

MOTION 22-17(5):
FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT
JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN,
CARRIED

MR. HAWKINS: WHEREAS the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) plans to roll out a new Junior Kindergarten Program in 22 communities in the fall of 2014;

AND WHEREAS in some of these communities there are well-established Aboriginal Head Start programs with only four students per teacher, delivered at no cost to NWT residents or the Government of the NWT;

AND WHEREAS Aboriginal Head Start programs will be impacted by the new Junior Kindergarten Program;

AND WHEREAS funding from ECE is being reduced in some education districts and allocated to others in order to implement junior kindergarten;

AND WHEREAS it is important to supply proper resources to support the play-based environment of junior kindergarten;

AND WHEREAS the success of junior kindergarten is known to depend on expertise in early childhood development;

AND WHEREAS hybrid junior kindergarten/kindergarten programs are potentially harmful to early childhood development;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Legislative Assembly strongly recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment identify and seek new funding to support the

implementation of junior kindergarten instead of reducing funding to any education districts;

AND FURTHER, that the department ensure that the Junior Kindergarten Program be professionally designed and delivered by properly trained staff;

AND FURTHER, that the Junior Kindergarten Program be oriented to early childhood development, not a hybrid junior kindergarten/kindergarten program;

AND FURTHER, that the department's rollout of junior kindergarten be focused in communities without an Aboriginal Head Start program;

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

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to first begin by saying thank you to the Member for Mackenzie Delta, who has brought forward some of his concerns. I appreciate him supporting this motion by seconding it. It's an honour to have a community Member like him working together because we certainly see the issue as a whole in the sense that we all want good education programs for our youth. There's no doubt in my mind that every Member here supports educational opportunities for our young people.

We heard clearly from the chair of the Aboriginal Head Start program that she is calling for a pause. Changes the Minister is directing are destabilizing Aboriginal Head Start programs.

I've been contacted by one community that has Aboriginal Head Start and they're concerned about the effects that it's going to change. They view this as federal money at risk. Not territorial money, federal money is at risk. They told me, in their words, how will the federal government keep funding a program that doesn't have any kids?

Mrs. Erasmus had said, in her words, our eight communities it has our program in jeopardy. It just doesn't get clearer than that.

It's time to support the communities by giving them the tools they want. Every Member here supports that. All the Minister of Education has to do is ask. MLA Bromley had made this reference earlier, which was the fact that we're very generous when it comes to education and health. Those are two program departments that we will give where we can and we'll go the extra mile.

All Members want this initiative to proceed, but not in the manner it's been designed. Time and time again I keep hearing the word "discussions," these are the discussions we need to have. Frankly, you would think that if the department was steamrolling

this initiative, they would have had these answers already.

Every time we stand up, we should be asking a question that is easy to answer. But no, it's like they're implementing a program that has been ill-advised, ill-designed, well-intended, but not thought out.

I know a lot of good people that are working on this program. I like the concept of this program. I think the work that they're doing is amazing. But when it comes to the financial implementation of this program, you're now having community against community. You're going to have program against program. You're going to have junior kindergarten in a small community like Fort Providence, my colleague Mr. Nadli represents, fighting the Aboriginal Head Start program for bodies. It just doesn't make sense.

Mrs. Erasmus wants to talk, but the Minister isn't answering the call. These types of things need to be sought, discussed and solved before implementation. It's kind of like the old joke: shoot first and ask questions later. They're implementing it and figuring it out after they've implemented it.

Just a minute ago, to MLA Bisaro, the Minister said the impact would be about 2 percent, but on page 9 on his fact sheets it says it would be somewhere between 0.4 and 1 percent. So that's 0.4 to 1 percent. The Minister is changing the numbers on the fly. That alone should remind every single one of us that a lot of detail still must be thought out.

I could probably go at length and I would probably enjoy every minute of it, but the fact is what I want to hear from the Minister is they will stop taking funding away from school boards, they will fund this properly from the start. Everyone wants this to happen. We just want it to happen in collaboration between Aboriginal Head Start programs and Junior Kindergarten programs in small communities. We want large communities supported, and by golly, every single one of us wants to get behind this. We just want it done correctly from the start.

I will be calling for a recorded vote, so I'll get that out of the way now. Frankly, I'm going to pause here because I know my colleagues have a lot more to add to this discussion. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. Mr. Bouchard. Sorry, Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, have many concerns about junior kindergarten. I know the communities I represent have signed up to take this on in the fall.

This year was the first year of a pilot project and Tsiigehtchic was one of the communities that did the pilot project. Because there are only two

students enrolled, it wasn't as challenging and they did receive \$40,000 to help with the pilot project, which the communities won't be getting next year. That's the concern. That's the issue here.

The communities need extra funding to help implement this, whether it's for materials they need to carry out their education program that they'll have in place or also for an assistant. Right now they have to use the budget they have right now to hire an assistant, buy the materials. That's an extra strain on the system that they have in place. I know our teachers are confident that they can do this, but they need the resources. They need that extra funding. They need an extra assistant. We have two communities in my riding that are going to have 18 extra students with junior kindergarten into their class that they already have, which is close to 30 students for one teacher. I mean, it's just not going to work.

This government supports education but we have to do it right. We don't want to set these children up for failure. We want them to succeed, and the way that they're going to succeed is we give them the proper resources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be voting in favour of this motion.

As I indicated today in my Member's statement and I've indicated in the House before, along with all my colleagues here all the way from the north all the way to the south, this is an issue, this funding is an issue.

We continue to get e-mail after e-mail from our district education authorities, but there are more and more questions about how this will roll out, how junior kindergarten will be funded, how it will affect the Aboriginal Head Start program. In the community of Hay River, how will it affect the playschool program? How will it affect everything and how will it be funded?

The Minister keeps giving out information and then says surpluses are not up for grabs, the departments just need to find money within, but yet presents the information, a projection of surpluses. So, I mean, the information of a surplus being put out to the public is saying this is what they can use if they want to. But for the projection, why wouldn't the department use an actual amount of the surplus? Then the surplus would be... You know, I'm getting information from my authority the fact that the surplus is actually not there in a cash amount. Some of those funds are being used to back up pensions, to back up other operations and being spent towards the end of the year. They're doing a projection based on no communication with the authority, or very little.

When my authority had a discussion with the Department of Education, the Department of Education couldn't justify where they came up with the number for their surplus. They just said this is the number we've come up with, but they couldn't actually show the figures that figured out in comparisons. So the two of them couldn't sit down and compare the numbers of how those surpluses are there.

There are so many facets of this junior kindergarten funding that is out there. We've heard the issues with Yellowknife, the funds being taken from there. The \$7 million that's coming out of operations to fund junior kindergarten and then it's going to be put back into place. Now I'm learning that Yellowknife is going to get funding for 16 to 1, but then Hay River or Yellowknife or Fort Smith, some of the regional centres will be affected because our PTR is an average of the region, so that's going to hurt us in the regional centres as well.

There are so many facets of this and so many difficulties that I ask all the Members on the other side from Cabinet, that this is not just an issue from one MLA or two MLAs, this is all of us here complaining that junior kindergarten needs to be rolled out a little bit differently. We need to pull this back, figure out how we're going to fund it and go from there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. It's hard to know where to start. I've been asking questions all week. I haven't really been getting answers and it has frustrated me, as I imagine this has come across in some of my questions.

I think I'd like to start by asking the question of how important is the Junior Kindergarten Program to the Minister, to the department, to Cabinet. I've been hearing it stated that it is very important. I've been hearing it stated it's important to the school districts, that it's important to the superintendents, that it's important to teachers, that it's important to parents. If I listen to the rhetoric, basically coming from across the floor, it's telling me that this program is extremely important. If it is extremely important, then it should be funded to the level of the perceived importance, and it's not being. If it's as important as what we're being told, then it should be funded not from within but it should be funded as a new program with new money.

Like my colleagues, I've been receiving e-mails and letters from constituents who are very concerned about the impacts that an unfunded Junior Kindergarten Program is going to have on school districts and on children in other grades within all our schools across the territory.

I want to just quote a quick bit about importance from a constituent. "Junior kindergarten is not

receiving new funds and instead resulting in staff reductions and cutbacks in Yellowknife. The way the GNWT is implementing JK is contrary to the spirit and values being put forward in the ERI Framework, the Education Renewal and Innovation Framework. The GNWT should provide adequate new funding for this important new early childhood program to do it right.”

That says a great deal to me about what we should be doing in terms of funding this new program.

