



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Jackie Jacobson, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|-----------|
| PRAYER | 31 |
| MINISTERS' STATEMENTS | 31 |
| 3-17(1) – Sessional Statement (B. McLeod) | 31 |
| 4-17(1) – Moratorium on Evictions Due to Rental Arrears (R. McLeod) | 34 |
| MEMBERS' STATEMENTS | 34 |
| Inuvik Children First Centre (Moses) | 34 |
| Permanent Doctors Shortage in Hay River (Bouchard) | 35 |
| Action on Violence Against Women White Ribbon Campaign (Bisaro) | 35 |
| 53 rd Annual Firemen's Ball and Acknowledgement of Hay River Volunteer Firefighters and RCMP Members (Groenewegen) | 36 |
| Deh Cho Biomass Projects (Nadli) | 36 |
| Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the NWT (Bromley) | 37 |
| Moratorium on Evictions Due to Rental Arrears (Yakeleya) | 37 |
| Permanent Aviation Memorials in Yellowknife (Dolynny) | 38 |
| Tsiigehtchic Nursing Shortage (Blake) | 38 |
| Need for New Schools in Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake (Menicoche) | 38 |
| Emergency Protection Orders (Hawkins) | 39 |
| Tribute to Kenneth Frank Delorme (Beaulieu) | 39 |
| Acknowledgement of Dr. Curtis Brown (Miltenberger) | 40 |
| RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY | 40 |
| ORAL QUESTIONS | 41 |
| TABLING OF DOCUMENTS | 50 |
| NOTICES OF MOTION | 51 |
| 8-17(1) – Appointment of Deputy Chairpersons of Committee of the Whole (Beaulieu) | 51 |
| 9-17(1) – Rules Amendments for the Standing Committees of the House (Bisaro) | 51 |
| 10-17(1) – Appointments to the Striking Committee (Bisaro) | 52 |
| 11-17(1) – Appointments to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure (R. McLeod) | 52 |
| 12-17(1) – Appointments to the Standing Committee on Government Operations (Beaulieu) | 53 |
| 13-17(1) – Appointments to the Standing Committee on Social Programs (Abernethy) | 53 |
| 14-17(1) – Appointments to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures (Blake) | 53 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 15-17(1) – Consent to Interrupt Proceedings to Receive an Address from the Governor General of Canada (Yakeleya) | 53 |
| 16-17(1) – Bill C-10, Safe Streets and Communities Act (Bromley) | 54 |
| MOTIONS | 54 |
| 8-17(1) – Appointment of Deputy Chairpersons of Committee of the Whole (Beaulieu) | 54 |
| 9-17(1) – Rules Amendments for the Standing Committees of the House (Bisaro) | 54 |
| 12-17(1) – Appointments to the Standing Committee on Government Operations (Beaulieu) | 56 |
| 10-17(1) – Appointments to the Striking Committee (Bisaro) | 56 |
| 11-17(1) – Appointments to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure (R. McLeod) | 57 |
| 13-17(1) – Appointments to the Standing Committee on Social Programs (Abernethy) | 57 |
| 14-17(1) – Appointments to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures (Blake) | 58 |
| 15-17(1) – Consent to Interrupt Proceedings to Receive an Address from the Governor General of Canada (Yakeleya) | 58 |
| CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS | 58 |
| REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE | 68 |
| ORDERS OF THE DAY | 68 |

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, December 7, 2011****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:34 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

Speaker's Opening Comments

SPEAKER (Hon. Jackie Jacobson): Welcome back to the Chamber, colleagues, to resume the First Session of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

During the month of November we met often and spent many productive hours working together, taking part in departmental briefings, identifying issues and concerns facing our territory, setting up constituency offices and staff, and becoming familiar with new portfolios.

We are forming relationships, recognizing strengths and building on the knowledge and information that has been provided – all very important as we carry out our work over the next four years.

I look forward to working with all of you.

Before we begin our work, I would like to take this opportunity to extend the condolences of the House to those families and communities who have lost loved ones since we last met. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

I would like to send my special condolences to the following families in Nunakput: the family of Mary Louise Elias, of Molly Umok, of Mike Ekootak, of Terry Nokadlak and of Dolly Sydney.

My thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

Now, colleagues, I wish to advise you that I have received the following message from the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories:

Dear Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, the passage of

- Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2012-2013

during the First Session of the 17th Legislative Assembly.

Yours truly, George Tuccaro, Commissioner.

Thank you, colleagues. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. McLeod.