I've been expressing a lot of concerns. One of them is that the Minister, in almost every statement that he has made whenever he discusses junior kindergarten, mentions child care or daycare every time he talks about JK. Almost every time; I can't guarantee it's every time. I really am concerned about that. If the Minister and the department want to put a daycare program in place, then let's do that. Let's put a daycare program in place. If it is intended to be a Junior Kindergarten Program, then we should not be focusing on the 10 communities who, as the Minister says, do not have any kind of daycare. In my mind, that's a huge contradiction, and I think the Minister is confusing one subject with the other. I am all for universal daycare, and I do support the Junior Kindergarten Program, but I am extremely fearful that we will end up with a Junior Kindergarten Program which basically is a daycare program.

There have been concerns expressed about Aboriginal Head Start, and I have also done that in the last while. The comment was made by Ms. Erasmus earlier this week that a school is not the right place for four-year-olds. The school is a structured environment and no matter how much you try to make a kindergarten classroom more like a home environment or make it more like a play space, it's in a school, and as she pointed out, bells are ringing, students are moving back and forth, there's a lot of noise. Four-year-olds don't need that kind of environment. Aboriginal Head Start, on the other hand, does provide the play-based environment and does have the facility that allows for that. Yet, we are saying Aboriginal Head Start doesn't matter. We are saying we are going to junior kindergarten and basically compete with Aboriginal Head Start.

As it was stated in another e-mail that we recently got, why are we not putting more money into Aboriginal Head Start and complementing the Aboriginal Head Start programs that already exist in our eight communities? I don't see that that's on the department's radar, and they seem to want to put JK in regardless and ignore the fact that there's a successful Aboriginal Head Start program already in place.

The other concern I have with the implementation of junior kindergarten, and I asked the Minister this question yesterday and got no answer, but there's

no indication that there will be funding for resources for these classrooms. Some of the kindergarten classrooms, because it's going to be a combined junior kindergarten/kindergarten classroom in many small schools, some of them will have resources already, but you're adding four-year-olds, and that's a much younger age. Well, it's a year. It's a year younger than kindergarten, but still, it's a lot younger as kids grow. Basically, you're talking about one-quarter of their life, and they need different resources, sand tables, water tables, big blocks, little blocks. They need all kinds of things to play with. They learn through play, and most of our kindergarten classrooms are not set up like that.

There is no evidence, in my mind, that the department will work with existing programs. I haven't heard from the Minister words that make me nice and comfy with regard to that. Because of that – and it's not just Aboriginal Head Start; there are other preschool programs that operate, not so much in small communities but certainly in the regional centres – there is no indication, in my mind, that the department is willing to work with those programs to ensure that they stay solvent. Many of them operate as businesses and the department says, yes, we're going to give them money and we're going to let them convert their spaces from four-year-olds to infants. Maybe so, but my understanding is that in a daycare, for instance, the four-year-old space is the most lucrative, and daycares count on those four-year-old spaces to give them the most revenue and allow them to be able to take in infants and so on.

I spoke earlier in my questions about the pupil-teacher ratio and I want to reiterate, I am very concerned that, as the Minister said when I asked him the question, we are working our way back up from 13.8 to 1 PTR to 16 to 1. I really don't think that's going to increase our quality of education. We are just now starting to get higher numbers of graduates from high school. Do we really want to go back to what we had 10 or 20 years ago when we had few graduates, and we've been worried about the graduates from high school for a very long time? We're starting to move upwards and onwards and we're starting to get a greater number of graduates. Increase the PTR in our schools, as the Minister indicated earlier, and all we're going to do is reduce the quality of education. Reduce the quality of education, kids are not going to be engaged, they're not going to get the encouragement that they need, and end result, they're going to drop out with fewer graduates is what's going to happen.

To all these things, I am really concerned that we are putting in place a program that is going to bring our education system down. I believe we have a good education system. I believe that we have a very high quality education system. We've got a few problems but it's basically a good system. But by

doing this, instituting a new program without new funding, it's simply going to bring down the quality of education that we currently have.

The motion is pretty straightforward. It asks for new funding. We put a new program in place in almost any other government department and we look to put new funding in there. We bring a new facility online, and I've been screaming for a couple of years that when we bring a new facility online we need to make sure that we budget for O and M funding to make sure the building can operate. This is a similar situation. You've got a new program starting with no money.

The motion refers to Aboriginal Head Start, and I've covered that already. I think, pretty much, in terms of the questions that I've asked in this last week, I think I've tried to get across my concerns about funding, I've tried to get across my concerns about the type of and quality of junior kindergarten/kindergarten that is going to be put in place. I hope the Minister has heard those words and has listened to the numbers. I don't get a sense that he has anything in mind except to forge ahead, and I would urge him to seriously consider the concerns from all Members on this side of the House, concerns from every region of the NWT, as was stated by Mr. Bouchard, and seriously look at the recommendations in this motion and changing his mind.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be supporting this motion. We started originally with the recognition that we really needed to move forward strongly and quickly on the early childhood development front, which is also handled by this department. We said we wanted to focus on the ages zero to three. The Minister chose to focus on junior kindergarten, so he developed a lot of support for that, and we saw the potential for it. It wasn't that we disagreed with it. We had different priorities, but we went with the Minister's priority, but with the important recognition that all of the research shows junior kindergarten can be very successful only, though, if it's based on quality, and what is that quality? What is their definition of quality? It turns out it must be presented on an early childhood development basis. In other words, not a school program, not a hybrid program. It must be an early childhood development, an early childhood education program. Secondly, it must be delivered by early childhood education experts. There is a strong sense that the Department of ECE is failing on these critical points. Again, we have inconsistent and partial information that has led to confusion. So nothing is very clear on this.

This sense leads to the conclusion that the failure is derived from a lack of funding, or the recognition

that with the implementation of vital programs like Junior Kindergarten, new dollars must be provided.

While these children are small, as we have heard from the Aboriginal Head Start Council, the space and material needs are large, they're critical and they're expensive. We have to ask once again why did we do a pilot study in three communities if we weren't going to provide an evaluation of these pilots for our reference? One has to ask, is it a lack of money? I mean, we've heard nothing on it.

Constituents have pointed out that the process itself is cheapening to junior kindergarten, the idea, the concept, the proposal. Where are the evaluations, where are the consultations, the funding that recognizes the potential to see value that a Junior Kindergarten Program could provide?

We need to put funding in place, keep it an ECD-based program delivered through early childhood education professionals that are required for quality. Failure has the potential to harm our youngest, as the research shows. Not only could it be neutral, but it can harm some aspects, and I repeat that based on research, while having impacts as proposed on the education presently being provided to the older children.

In October we called for a feasibility study of universal child care. Today we are contributing to the failure of the child care facilities we do have and, again, as we've heard from my colleagues, this remains unaddressed.

Aboriginal Head Start, it remains out there, tested, developed, evaluated and improved. Current proposals undermine this worthy effort and yet we have the opportunity to integrate with them and right away address some of the quality issues that we have.

This is a long list and my colleagues have elaborated on it. So I'll stop there, but I will be supporting this motion. I hope the Minister, I'm not sure, if he doesn't hear us today, I'm not sure what it would take. So, thanks to my colleagues for bringing this forward. Taima, c'est fini, mahsi.

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

MR. DOLYUNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Of course I'd like to thank the mover and the seconder for bringing this to a debate here on the floor. For the record, I've said it before and I'll say it again, I do support junior kindergarten, but I don't expect that people would understand the funding model that we heard today as being one which is acceptable to the people, and I agree with them.

We have heard over the past week terms like turmoil, we've heard tug-o-war, we've even heard the word poaching, just to name a few. These are all in relation to the funding model of the JK delivery in the NWT.

We've taken a very positive initiative that has had much promise and we've started with an ill-conceived funding model. Again, on this side of the House, we've heard from the various school boards, we've heard from the trustees, we've heard from the parents, we've heard from the day home operators, we've heard from the Aboriginal Head Start stakeholders and the taxpayers that we're all gravely concerned that ECE is not listening and they're not listening to our concerns. This whole initiative from day one was touted as being good for all, but financed by a few. The few I'm referencing really means mostly the larger municipal school boards and authorities, and of course, Yellowknife taxpayers.

Let's put all numbers aside because sometimes with using too many numbers it will confuse the listener and we actually lose the message that we're trying to bring them today. As we all heard, the department does not have any money. We heard that today, we've heard that a number of times today, but they saw some surplus money in various authorities and they exercised their statutory authority. Stealing, poaching, if you will, Jedi mind trick, I don't care what terminology you use, it's clear, the money is reallocated from one pot of money to another and apparently under the law. But now what is the fallout if this should happen to the larger school boards and authorities? It's clear, we're going to have increasing classroom size, we're going to have huge loss of jobs, and quite frankly, we can't even quantify how many jobs will be lost. We're not going to have increased pressure on our special needs students? I disagree. If you take budgets away, it will affect someone else and I don't conceive the fact that our inclusive schooling students will be not affected.

The district that I have most concern with, and this hasn't been mentioned today, is that these forced changes to the mill rate will be affected and they'll be affecting the school boards here in Yellowknife and to the Yellowknife taxpayer. As I see it, the taxpayers in Yellowknife have already had their taxes stripped from their hard-earned money and it's going to the public government and also they're taxed by the mill rate. Just for a quick reference, the taxes that are being paid by Yellowknife residents are roughly about 20 percent of the budget of the two school boards here in Yellowknife. So, clearly, the removal, the reduction, call it poaching of the much hard-earned surpluses, will no doubt have a huge impact and this will have a huge impact on the triggering mechanism. I'll say this again here, a triggering mechanism, because these surpluses are being taken away. So the school boards themselves are going to have to find ways to mitigate those losses and the only way to mitigate those losses is triggering a higher mill rate. That mill rate triggering mechanism could be as high as

20 percent, according to some of the calculations that we're getting.

The cost of living affects everyone in the Northwest Territories and our capital city is no different. So how can the Minister look in the whites of the eyes of the Yellowknife taxpayers and say, hey, we want your money because I don't have any myself. That's what we're hearing here today. How can the Department of Education expect the Yellowknife taxpayers that have their taxes and their mill rate and their surpluses used somewhere else because that's exactly what we're telling them. But moreover, how does the Department of ECE expect the Yellowknife taxpayer, who is already double taxed are now being set up to be triple taxed, once off their earnings, a second at the current mill rate and now we're triggering a future mill rate increase, all the while to fund an ECE ill-conceived funding model. Is this fair? Is this reasonable? I can tell you that the taxpayer is saying this is ludicrous. It's an insult to the taxpayer, and to suggest this triple taxation plot could conceivably start this fall. The irony is that the taxpayer is going to be paying all of this and the taxpayer here in Yellowknife will not see the benefits of JK for three more years. Is that fair? This is a fail.

I don't care how you cut it, as great as JK is, Junior Kindergarten, as I said before, it is a great program, whether it is optional or not optional, this department, this Minister has only one option here today and that's to listen to the people of the Northwest Territories, listen to these people on this side of the House, listen to your school boards who are sitting in the gallery and listen to the taxpayer. We bring here today a motion that is fair, that is reasonable.

Minister, are you listening? Thank you.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You've heard a lot of comments here from my colleagues. You've heard them for the last two weeks on junior kindergarten. You've seen it in the news reports, we've seen it by e-mails and heard it on the radio.

On November 17th this Legislative Assembly collectively as 19 Members did outline in our priorities that early childhood development was going to be one of our priorities. It took a while to get started, but on May 30, 2012, we passed a motion to get this early childhood development implemented. We're just over two years now and we're still waiting to see what initiatives are taken on with the Department of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment is doing another thing, and that's implementing the Junior Kindergarten Program. Two years later, we are still finding issues with this, the public is still finding issues with this and we're at a point where we have to make some big decisions because we

are in June, and in some communities school is going to be starting in August. We've got a couple of months to decide how we are going to move on this.

What gets me is in the motion that Mr. Hawkins is bringing forward, he's asking for new funding for this new Junior Kindergarten Program. It's kind of baffling because right now we are going through an Education Renewal Initiative and we don't even know where those dollars are going, which programs are getting what kind of dollars, what programs are going to get cut. It's really confusing with this department. It's not only junior kindergarten but early education renewal. Where are the dollars coming from? It's not even August, September we're going to have to start making some decisions. Education authorities are going to get their budgets and talk about a school funding formula. There was commitment made in this House that we would change the school funding formula, but how is it going to be divvied up?

Mr. Speaker, what baffles me is that with the pilot reports that we did get, there was no evaluation... I shouldn't say the reports that we did get, but the pilots that happened, there have been no reporting, there has been no evaluation on those pilots. Actually, I think in one of the communities where the pilot was being run, we heard from one of the staff working in there, she was quoted saying, "I'm an educator, I'm not a babysitter." A lot of concerns are coming up from that, even with our Beaufort-Delta Education Council sitting down meeting with them. They've even expressed concerns, written a letter and I will make some references to what their concerns are.

As I said, there has been no evaluation, no report on the pilots that have already been done and yet this fall we are going to implement them in 23 communities. Mr. Bromley made a good suggestion in question period about how maybe we could just focus on some of the small communities that need it and leave the communities with Aboriginal Head Start program be.

It's pretty plain and simple. Having it optional is also baffling, because I know the Minister has seen it, some of our committees have heard it, about the development delays in these communities. If we are seeing development delays, a program like this shouldn't be optional. It should also be mandatory in some of the small communities, saying families, get your kids into these programs. We've got to get them prepared and ready for school.

I know it is a play-based program and that begs to differ in terms of resources we are going to have for some of our small communities.

There's another motion I wanted to discuss and that was done earlier this year and that was training for early childhood education workers. Right now, we don't have that in place. In that motion, it mentioned

developing some type of program in the Aurora College system. We haven't really seen much movement on that. Inuvik would have been a great place. We have a facility that's not being used 100 percent and we have that new Children's First Centre that's going to be there, which brings to point meeting with the executive director of the Children's First Centre. She was concerned about the amount of students that were going to be taken out of Children's First Centre who are aged four for junior kindergarten, put into the school, and supporting that is the Beaufort-Delta Education Council saying they are going to have students that are going to go beyond the legislated 16 to 1 pupil-teacher ratio. That 16 to 1 pupil-teacher ratio, as the Minister alluded to earlier this week, is something he is committed to. So he's committed to having that 16 to 1 PTR. In Inuvik, when we go above that, where are the resources going to be to help our community? It's not only Inuvik, it's the regional centres and eventually it's going to come to Yellowknife.

However, when we look at the statistics, we have seen them in any department, whether it's development delays, graduation rates, we always see higher stats in the small communities and they slowly drop as you get into regional centres where there are better resource centres for people to access. It's the same with graduation rates, less in the small communities, but as you go into the regional centres and into Yellowknife, it gets higher. So there's definitely a concern and a need to get these programs into the small communities.

I've been on this file right from the beginning of this government, being chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs. We got a lot of good feedback. We did have some meetings with experts in junior kindergarten as well as early childhood development. Where I see the best need and the best way this program is moving forward is we're getting it into the small communities and giving these kids and their families a chance for further development.

I don't really want to see a delay in this program, even though we've got a pilot out. It would be nice to see an evaluation and a report on the pilot. I don't want to see a delay, because there are kids out there who need the help and assistance to developmentally grow, Mr. Speaker.

A couple of highlights from some of our stakeholders up in the Beaufort-Delta. They mentioned there would be challenges to our existing kindergarten, especially with the multi-level graded classrooms and multi-level developmental stages that the children are going to be having going in there.

A major concern is a lack of funding, where that funding is going to be coming from. As I mentioned before, the Education Renewal Initiative, we don't

even know where dollars are going with that and how that's going to be laid out.

I just want to highlight a few of the bigger challenges that they talked about. The physical classroom space for additional bodies, the physical classroom space for additional play resources such as books, play stations, equipment, rest spaces, the lack of curriculum for junior kindergarten. I know it's play-based, but what type of things are you going to be focusing on? If we don't have trained early childhood educators, how do they know where the training needs to be in writing, in speech, in cognitive movement, in physical activity? Those things need to be considered.

The lack of resources for purchase of additional play resources, furniture, resting mats. A big one is potty training. You get these four-year-olds that might not even have been potty trained. Do we have enough staff to keep it clean? Who's buying the diapers if diapers are needed? What about community busing services and students with special needs? As I mentioned, there's different levels of development in children. If they are coming from the small communities and then make it even further, let's say families coming from one of the surrounding communities and going into Aurora College and their child might not be at the level that some of the kids in the regional centres or here in Yellowknife might be at. That could be more detrimental than effective and will they get the attention that they need?

The motion brought forward is a good motion. It talks about funding, it talks about trained staff and focusing on communities that don't have the Aboriginal Head Start program. I support all those areas.

Just like I said when I started off, what baffles me is we're asking for new funding but we don't know where the dollars from the Education Renewal Initiative are going.

Collectively, we can still continue to work together. I know we've got a lot of organizations out there who have given good feedback as well. I don't think delaying it is going to help. Any kind of activity right now for age four, especially in the small communities, is going to be beneficial to them. The Minister also made a statement yesterday about if a low-income family or a double-income family who's working has to put their child in daycare, then it's almost like one person is just working to pay the daycare, but if we have the Junior Kindergarten Program, the four-year-old goes into the Junior Kindergarten Program and it might save the family some funds.