Ministers' Statements**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 3-17(1):
SESSIONAL STATEMENT**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I would like to welcome all Members back to the continuation of the First Session of the 17th Assembly. In this sitting we will review the capital estimates for next fiscal year and begin to debate some important issues. I believe all Members of this House have a shared interest in creating an environmentally sustainable and prosperous territory for all the people we serve. Despite some significant challenges, our territory is strong and we are even stronger when we work together.

We are still a relatively new government, but we have taken our first steps towards a shared vision: a unified, sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories. In establishing the priorities of the 17th Assembly, all Members have recognized that it is best to take a common sense approach to developing our plans for the territory. This means we must continue to responsibly manage our existing programs and services to maximize positive benefits at the community level. We must be responsible stewards of our environment, so our land and water can continue to sustain future generations. We must seek ways to find the flexibility to pay for our plans, by pressing the federal government on our borrowing limit and looking for new revenues, such as the royalties that would flow following the signing of a Devolution Agreement.

These are challenging times, Mr. Speaker, for the government and the people we serve. The global economic crisis continues to have an impact on our economy and the cost of living remains high. This will place limits on what we can do, but we can weather this storm together. In doing so, we must seek to understand the aspirations of our residents, maintain an ongoing dialogue with our stakeholders and ensure that core programs and services are sustained.

Relationships will be key to our success as an Assembly. Our territory is diverse, but we are united by common interests and a shared desire to overcome our challenges. The Government of the Northwest Territories represents all residents and is

committed to strengthening the partnerships that are needed to benefit the entire territory. We are renewing relationships with Aboriginal governments, communities and people across the Northwest Territories.

We are also looking forward to strengthening our relationships with the federal government. Last month I spoke to Prime Minister Harper about Canada's Northern Strategy and the federal vision for the North. There is good alignment between the priorities of this Assembly and the goals and objectives of the Northern Strategy. I was particularly encouraged to hear of Canada's commitment to the principle of northern governments taking on greater authority for their affairs. Devolution is an essential element in the political evolution of the Northwest Territories and a priority of this Assembly and for Canada.

This Assembly has also committed to an open and respectful dialogue with Aboriginal governments. Without this dialogue and a shared commitment to the people we serve, the promise of our future may not be realized. One of our first actions as Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly was to meet with regional Aboriginal leaders from across the Northwest Territories in Detah. We agreed that we need to find ways to work together on issues that concern all of us. I have continued to meet with chiefs and leaders, and have been given very positive signals that they are willing to work with the Government of the Northwest Territories. I have also met with community leaders, representatives from the NGO sector and industry to hear their views on how we can better work together.

The decisions we make together in this Assembly have direct and long-lasting effects on our people and our territory. The choices we make determine what programs and services we provide to our residents, how much we invest in public infrastructure, how we protect our environment and how we grow our economy. The people of the Northwest Territories rely on us to make the right choices on their behalf, choices that will help to build a unified, environmentally sustainable and prosperous Northwest Territories providing opportunities for all of us.

Creating the kind of future we want for our people is a long-term project. Many of the issues we face are the same ones that past governments faced: the need for infrastructure investment, a strong economy, employment opportunities for Northerners, a balanced approach to development, environmental stewardship, the need to address the cost of living in all communities, housing and, our most critical governance issue, devolution. These are long-term challenges that require long-term plans.

Northerners are familiar with long-term challenges and because of that, we are a patient people. We

waited for six years for the Mackenzie Gas Project to work its way through the environmental and regulatory review process and it has now been approved by the federal government. In those six years there were investments made by this government, business owners and individuals to prepare for the pipeline. I believe those investments will see a significant return. We are closer now than we have ever been to finalizing this basin-opening project. In its recent report on Canada's Energy Future, the National Energy Board stated that by 2020 the price of natural gas will be high enough to make the project economically feasible. With the cooperation of the proponents and the federal government, we expect to see construction of the pipeline start in 2015.

Strengthening and diversifying our economy is a priority of this Assembly. One of the ways that we can do that is by securing funding for strategic infrastructure investments, including:

- investments in the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway to help to support sustainable development in the region, including oil and gas and mining projects, and work towards completion of a Mackenzie Valley Highway;
- P3 private sector investments for the Mackenzie Valley fibre optic link to improve communications infrastructure in communities along the route, support the operation of the Inuvik satellite station, and position our communities to become players in the expanding international digital economy;
- investments in hydro initiatives to provide lower cost and environmentally friendly power to our residents and our businesses, lowering the cost of living for our residents, and making investment in the Northwest Territories more feasible and more attractive.