We do have a high cost of living here in the Northwest Territories, so there's something that works in that favour as well. In Inuvik I know we just increased prices of child and family services. As a result, some families had to make a decision

whether to continue working or stay home to take care of their children because they were just working to pay the fees. This might be one way to offset that.

However, the motion, everything I agree with. I would just like to know how the funding is going to roll out. As legislators, we represent not only our communities and our constituencies but we represent all of the Northwest Territories that goes from the smallest community to the largest, which is Yellowknife. I think making a decision on moving forward, we've come a long way and there is still a lot of work to do. This is something that we need to resolve by the end of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting the motion. Everything in it is things that we've heard. I haven't seen more of an outcry of this program being rolled out than from people of the public. I would like to thank the mover and the seconder for bringing the motion forward. I'm glad to see we have the big city moving the motion and having somebody from a small community seconding the motion. So it goes to show that it's needed in all our communities across the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. NADLI: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I, too, rise in support of the motion. I thank the mover and the seconder for coming up with this motion. This motion is basically about money and they ask that the government identify and seek new funding for this major initiative. At the same time, it has to be professionally designed and based on early childhood development, not so much hinging on kindergarten. It should start with communities that don't have Aboriginal Head Start that are in existence already.

The other part of this whole motion, too, goes back to the very fundamental concerns that I have raised in this House before, and that's the distinction between communities and larger centres. I think it's an acknowledged fact that in our small communities, our students struggle, whether it's graduation rates or moving on to post-secondary educational studies. In some respects, for a student to reach that level, they often have challenges. It goes back to just how it is that they've managed to challenge themselves. They are trying at least to get baseline education fundamentals engendered in them so they can succeed at a later stage.

So the bigger issue to this is: Is the Education Renewal Initiative trying to address that? There's going to be a level of public consultation. We all understand the education system that we have has to adapt to the globalization of the economy and the labour pool that each country has, including Canada. At the same time, what needs to be reiterated is that the JK initiative, it's currently

contemplated that, as it is, it could jeopardize the Aboriginal Head Start initiatives that have been successfully managed in the communities for the past 17 years.

What needs to be said is JK is indeed part of the Education Renewal Initiative. It's a major initiative, so if it is a major initiative, something of the magnitude of a paradigm shift, there has to be money associated with this initiative. Mahsi.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Let me start off by saying thank you to the Members for speaking up for JK. It is a very important subject of this Assembly. I am truly looking forward to the next business plans because I'm hearing that there will be an influx of funding for ECE. So I'm looking forward to that.

[English translation not provided.]

Mr. Speaker, in summarizing, as I stated in Tlicho, in a perfect world where resources are limited and there are no competing priorities, I would have asked for an additional \$7.4 million to introduce a program as important as Junior Kindergarten and important to the Members as well.

Our financial landscape is very different today. That is not the world we are currently operating in. The Minister of Finance, in his budget address, appealed to us, all of us, to live within our means and exercise fiscal prudence, to take a hard look at what we spend our money on now and to see if we can do better at re-profiling some of it.

That is our responsibility as a government and department and we did just that. Money has been re-profiled to be spent more effectively. This front-end investment in early child programming like JK will pay off in the long run, is an investment in education. The choice before us was to either wait several years or more until the overall fiscal situation improved or look to the \$150 million already invested that the government provides for our education to see if we can re-profile existing funds to make JK happen for families and children who need it sooner than later.

My recent commitment at guaranteeing a PTR for each educational authority will, in fact, add new dollars to this already significant \$150 million being invested. The PTR top-up is not insignificant to the case of Yellowknife, around \$1 million for each board, depending on enrolment. This money will help offset the contribution educational authorities make to junior kindergarten across the Northwest Territories. It will also assist them in implementing junior kindergarten in their own schools.

The following facts show that \$7.4 million re-profiling can be sustained without jeopardizing any existing students and here's why. The research shows the NWT provides more government funding

for students than any other jurisdiction. That is a key fact, because even low PTR means low funding for students. Our PTR is not the worst in the country. In fact, we are very close to being in line with the Canadian average.

Our Collective Agreement for teachers is the envy of many teachers across Canada. Despite an increase in funding in our educational system over the last five years, graduation rates in small communities have actually decreased, which means that more money doesn't necessarily give you the better outcomes.

Lastly, many of the education authorities do carry substantial surpluses. That has been highlighted in this House, which is the taxpayers' money after all.

On the issue of junior kindergarten programming needing to be professionally designed and delivered by properly trained staff, I can advise the NWT integrated kindergarten curriculum for four-year-old and five-year-old children will be professionally designed and developed based on current sound, solid research and developed for our northern context. It was built on the foundation of our culture curricula, the Dene Kede, the Inuinnaqtun, to help young children to become confident and proud of who they are and where they come from. It is based on honouring the fact that each four-year-old and five-year-old child is very different and has, therefore, unique gifts and strengths as well as learning styles. It is based on the foundation that children learn best through play and hands-on experimental learning.

It is my department's goal to see that JK and kindergarten classrooms are inviting, safe, active, fun and stimulating spaces where children can develop a sense of curiosity about the world around them.

Education authorities already have the responsibility to ensure all the staff they hire within their schools have the experience, the skillset, the ability to work effectively with and teach the children of all ages and abilities. Junior kindergarten will be no different.

Of course, the minimum requirement to teach in a school is a bachelor of education degree, in our schools. Our society cannot lower this standard as...(inaudible)...certified educators in front of our most precious resources, our young children. Education authorities understand how important it will be to hire qualified teachers, educational assistants who have been trained in early childhood development and education to work in both JK and kindergarten classrooms.

On the issue of Junior Kindergarten Program needing to be oriented towards early childhood development and not a hybrid Junior Kindergarten Program, I can assure you that the NWT curriculum views children's development along the learning

continuum, not a prescribed pace adhering to the ages and stages. The learning is designed to allow children to learn and develop at a pace that best suits their needs, not under the old-fashioned model of rows of desks where all children are required to do the same activities at the same time being led by a teacher.

The NWT junior kindergarten curriculum and program is developmentally appropriate for four-year-old and five-year-old children, and it's grounded at the latest early childhood development research and practices. My department consulted with internationally acclaimed early childhood development experts such as Dr. Stuart Shanker and Dr. Jane Bertrand.

On the issue of rolling out JK in communities without the Aboriginal Head Start program, my goal as Minister is to ensure that all parents and families have a choice to consider JK as an option for their child. In three of the communities, the Aboriginal Head Start program is also delivered in our NWT school system. JK is not about creating competition for the Aboriginal Head Start program, it is about creating options for parents and children. The implementation of junior kindergarten will not change the way Aboriginal Head Start programs are funded.

The Aboriginal Head Start program has received federal funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada since 1997. According to that agency, the funding contracts are renewed annually. For the last three years, the Public Health Agency of Canada has been collecting information to support the renewal of Aboriginal Head Start funding; however, no decision has been made whether funding will continue in the '16-17 fiscal year. At this time the Public Health Agency of Canada can guarantee that the Aboriginal Head Start program will receive funding until March 31, 2016. For 17 years the Aboriginal Head Start program is mandated to provide programming for three- and four-year-olds. JK, the junior kindergarten, will be available to all children both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal across the Northwest Territories.

We are proud to say that 23 out of 29 small communities committed to delivering junior kindergarten starting this fall. I would like to say thank you, mahsi, to those individual communities that are taking on this important initiative. I am very much looking forward to their success.

Since this is a direction to this Cabinet, the Cabinet will be abstaining from the vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. I will allow the mover of the motion to have closing remarks. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's interesting; they're abstaining on this motion,

maybe because they don't have the numbers. It's just to reference a point.

I worry, frankly, that the Minister has misunderstood the issue. He's too quick to comment and point out and reference experts, experts none of us would deny. Frankly, I don't care what the experts are saying about JK because that's not the issue. It's about the implementation. I believe the expert Shanker had said by age four it's already too late anyway, so are we accomplishing the goals? Not one Member on this side of the House spoke against JK. Everybody here is in favour of the merits, the quality programming, the opportunities they create for people in small communities, the fact that we all believe in helping the child get the best start to their future. You don't have to look any further to facts such as our graduation rates and ask ourselves could we do things better. This is exactly the thing we want to be part of.

[English translation not provided.]

...a child growing up for the future. We want to be part of that future.

The government wants to make 14 grades out of 13 years of funding. Now, I didn't know when this Minister started apprenticing under David Copperfield and made the Statue of Liberty disappear, but how is he going to make more programming happen with less money per child? It's not necessarily meant to be an insult. The reality is it's impossible. It's an illusion.