These infrastructure projects represent the economic futures of this territory and are critical to achieving our vision, goals and priorities. Without them we will continue to struggle. But the limited fiscal flexibility we face will make it difficult for us to invest in projects like these that will create positive benefits for Northerners. We are working with the federal government to address our borrowing limit and to see a Devolution Agreement that will bring much needed resources to the Northwest Territories and allow us the flexibility we need.

Mr. Speaker, investing in infrastructure that will help grow our economy is one of the ways that we can create jobs in our communities. The Conference Board of Canada recently determined that employment in the Northwest Territories is expected to rise by 3.4 percent this year. This is good news; however, we will continue to work to increase employment opportunities where they are most needed. At the same time, we need to make

sure that our people have the personal resources to take advantage of new opportunities. That means supporting them through education and training, including a review of the Student Financial Assistance Program, as well as helping them address issues like addictions and mental wellness.

Addressing housing needs is another priority of our government that links to our economic and social agendas. We know that housing is a major determinant of health and that lack of housing makes economic development difficult, especially in our communities. Completing and implementing the Shelter Policy Review will provide a long-term strategic framework for delivering housing in the Northwest Territories and give us a basis for undertaking specific actions on this priority, including actions to help public housing tenants deal with arrears.

Affording our plans will be a challenge. Minister Miltenberger will be providing Members with a fiscal and economic update tomorrow and we know the fiscal situation will be tight. This will limit our flexibility to make needed investments, negotiating four collective agreements, or deal with unknown or unexpected expenditures. Our aim is to protect our existing programs and services, so we will have to find ways to increase our flexibility. One thing we need to do is finalize our work with the federal government on our borrowing limit. We will also have to work at the F/P/T table to successfully conclude negotiations on a renewed Health and Social Transfer Agreement.

While our immediate fiscal situation is difficult, we will manage our way through the challenge. With limited resources for new programs and services, we will have to make careful choices about how we spend our money. Planning will be more important than ever, and the Government of the Northwest Territories will be developing our approach that will help us address these issues. Our decisions will be guided by the vision of this Assembly. We have spent several weeks together as Members, discussing the challenges and opportunities ahead of us. Those discussions will inform our plans and we will continue to see your input as we move forward.

There are a few things we will need to keep in mind as we develop our approach:

- Our decisions will need to be fair and balanced, taking the needs and interests of all of our residents, communities and regions into account.
- We will have to be strategic. We cannot do everything all at once, so we will have to focus our attention on those areas where our efforts can create the greatest long-term benefits for our people.

- Above all, we will have to be realistic, clearly understanding of the challenges and opportunities we face and what we can do about them in the context of our fiscal situation.

We are early in the mandate of this government and our plans are still in development, but there are already some areas that will demand our attention, including:

- concluding an agreement on devolution;
- working with the federal government to increase our borrowing limit;
- forging strong working relationships with Aboriginal governments;
- working with our partners to protect our land and waters;
- developing a socially responsible and environmentally sustainable economic development and mining strategy;
- finding creative ways to address addictions, mental health and promote wellness;
- addressing housing needs through the Shelter Policy Review; and
- making strategic investments in our infrastructure.

Much of our work is interrelated. Action on one priority will support action on other priorities. We cannot address social issues like poverty and dependence if we do not have a strong economy. We cannot have a strong economy if we do not have healthy, educated people able to run businesses and fill jobs in our communities, or houses for them to live in. We cannot have healthy people if we do not have a healthy, sustainable environment.

At the beginning of this Assembly I made a commitment to doing business differently. As part of that, I have reached out to Aboriginal and community leaders to hear their views. We have taken the same approach to working with Members of this House. All of Cabinet has made the commitment to work effectively with Members through respectful dialogue and an ongoing commitment to the people we all serve. We encourage all Members of this House to remain focused on our goal of a prosperous and sustainable future for our territory.

We know that we face some significant challenges, but we also have some real opportunities to make a better and more prosperous territory for all our residents. The vision, goals and priorities identified by this Legislative Assembly provide the basis for a balanced, realistic agenda that will help us achieve success on all fronts – social, economic, environmental. I look forward to working with all Members over the next few months as we develop

and review our plans to implement the direction we have set for ourselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Before we go on, colleagues, I would like to recognize a few of my constituents in the House today: my Mayor of Tuktoyaktuk, Mr. Mervin Gruben and Miss Emily Kudlak. Welcome to the House. Thank you.

The honourable Minister of the NWT Housing Corporation, Mr. McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 4-17(1):
MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS
DUE TO RENTAL ARREARS

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to inform Members that the Housing Corporation will be offering a one-time temporary moratorium on evictions for public housing clients with arrears.

This moratorium is consistent with the work the Housing Corporation has been undertaking over the past few years to encourage tenants with arrears to work with local housing organizations to find solutions to maintain their tenancies. We are committed to helping tenants in arrears to find positive solutions to become successful public housing tenants.

Postponing evictions due to arrears is a unique situation, is only temporary and will end on April 1, 2012. To be clear, we will continue to attempt to collect from those that do not pay their rent or do not enter into a repayment plan on any outstanding arrears. However, we will not take the final step of eviction during this moratorium. It must also be emphasized that this postponement is only for situations stemming from arrears. Tenants who damage their units or violate their leases in other ways will still be evicted.

I am hopeful that the tenants see this as a real opportunity to address their arrears, instead of worrying about being evicted this winter. This moratorium should not be looked at as a chance for tenants to stop paying their rent or paying their arrears. All that does is lead to bigger debts and a strong possibility of eviction action this spring when the moratorium ends.

As Members know, the 17th Legislative Assembly has made addressing housing needs a priority. We will complete and implement the Shelter Policy Review, which will include introducing a new public housing rent scale that is fair and sustainable. The Shelter Policy Review will provide an overall framework to implement positive changes for housing in the Northwest Territories and this moratorium will allow our public housing tenants with arrears some time to address their debts before these changes come into effect.

No one wants to see residents evicted from public housing units. LHOs work tirelessly, counselling

tenants and giving them ample opportunity to resolve their arrears. The reality is that evictions do not happen very often, with just a few occurring each year. This is a clear result of the Housing Corporation's and LHOs' hard work and commitment to working with tenants to maintain their tenancies. Unfortunately, despite all efforts, there are some situations where an eviction becomes necessary.

I would again encourage any public housing tenant with arrears to contact their LHO and take advantage of the opportunity provided by the moratorium to resolve their outstanding issues.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Moses.

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INUVIK CHILDREN FIRST CENTRE

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Priorities set by the Members of the 17th Legislative Assembly include increased employment opportunities where they are most needed. One facet of that priority is supporting child care programs to help parents become or stay employed. In the No Place for Poverty report drafted in 2010, the number two recommendation is child care, that any effort to adjust poverty must include quality, accessible, affordable and reliable child care and early childhood development.

Research has proven that children who have access to early childhood development programs have a high success rate further in life. This would address some of our social issues that we are facing today in the North. More importantly, recently the Town of Inuvik has contributed \$2.3 million to an early childhood development centre in Inuvik. That goes above and beyond the mandate of the town council and shows that they have a vested interest in the community of Inuvik and the members of their riding as well.

Also, there is a group of dedicated volunteers, the Children First Society, who have worked endless hours to fundraise \$1.5 million over the past couple of years for the same cause. The current facility, the Inuvik Child Development Centre, has 46 licensed spots. With the new school being built and ready for move in in the fall of 2012, these spots, this facility is not going to be available anymore for future use.

The proposed new child care facility is said to have 120 spots available for people and children of Inuvik. This would allow single parents to get back into the workforce and would give families an opportunity to become a double-income household. More importantly, it would give the children of Inuvik

an early start into living a successful, healthy and educated life. The people of Inuvik have invested time, energy and money for the future of the community, the region and, more importantly, the future of the children.

Currently, the Children First Society is seeking an additional \$1.5 million to complete the centre.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. MOSES: One avenue that the Children First Society has taken is through the Aviva Community Fund. Should they be successful, they would receive a grant in the amount of \$150,000. They've been doing a great job, working long hours and doing a lot of campaigning in this area.

As the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake riding, I'm in strong support of this challenge and in strong support of this facility. I encourage the people of the Northwest Territories to also jump on board and go to the Aviva Community Fund website and put a vote in on a daily basis to go for this Children First Centre.

I would also like support from this government to ensure that the Children First Centre does become a reality in this government, and that we can provide the same infrastructure and programs in all communities across the Northwest Territories.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PERMANENT DOCTORS SHORTAGE IN HAY RIVER

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to speak about a large problem that we're having in Hay River. For several years now, our local hospital does not have any permanent doctors. Hay River is one of the largest communities in the North and we do not have any permanent doctors. The Hay River hospital is a regional centre that helps out a lot of the members in the community as well as the surrounding communities. The local hospital authority has been working with locums for several years now. I know that the hospital authority has been successful in getting a lot of locums to flow through Hay River. There are some times when we don't have any doctors.