MLA Moses had talked about the impacts of Children's First Society in Inuvik. We're three months away from the implementation of this program and the Minister says we still have to have discussions. The rollout is in three months. We should be having the end of discussions about this at this point. I don't expect the Minister to know everything. I think that's impossible and not fair, but we're asking pillar-style questions. These are what hold the building up. Every one of our questions is about the cornerstone of its success. What about the funding? What about the training? What about the availability of space? Why are you taking money away? Every single one of these are very important questions. Perhaps the Minister knows things he hasn't shared with us; I don't know.

There is a net loss to large districts, and by the way, that's not just Yellowknife. That's also potentially Hay River, potentially Fort Smith, potentially Inuvik. We cannot allow this to happen. The other thing that starts a worry is what's going to happen down the road. We just don't know. The public is quite clear on this. I would hope that the government would understand that. We support funding students properly from the start everywhere they live. There is no surprise or shock to that. No one has said anything to the contrary.

Recently, the NWTTA president came to us and told us about the workload of teachers. Now the Minister of Education wants more out of them. I think they've already given their share and he wants more.

Pick a single community initiative. We'll get behind this. Show us where you need support. We'll be behind this. I keep saying it. I don't know why the Minister isn't listening. It's not about the merits of junior kindergarten; it's about the implementation plan.

The Minister will go on about his statistics. Yes, we're not the worst. We're just barely above the last one. He talks about the highest cost per student that they implement in our schools. We're the most expensive jurisdiction. These things make sense. May I remind the whole Cabinet, when it's their idea and their initiative, they always seem to find money. They always do.

This is the people's initiative. This is not a Regular Member's initiative. This is the people's initiative and we are just here to support the voices of the people that have been coming in loud and clear. The bottom line is we want to help, not reduce. We want to support, not take away.

It has been loud and clear. There is no way to offset this by playing a shell game one school board against another, one community against another. I'm reminded, as I'm going to finish here, of a famous quote from somebody we all have heard of, Stephen Covey. He always says, begin with the end in mind. If our children are the most important, will the Minister of Education let us help him? We want to be part of that solution. Let us begin with the end in mind. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. The Member has asked for a recorded vote. All those in favour, please rise.

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

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

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. In favour, eight; opposed, zero; abstentions, six. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Blake.

MOTION 23-17(5):
APPOINTMENT OF SOLE ADJUDICATORS,
CARRIED

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, WHEREAS Section 103 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act provides for the approval of sole adjudicators by motion of this House;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to have persons approved for appointment as sole adjudicators for conflict of interest matters under Section 103 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that the following persons be approved by the Legislative Assembly as sole adjudicators:

Honourable Ronald L. Barclay;

Mr. Paul D.K. Fraser;

Mr. Ronald Perozzo;

Honourable J.E. (Ted) Richard;

Honourable Marguerite Trussler.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Moses.

MOTION 24-17(5):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO OCTOBER 16, 2014,
CARRIED

MR. MOSES: Mr. Speaker, I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on June 5, 2014, it shall be adjourned until Thursday, October 16, 2014;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to October 16, 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.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

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

First Reading of Bills

BILL 31:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 1, 2014-2015

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 31, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Abernethy.

---Carried

Bill 31 has had first reading and is ready for second reading.

Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act.

---Unanimous consent granted

BILL 32:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PHARMACY ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy.

---Carried

Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act has had first reading.

Item 19, second reading of bills. Mr. Abernethy.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 29:
HUMAN TISSUE DONATION ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 29, Human Tissue Donation Act, be read for the second time.

This bill sets out a framework for which consent can be given for the use of human tissue for the purpose of transplantation, a therapeutic purpose, medical education or scientific research. In certain cases, the approval of an independent assessment committee is required and appeal of the

committee's decision to the Supreme Court is provided for.

The bill prohibits medical practitioners from participating in the determination of the death of a donor if they have had any association with the proposed recipient of the donor's tissue or if they will be involved in the transplantation procedure.

The bill also prohibits commercial activity in human tissue. Finally, the bill authorizes the Minister to enter into an agreement with other jurisdictions for mutual recognition and execution of consents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 29 has had second reading and is referred to committee.

---Carried

Mr. Beaulieu.

BILL 30:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PUBLIC SERVICE ACT

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Public Service Act to expedite the appointment of employees in order to fulfill a duty to accommodate to permit employees identified for layoffs to replace in vacant positions without disrupting the continuous employment status and to remove potential conflict of interest in the process of granting leave for political candidacy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. To the principle of the bill.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Bill 30 has had second reading and is referred to committee.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

BILL 31:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES),
NO. 1, 2014-2015

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 31, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015, be read for the second time.

The bill makes supplementary appropriations for operations expenditures for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2014-2015 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 31 has had second reading and is ready for third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with the second reading of Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act.

---Consent granted

BILL 32:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
PHARMACY ACT

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 32, An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act, be read for the second time.

This bill amends the Pharmacy Act to ensure that the provision of the act relating to the establishment, administration and operation of a program to monitor prescriptions applies, notwithstanding the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 32 has had second reading and is ready for third reading.

---Carried

Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters, with Mr. Dolynny in the chair.

By the authority given to me as Speaker by Motion 10-17(5), I hereby authorize the House to sit beyond the daily hour of adjournment to consider business before the House.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. 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. We wish to consider Bill 26, Committee Report 8-17(5) and Committee Report 9-17(5). Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Alright. We'll commence after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Welcome back, committee. I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We've agreed to consider Bill 26. I will ask the Member responsible for the bill, Mr. Bouchard, to introduce the bill, Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. On behalf of the Board of Management of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to present Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act.

This bill includes a number of changes to our elections legislation that were recommended by the Chief Electoral Officer and the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures following their respective reports on the 2011 General Election.

These changes will result in:

- more accurate voters lists;
- better access to mobile polls and absentee ballots;
- changes to the vouching rules, so that a voter can vouch for another elector in the same riding even if they are not in the same polling division; and
- clarifications to some elections processes and procedures that have raised questions in the past.

The bill will also strengthen the integrity of our electoral process by prohibiting elections officers and official agents from becoming candidates and by making it an offence to threaten a candidate or to impersonate an election officer.

Mr. Chair, those are my opening comments on Bill 26. I welcome any comments or questions Members may have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. Do you have any witnesses you would like to bring into the House today?

MR. BOUCHARD: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the House, please.

Mr. Bouchard, if you would be kind enough to introduce your witnesses to the House.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. To my left I have Chief Electoral Officer Mr. David Brock and to my right I have Ken Chutskoff, legislative counsel.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Chutskoff, Mr. Brock, for joining us here today. Committee, I'm going to now open the floor to general comments on Bill 26.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Does committee agree to go clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Committee, because of the length of this bill, does committee agree that, as chair, I can call these clauses in groups of five?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act, clauses 1 to 5. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Under clause 4, the addition or change where we're requiring to provide names and addresses, in some cases, for example, in a prison, how would this work conversely? How would it work, for example, in a shelter of some sort where people are staying there for a long time? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. For that response we'll go to Mr. Brock.

MR. BROCK: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks to the Member for the question. To the particular provision, this only enables the Department of Justice to provide the names of eligible electors who are also incarcerated persons to the Chief Electoral Officer in order to make the list of electors more accurate and complete. With respect to those individuals who may be resident in shelters, those individuals would be expected to register in the electoral system like any other elector and make sure that their name is on the list during the revision period before the official list of electors is issued to candidates. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

MR. HAWKINS: Perhaps we can get some enlightenment on how we can have access during the election process. How would a candidate have access to the names of members in shelters, and if it's a men's shelter I suspect they don't allow women candidates in there, and if it's a woman's shelter I suspect that there's challenges of men going there. So if we're adding requirements to provide names and addresses, how do we assure that we have the fulsome voters list supplied to all candidates so everyone is on the same footing? Thank you.

MR. BROCK: Thank you. I believe perhaps there are two issues there. One is an issue of the

accuracy of the list and the other is with respect to access.

With respect to the accuracy of the list, for those individuals who may be inclined or may be staying at the shelter for a longer period of time, it is hoped that they would either be registered through the normal process or during the revision period would be added to the list and, therefore, would be reflected on the official list of electors on polling day or during another polling opportunity. If that is not the case and you can see how that could arise, especially for a shelter where a stay may be for a shorter period of time, then those individuals would be eligible to register to vote at the polling station and in those cases they would be expected to complete an Oath of Elector. That is to provide their name, address and swear to an oath that they are who they say they are and they reside where they say they reside. So we have a sworn affidavit essentially of their eligibility.