The lack of permanent doctors is lowering the quality of health care in Hay River. Patients are seeing a different doctor every time they attend the hospital or the medical clinic. The lack of permanent doctors is costing this government more money. Costs are higher when individuals have to

be shipped out of the community because there are no doctors to admit them.

I'm asking the territorial government to help the community of Hay River to get permanent doctors.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ACTION ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday was December 6th, the 22nd anniversary of the Montreal Massacre, a horrendous and violent act against women in 1989 that took place at the Ecole Polytechnique de Montreal: the shooting of 23 women in the engineering program, 14 of whom were killed.

December 6th is titled Canada's National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. I attended a vigil last night to honour and remember the 14 victims of the Montreal Massacre and to honour and remember all women who have been killed or affected by violence. It was heartening to see the Premier, the Minister responsible for Women, at the vigil, as well as the Minister of Justice. Every year the number of men at the vigil commemorating the Montreal Massacre grows.

I note that many Members of this House are wearing a white ribbon today. That's also heartening. The White Ribbon Campaign signifies men working to end violence against women. Wearing a white ribbon is a man's personal pledge to never commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women and girls. Wearing a white ribbon is a way of saying our future has no violence against women. I congratulate and thank each and every man who wears the white ribbon showing that commitment.

The NWT has a very high incidence of violent acts against women and particularly against Aboriginal women, almost double the rate in southern jurisdictions. In Nunavut it's four times the rate in the South.

In 1989 the Coalition on Family Violence, of which the GNWT is an integral part, a coalition of 21 non-government and government organizations was formed. In 2003 the coalition developed the NWT Family Violence Action Plan: Phase 1. In November 2009 the coalition produced the Family Violence Action Plan: Phase 2, a document that was a successor to Phase 1 of the action plan. The coalition has been actively pursuing Phase 2 of the plan over the last two years, but it's a plan whose funding will sunset at the end of March 2012.

Some months ago the coalition developed and published Phase 3 of the Family Violence Action Plan, following on the activities in Phase 2. The

Phase 3 Family Violence Action Plan has 19 recommendations which will require continued funding by the GNWT for any results to be realized.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MS. BISARO: In the last 10 years we've made progress in battling family violence and particularly violence against women. Increased access to shelters is just one example of the coalition's successes. Now is not the time to stop the activities of the coalition. Ongoing and constructive work must continue. The job is not yet complete. We cannot yet say our future has no violence against women.

I will have questions for the Minister of the Executive at the appropriate time.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
53RD ANNUAL FIREMEN'S BALL
AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF
HAY RIVER VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS
AND RCMP MEMBERS

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to make note of a couple of events recently held in Hay River. This past Saturday night was the 53rd Annual Firemen's Ball and the 61st anniversary of the Hay River Volunteer Fire Department. This annual ball is an opportunity for members of the fire department and their flames – that's their significant others – to attend a gala event to celebrate and receive recognition for their accomplishments of the past year.

Again this year, in Chief Ross Potter's annual report, those gathered heard of the many calls and responses made in the community. We also heard of the many training milestones attained by the various members as they continued to expand their skill set and credentials as ambulance attendants and fire call responders.

The volunteer fire department also contributes many hours of public awareness and safety campaigns and other community service organizations. This year Chief Potter commented on the 185 cumulative years of experience of the members of the Hay River Fire Department, and that includes and is averaged with the many new members who have recently joined the department. They responded to 296 emergency calls, attended 71 training events and each averaged 127 hours of volunteer work.

This group of firefighters seems to be getting younger every year, are highly motivated and competent, and this is something to be proud of in a

time when other types of service organizations are struggling to replace members who have retired or moved on and having challenges with recruiting new and young members to carry on the work on behalf of the community.

The event was emceed by Deputy Chief Vince McKay, who is next to Chief Potter with 28 years. The deputy chief is the longest serving member next to the chief, with 17.3 years of service.

This evening also sees the presentation of the Firefighter of the Year. This year's recipient was Sara Conley, who was recognized for the second year in a row as the Firefighter of the Year. It was very nice to see how many women are now serving in the Hay River Fire Department. Ms. Conley clocked 320 volunteer hours of service this past year.