To the issue of access, I think that's a different question. I think there may be value in pursuing the Member's question with those shelters to ensure that where they are of a single sex, the candidates of the alternate sex do have some opportunity if it meets the security requirements of the shelter so that all candidates would have the opportunity to provide their message as candidates so that those individuals are just as fully informed as any other elector before they cast their ballot. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thanks for that and I want to extend my appreciation to the Chief Electoral Officer for those answers. Just to continue slightly further, I just want to determine, of course, this is a requirement to provide names and addresses. How do we determine residency? In an incarceration situation I believe we determine their residency issue by their home, generally where they would define their home, I guess, and in the case of an emergency shelter when you're requiring names and addresses, how do we determine that, because normally the shelter wouldn't be their normal place of residence. We're not here to discuss what circumstance may or may not have brought them there, I'm just curious on how we determine residency. Thank you.

MR. BROCK: Thank you. With respect to the determination of residency, residency is defined in Section 1 of the act. Generally speaking, so long as an individual meets all of the eligibility requirements, there are general tests the courts use to determine residency where residency may be in question and those apply both to candidates as well as to electors. It's important to note that an elector may only have one residence at one time and so where that person claims to be a resident is certainly germane to how a court would consider that, but there are other factors to consider. For example, where are their possessions, where they

might have other family members residing, where their mail is sent to, there are a variety of factors the courts have determined and used in the past to determine an individual's residency and those would, I believe, also apply equally in the Northwest Territories.

MR. HAWKINS: One could say if a person is incarcerated, all of their things are there at that moment and one would assume then, by that logic, that they'd all become Kam Lake voters, all 200 or whatnot added to the roll.

That said, following that logic, would a shelter be determined as the residency of any resident present?

MR. BROCK: Thank you. A brief correction to what I stated, it's actually Section 2 of the act, not Section 1 that speaks to residency, but Section 2 of the act also speaks to the residency of incarcerated persons and I believe in general terms there's an understanding that though the person may be ordinarily a resident in a prison from a general perspective, the act contemplates the reality that the individual is incarcerated for a brief and defined period of time and that there's an intention, at least as the law contemplates it, that that person will return to the place where they were resident prior to the period of their incarceration.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. Would the Chief Electoral Officer consider it a continuous definition in a similar manner for an emergency shelter, which is not defined as a permanent residence but more of an emergency situation? Perhaps if I may liken it somewhat like a hotel room or a longer stay. Now, generally speaking, people tend not to stay there as a long-term solution.

MR. BROCK: Thank you. Perhaps I'll submit that it's less, with respect to my interpretation of residency and more with respect to the provision in the act. Section 2(5) speaks to those individuals who are resident at a shelter or hostel and states that a person who has no dwelling place, this is the person's place of ordinary residence. So it certainly contemplates that where a person is on that day, resident in a shelter or hostel, that becomes their place of ordinary residence in accordance with Section 2(5) of the act.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. I'll have to revisit Section 2(5). I'll have to revisit that section.

Would that determination – back to names and addresses – be determined on polling day or whatever day throughout the election period? Thank you.

MR. BROCK: Thank you. Speaking directly to the question, the determination would be made on the day in which the individual is registered to vote or, should that information change, on the day in which they are casting their ballot, in which they would need to provide that information to the polling

official, and in that sense their registration information would change when they complete the Oath of Electorate that I had spoken to previously. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Is it conceivable and how does the Chief Electoral Officer see or manage this particular issue? Is it conceivable, for example, that a 10-bed shelter has 10 different people each day and each person during the voting period could vote each time? So 10 new votes times 28 days type of thing? The example of expanding it, if the Chief Electoral Officer needs a better description, I think that's probably not per se. I'll give him a shot at that question.

MR. BROCK: Thank you. I think I'll just preface my remark by stating that I'm going to answer the question as I understand it. So if I understand incorrectly, perhaps the Member can clarify for me, but it's important to state and the law is very clear on this matter and I think it's well understood in Canada that an individual may only cast a ballot once. A general principle of Canadian election law is that it's better to err on the side of allowing individuals who are qualified electors to cast a ballot and then if we determine, after this takes place, that indeed is not the fact, we have various enforcement measures in the act to ensure that the letter of the law is enforced. But again, it's important we expected those individuals who say they are qualified electors are qualified electors and we use devices such as the Oath of Elector to ensure that we have evidence to support that claim.

MR. HAWKINS: I'm just talking about... I wish to ensure that it's clear that I enjoy the principle and certainly would support the principle of franchising voting opportunities by all extents. I just wanted to be clear on that someone is not taking advantage of a situation where we have, for example, 10 beds one day and then 10 new people come in and they get to vote under that address, and then the next day 10 new people get to vote under that address and then so on and so on and so on. In theory, in a 28-day election if it was 10 beds, 10 new people every day, you could have 280 votes out of one address that really is defined by 10 beds, which... I'm just trying to get the sense of it to ensure that we franchise people properly and that the availability for people to be candidates and share their views and work with the electorate is fair, open, transparent and consistently reasonable. That's all.

MR. DOLYNNY: I'll take that more as a comment, but if Mr. Brock wishes to respond.

MR. BROCK: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the clarification. I can't speak to the rates of turnover at shelters or hostels in the Northwest Territories, but I can say that the law provides and the system provides that a qualified elector votes once and only once, but if more than, for example,

10 individuals need to claim that shelter or hostel as their residence during the overall, roughly 28 day campaign period, then that would be acceptable under the law.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Brock. Mr. Hawkins, your time is now up. If you have any more questions, let me know. Committee, just to rekindle, we are on Bill 26 and we agreed to do in groups of five. I'll commence again. Clauses 1 to 5.

---Clauses 1 through 45 inclusive approved

Does committee agree that Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscite Act, is now ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Bill 26 is now deemed ready for third reading.

---Bill 26 approved for third reading

I'd like to thank Mr. Bouchard, sponsoring from the Board of Management, and Mr. Brock and Mr. Chutskoff for joining us here today. Sergeant-at-Arms, if I can have you escort the witnesses out of the House.

Committee, as agreed upon earlier here this afternoon, we are going to now turn our attention to Committee Report 8-17(5), Standing Committee Report on Rules and Procedures on the Report on the Review of the Auxiliary Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on Issues Arising from the 2011 General Election. I'll turn over to the chair of that committee to introduce it. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures has presented its Report on the Review of the Auxiliary Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on Issues Arising from the 2011 General Election.

The report contains 13 recommendations which, taken together, will help clarify, modernize and strengthen the NWT's electoral system. These are important incremental changes to ensure the continued integrity and fairness of our elections.

The committee advises that these changes should be made in advance of the next election.

The committee thanks the Chief Electoral Officer for his diligence and everyone who provided public input or attended the committee's hearings. I also have a number of motions.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. We'll now open up the floor to general comments. I'm hearing detail. Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 76-17(5):
VOUCHING OPPORTUNITIES INCREASED,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to

increase the number of times an elector may vouch for another elector from one to five. This is in recognition in some of our communities where more than 50 percent of the residents eligible to vote do not have government issued identification.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. I have a motion on the floor. It is not debatable. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 77-17(5):
PROHIBIT CANDIDATES FROM
VOUCHING FOR ELECTORS,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to prohibit candidates from vouching for another elector.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): The motion is on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 78-17(5):
EXPANDED COVERAGE OF GOVERNMENT-
ISSUE PHOTO IDENTIFICATION,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the Elections NWT and the Government of the Northwest Territories work together to expand the coverage of government issued photo identification among residents of the Northwest Territories.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is now carried.

---Carried

Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 79-17(5):
PROHIBIT ELECTION ADVERTISING ON
POLLING DAY AND DAY PRIOR,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that Sections 104 and 299 of the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to prohibit election advertising on polling day and the day prior.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am very glad to see this here. I have found in the two elections that I have been involved in that it has been extremely confusing. It used to talk about broadcasting. This is now talking about advertising and all kinds of election advertising, so it's going to make it much simpler. It will be clear that you don't do anything in terms of your election on the voting day and the day prior. I'm very glad to see this amendment coming forward.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My question to this is the amendment to this advertising on the day of polling, I guess, does that mean current advertising that has been in place has to be removed or is the addition of advertising and polling the day prior to or the day of?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): We're just speaking to the motion here, Mr. Bouchard. Does anyone from the committee wish to offer to the motion? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Yes, this, as Ms. Bisaro identified, clarifies the terminology under election advertising and tries to level the playing field. There are some forms of advertising that are active and can be deactivated, others that are print form that can't, and so it clarifies under election advertising which of those categories it falls into.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have to admit, I don't recall the exact detailed discussion when we had it in committee, but one of the problems we had was recognizing advertisement in general. For example, it's easy to say don't advertise in print on that day, and that makes sense to people, or for example, don't advertise on television, which in the Northwest Territories tends to be fortunate in that area. It's too expensive and these are small campaigns so you don't tend to see a lot of it, and that's what I mean by fortunate.

On the radio now, we're getting into means and mediums that people can afford and tend to advertise in, and I think that it's things like that that make a lot of sense to people. However, now we're engaged in social media and now it gets a little tricky, and so the challenge, of course, is how to balance this off. I think the intent here is – I do remember a fulsome discussion about it – if someone tweets a message advertising for a particular campaign and they are promoting them, if I recall, they may be in violation of it. So it's a bit of a quirk on this particular case. Do you have to

deactivate your Facebook account? I think there are a lot of details still to be worked out. I would not think that this is probably enough information at this particular time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Again, speaking to the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Bromley.

COMMITTEE MOTION 80-17(5):
CLARIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF
ELECTORAL ADVERTISING,
CARRIED

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the definition of elections advertising in Section 237 of the Elections and Plebiscites Act be clarified as proposed by the Chief Electoral Officer on page 13 of his auxiliary report. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 81-17(5):
REPLACE THE TERM "CAMPAIGN MATERIAL"
WITH "ELECTION ADVERTISING,"
CARRIED

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair, I move that the term "campaign material" be replaced by "election advertising" throughout the Elections and Plebiscites Act for greater clarity and certainty. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 82-17(5):
SPECIAL VOTING OPPORTUNITIES,
CARRIED

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that Section 152 to 162 of the Elections and Plebiscites Act be repealed as well as all other references to "an advanced poll"; and further, that

the Chief Electoral Officer provide the Assembly with detailed recommendations to establish a new special voting opportunity for communities without a resident returning officer, similar to voting in the office of the returning officer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 83-17(5):
PLAIN LANGUAGE FINANCING PROVISIONS,
CARRIED

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair, I move that campaign financing provisions of the Elections and Plebiscites Act be drafted in plain language with a view to improving a logical consistency. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. Motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Hawkins.

COMMITTEE MOTION 84-17(5):
LIMIT FOR ANONYMOUS
CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS,
CARRIED

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman, I move that the current limit of \$100 remain for each anonymous donation, but that each candidate be limited to a total of \$1,500 in their anonymous contributions to his or her campaign. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 85-17(5):
EXPENSES INCURRED BY CANDIDATES,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Chair, I move that the types of expenditures that may be incurred by a candidate, rather than an official agent, be

expanded to allow minor, practical expenditures. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just wonder if the chair of the committee or a member of the committee or the mover of the motion could give an example of what kind of expenditures are being talked about here. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We will go to the chair of the Rules committee for clarification. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thanks for that question. It's not unusual. In fact, it's probably more common than not that candidates have some expenses that they incur before there is an official representative, so that the financial aspects remain at arm's length. Perhaps ordering signs for a remote community or something to ensure that they are there in time, whatever it might be. Usually they are fairly modest. This is to legitimize those expenditures and make it clear that those are legitimate for the actual candidate to be doing spending early on, perhaps even before everything has been formalized.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Committee, just to be clear, we should be speaking to the motion. This process is not a process of asking questions, only in extreme cases. I have already allowed three today. Just keep that in mind here, committee. To the motion. I will go back to Ms. Bisaro. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I'm done, but it just helps if we have a bit of an explanation of the motion before we know what we are voting on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 86-17(5):
STATEMENTS OF CAMPAIGN ACCOUNTS,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Chair, I move that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to require candidates to include statements from accredited financial institutions for campaign accounts in their financial reports to Elections NWT. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. As we are discussing the motion here, it never occurred to me before now, and I think this motion needs a couple of words, which are “where practicable.” I think in some cases that accredited financial institutions becomes challenging if you are in a small community.

We did talk about the challenges a community candidate would have. If they are in a small community and they are given cash as a donation, they write a receipt, obviously, and then they need money for gas to go somewhere. The money didn't flow directly through the bank and get on the statement through that process directly, so when you do a balancing out of the receipts versus the statement, it may not necessarily match and not because of any fault of anyone.

I recognize what we want to do. I fully support the principle of the transparency of that and ensure that everything lines up and is clear and people are doing these things all aboveboard, but frankly, I worry about the practical application, as well, at the same time. The example I gave in committee is if whoever is running in Nahendeh and they just happened to be in Fort Liard and somebody comes up to them and says, here is \$500 for your campaign, they are able to issue them a receipt but they need gas money to drive back. Maybe they're driving back to Fort Simpson or wherever. They need gas. They pay for it. The challenge is the practical application of it. I certainly fully support the intent and it fully makes sense. It is just the operation of it and how do we adjust or balance off this?

The question is: Do I suggest we move an amendment to it? I think that is probably where I should do it right now. I haven't prepared for it because I just thought of it. So I would like to move an amendment to it.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): The Member is proposing an amendment to this motion. We will have to prepare that.

Before we have to break here to prepare this amendment, can the Member clearly articulate exactly what this amendment is? Thank you. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chair, I would add the following at the end of the last word and it states, “where and when practicable.”

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Committee, we will just have to break for a second to prepare an amendment to this motion. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. I will turn it over to Mr. Hawkins to read in the motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MOTION TO AMEND
COMMITTEE MOTION 86-17(5):
STATEMENT OF CAMPAIGN ACCOUNTS,
DEFEATED

MR. HAWKINS: I move that Committee Motion 86-17(5) be amended by adding the words “where and when practicable” following the words “in their financial reports to Elections NWT.”

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. Committee, the amended motion is in order. To the amended motion. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am fully in support of the context of providing statements from financial institutions. That's not the issue here. The issue here is they don't necessarily guarantee that they line up. First and foremost, if you are running from a small community that does not have a financial institution and there's no guarantee that there will be an available one every time, every election, you are then forced with options. It's easy to say there will be one in every Northern... Well, not every community has a Northern. So the issue is if someone makes a donation to a particular campaign, your receipt books guarantees that. It matches; it shows money coming in. Your expenses that you fill out in your expense report show money going out. So, whether that's going out by cheque or by cash through your elections folks, that lines up. So there's an actual balance there, Mr. Chairman.

The problem is – and we didn't really get an answer during the committee process when we had the elections officer there – what do we do when there's a discrepancy between at the accredited financial institution and the expense book? There's the issue and we didn't really get an answer. Some will say it's a reference. That's fine, it's a reference, but a reference is a reference. You've got your receipts, you've got your receipt book from donations, you've got your receipts from expenses and they should be lining up. If they don't line up, that's where you should be having problems. If you've got an accredited financial institution that issues a bank statement, this definitely means that you have to make sure everything flows there, because if there is some gap that you chose... For example, you got a donation and you spent it on gas to go somewhere or you bought some food for some people who were hungry at the moment, including yourself, what do you do? There's a gap there.

Some people will say it's easy to get one. That's fine, maybe it is in most cases, but the problem is what you do when they don't line up, and we never got an answer to that. That's a real-life situation. It

probably won't line up in all the cases. So then what type of scrutiny have you put those candidates under when they don't line up? In other words, your cash lines up from your donation. Your expenses make sense because they all are laid out, but if your financial institution, if you're able to get one, doesn't match those two. I'm just trying to keep people from being caught up in some type of situation here. We are trying to make things easier, not more challenging.

Maybe I am the only one who is seeing it this way and everyone thinks it will be fine. The moment it won't be fine to one person, that one person is going to be sweating terribly, trying to figure out how to deal with the situation. It's the administrator who will be making the rules on how they comply.

I'm just worried about the small guy. It doesn't affect anyone in Yellowknife or Hay River or Inuvik or even Fort Simpson or Fort Smith where you have normal banking institutions. If you are a candidate anywhere else, then maybe it will be a bit of a challenge. It may not be a challenge in every small community, but we have to keep that in mind. I thought we were thinking of small communities as well as large communities here. I'm just worried about those candidates who potentially could run from a small community who could be challenged, that's all.

If it fails, at the end of the day it doesn't affect me. I am just worrying about somebody it may affect. That's all that matters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the amendment. Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I realize the Member is on the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures and was present during the rather extensive discussion we had on this, which we're hearing again today. The CEO assured committee members that every community does have an accredited financial institution that would qualify. This includes co-operatives and Northern Stores. It's recognized that not every transaction will be on the record of a financial institution. I suspect that's true for all of us here today, but every receipt of dollars and every expenditure must certainly be accounted for and documented in one form or other, as Mr. Hawkins said.

This motion provides one of the tools that have been deemed by the Chief Electoral Officer to be the most useful, and committee explicitly recognized that while it may be most valuable in communities or in campaigns where dollar amounts are large and transactions are a bit more complex, it will also be a useful record in all communities, especially for the relatively large transactions that are made in each campaign. Again, it was considered a useful tool and a financial oversight quiver and its limitations were fully recognized and discussed. Committee agreed on the wording here

and specifically concluded that exceptions were not required.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. To the amendment. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Chairman, I think issues like this much better belong in regulations as opposed to into law, and to me this is where it belongs, in regulations. I mean, that's why the finessing of it can be much more appropriate.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the amendment.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The amendment is defeated.

---Defeated

Committee, we are going to go back to the original motion of 86-17(5). To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 87-17(5):
REGULATING THIRD-PARTY
ELECTION ADVERTISING,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Chief Electoral Officer provide additional research on the regulation of third-party election advertising for future consideration.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 88-17(5):
STRENGTHENING ENFORCEMENT POWERS
OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Elections and Plebiscites Act be amended to strengthen the enforcement powers of the Chief Electoral Officer, by conferring the specific power to summon persons to appear, produce documents and give evidence under oath.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Abernethy. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Does committee agree that we have considered the Report on the Review of Auxiliary Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on the Issues Arising from the 2011 General Election strengthening enforcement powers of the Chief Electoral Officer as being considered and concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. Next on our list we have Committee Report 9, Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, information and privacy legislation for municipalities and we'll go to the opening comments to the chair of that committee, Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Today the Standing Committee on Government Operations presented its report on the Review of the Northwest Territories Information and Privacy Commissioner's 2012-2013 Annual Report.

The committee thanks Ms. Elaine Keenan Bengts for her report and for her appearance before the committee on April 25, 2014.

The Information and Privacy Commissioner has been encouraging the GNWT to find ways to include municipalities under the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act or under their own legislation since her annual report of 2007-2008. The Commissioner has again repeated this recommendation in her 2012-2103 Annual Report.

The GNWT has responded to this recommendation in the past, acknowledging the importance of this work and has provided a timeline for its completion. Accordingly, the standing committee is recommending:

- that the Government of the Northwest Territories make every effort to complete the work necessary to bring municipalities under Access to Information and Protection of Privacy legislation; and
- that the government table its review report and discussion paper in the 2014 fall sitting, identify next steps and resources necessary to complete this legislative initiative within the life of the 17th Assembly.

In the same vein, the Information and Privacy Commissioner has advised the GNWT that the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act is woefully out of date. The Commissioner has recommended to the GNWT that this legislation needs to be updated and has included this

recommendation in her annual report every year for the last five years, including again this year.

The ATIPP Act is now 18 years old. We have allowed it to become antiquated, even as we recognize that most important pieces of legislation should be reviewed after five- or 10-year intervals.

The standing committee is concerned that the GNWT's legislation governing the use and disclosure of information has been allowed to become so outdated in this information age when we are increasingly recognizing the importance of information as a valuable resource that needs to be handled with care.

The committee believes that this situation cannot be allowed to persist and, therefore, recommends that:

- the government provide an updated and detailed progress report to this Assembly on work done towards a comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act; and
- that updates to the act be introduced during the life of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

Other Members may have additional comments.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. We'll open up the floor to general comments. We'll go to detail then, committee. I'll turn it over to Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 89-17(5):
INFORMATION AND PRIVACY LEGISLATION
FOR MUNICIPALITIES,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Government of the Northwest Territories complete the work necessary to bring municipalities under the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy legislation; and further, that the government table its review report and discussion paper in the 2014 fall sitting, identifying next steps and resources necessary to complete this legislative initiative within the life of the 17th Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 90-17(5):
REVIEW OF THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION
AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide an updated detailed progress report to this Assembly on work done towards a comprehensive review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act; and further, that updates to the act be introduced during the life of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nadli.

COMMITTEE MOTION 91-17(5):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE TO REPORT
WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Question has been called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee, do we agree we have concluded Committee Report 9-17(5)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, committee. What is the wish of committee? Ms. Bisaro.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 21, report of Committee of the Whole. Mr. Dolynny.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Committee has been considering Bill 26, and Act to

Amend the Elections and Plebiscite Act; Committee Report 8-17(5), Report on the Review of the Auxiliary Report of the Chief Electoral Officer on Issues Arising from the 2011 General Election; Committee Report 9-17(5), Report on the Review of the 2012-2013 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, and would like to report progress with 16 motions being adopted and that Committee Report 8 and Committee Report 9 are concluded and that Bill 26 is ready for third reading. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dolynny. Do you have a seconder to the motion? Mr. R.C. McLeod.

---Carried

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

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 31:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES)
NO. 1, 2014-2015

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 31, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 31 has had third reading.

Mr. Bouchard.

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek consent to waive Rule 34(1) and proceed with the third reading of Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act.

---Consent granted

BILL 26:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE
ELECTIONS AND PLEBISCITES ACT

MR. BOUCHARD: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act, be read for the third time. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 26 has had third reading.

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

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

I'd like to offer my sincere congratulations to many Northerners who have, over the past several months, been presented with awards to recognize their many and varied achievements, including educators, graduating students from high schools and Aurora College, "wise women," NWT volunteers, athletes and coaches, and volunteers of St. John Ambulance.

I'd like to offer my condolences to the families of loved ones who have passed away recently.

As we set to enjoy the summer months – we have waited for that for a long time – I would like to wish each of you a safe, healthy and happy summer as you take your break and enjoy quality time with your families. Please travel safely on the land, on our waters, in the air and on our highways, even as you continue to work for the betterment of all Northerners.

Please encourage and remind all your families, friends and people in your communities to be safe on the land and to wear personal floatation devices when travelling by boat on our waterways.

I look forward to seeing you all again here in the House during the fall sitting.

ASSENT TO BILLS

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills:

- Bill 8, Write-off of Debts Act, 2013-2014;
- Bill 9, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2013-2014;
- Bill 18, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act;
- Bill 24, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act;
- Bill 26, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act;
- Bill 28, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2014-2015; and
- Bill 31, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2014-2015.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Colleagues, before we close today, I would like to take this opportunity to express collective condolences to families, friends and colleagues of the RCMP officers that lost their lives or were injured in the line of duty last night in the city of Moncton. It is truly a senseless tragedy. Our hearts are heavy. We pray for Moncton.

Although this has been a relatively brief sitting of our Assembly, we have accomplished a great deal in the time available to us. You have considered and adopted seven bills, two of them dealing with supplementary appropriations; considered four committee reports; debated six motions; and referred five new bills to standing committees for further consideration during this summer and fall.

As we leave the Chamber today, it is looking like it is a very busy summer for all Members of the Assembly. There is much work to be done: reconnecting with our constituents, attending summer assemblies, travelling throughout our constituencies and beyond and maintaining a healthy life and work balance.

Despite this hectic schedule, I do encourage you all to take the time to celebrate two very special events coming up: National Aboriginal Day on June 21st and Canada Day on July 1st. As I have mentioned before, this is the perfect opportunity to celebrate both the outstanding achievements of our citizens and the diverse culture of the Northwest Territories and our special place in Canada.

As Members are well aware, we recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of this beautiful building that we call home. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you and all residents of the NWT to join us as we continue the celebrations to mark this historic occasion. We will be formally acknowledging the first recipients of the Legislative Assembly scholarship tomorrow. The scholarship was designed to support and encourage our students to pursue their academic interest in government and politics. It gives me great pleasure to share the names of our first two scholarship recipients. Please join me in congratulating Trisa Ngo and Tunchai Redvers on their notable accomplishment. We wish you continued success in your studies.

The 20th anniversary events will conclude in the fall when we unveil new building and capital site signage, upgrades to the Waterfront Park and the burial of the time capsule to help mark this important point in our history.

I also wish to note that earlier today I was pleased to receive a commemorative plaque from the NWT Legislative Assembly Building Society on the occasion of the building's 20th anniversary. The

plaque recognizes the service and considerable contributions of the directors of the society from its beginning in 1990 until its dissolution in 2013. It will be displayed outside of the building in a suitable location.

I also wish to acknowledge that this is likely the last day in the House for our acting Clerk, Ms. Colette Langlois. She has served us with great distinction. This institution, its Members and the people of the North have greatly benefited from her steady hand and stewardship. Thank you, Ms. Langlois.

And, of course, I cannot close without a thank you to the Pages who have assisted us during this session. We have had students from Ecole St. Joseph School in Yellowknife, Inualthuyak School in Sachs Harbour and Alexis Arrowmaker School in Wekweeti. Thank you to all our Pages.

I wish you all safe travels this summer as we head out on to the water and on the land and look forward to seeing you later in the summer. Madam Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Ms. Langlois):
[Translation] Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Orders of the day for Thursday, October 16, 2014, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Committee Report 7-17(5), Report on the Development of the Economic

Opportunities and Mineral Development Strategies

21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, October 16th, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