I'd like to thank the Town of Hay River for their support of the department. I'd like to thank the employers of the firefighters, who allow them to leave their place of employment to attend the fire calls. Also to the families of our firefighters for their support of their family member who works to keep our community safe.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I said I was going to talk about two events, not just one, but I only made it through the first one. Sorry.

On the subject of keeping our communities safe, I also had the opportunity to attend an evening of appreciation for our local RCMP. This event was organized by Terry Rideout and was attended by members of our Hay River detachment as well as the administrative branch office in Hay River. I'd also like to thank our new Minister of Justice, Glen Abernethy, for taking time on his weekend to come to Hay River to attend this RCMP appreciation event.

On behalf of the people of Hay River, I would like to thank the members of our volunteer fire department under the leadership of Chief Ross Potter, and the members of our Hay River detachment under the direction of Sergeant Scott Buchanan for all they do on and off duty to make Hay River the community that it is.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DEH CHO BIOMASS PROJECTS

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Government of the Northwest Territories released a Biomass Strategy in 2010. It's time to put it into action.

Fort Providence is the ideal location for a biomass-based business. It is surrounded by forests, on the Mackenzie River, and at the junction of Highways No. 1 and No. 3, only distances from Yellowknife and Hay River where more and more homes and businesses are using wood pellets. Biomass products produced in Fort Providence could be shipped by barge to communities along the Mackenzie River.

Like most Northwest Territories communities, many people in Fort Providence already heat their homes with wood. The biomass industry would complement the traditional economy, take advantage of people's existing land skills, and offer opportunities for employment.

[Translation] Recently the Environment Minister visited Fort Providence and he talked to people about biomass, from the meeting, in the future how are we going to be able to heat our homes using wood from around the area. In regard to that, they talked about woodchips and how they can work with the people in Fort Providence to possibly come out with a biomass production project. I feel that if there are further meetings in regard to this, it would be helpful. [Translation ends]

Deh Cho region is important to the Northwest Territories Biomass Strategy. There's a pellet mill at Checkpoint in Jean Marie River which once operated a saw mill. We need to find ways to enhance the project at Checkpoint and get the sawmill back into production. Kakisa, Enterprise and the Hay River Reserve are also interested in opportunities for biomass. We can use this motivation to build our economy on sustainable resources.

The Deh Cho is a region of great potential. Fort Providence could be the biomass capital of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE NWT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past six weeks our residents have been shocked to see open water in Tuk Harbour in November. We saw plus 14 degree temperatures in Fort Liard in December, and roller-coaster weather with repeated changes of 20 to 30 degrees from day to day in Yellowknife that defies predictability or preparedness.

We know such huge change brings unprecedented costs, often in unpredictable ways and at rates faster than ever contemplated. The City of Yellowknife hires staff now to clear high snow loads a month earlier than ever before. We have learned to expect the unexpected. Given the phenomena

we are witnessing, the only sure thing is that whatever happens, without effective actions the costs will be ever greater. In the face of this stark reality, our government has the opportunity to provide the leadership required.

Canada understands and accepts that global emissions must be reduced from 1990 levels by at least 25 percent by 2020 to avoid dangerous climate change with all that means in terms of loss of life, species and the ability of ecosystems to support us. Unfortunately, the disconnect between climate change talks in Durban and scientific reality is stark. Despite acknowledging the science, Canada has allowed a 30 percent increase in emissions while adopting a weak-kneed commitment of 2 percent reductions by 2017, a goal clearly unachievable under current measures.

In Durban last week, Canada said that without movement from large industrial emitters, we will not budge. Yet, when China announced openness to a more flexible position, Canada was not prepared to live up to its end of the bargain, with the Minister saying that even if China moves, Canada's position is set in stone. Despite Canada being in the top 10 global emitters, we can expect no real action from the feds. Under this leadership, the polluters are clearly the winners and the people suffer the consequences.

According to our Greenhouse Gas Strategy, the GNWT is prepared to allow our emissions to surge by almost 100 percent above 1990 levels by 2020. Given what we know, such policy followed through by any jurisdiction would constitute a crime against humanity. I, for one, and hopefully my colleagues, too, want no part in this.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, I call upon all concerned residents to let all orders of government know that they want prompt, effective and timely action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions based on the accepted science. Our leadership has recognized that federal action is insufficient, that sub-national governments like us must provide the leadership needed. To fail in this commitment would be to fail our people. I am looking for that leadership. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS DUE TO RENTAL ARREARS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This afternoon I was going to do a Member's statement on the school in Colville Lake and the health centre with their honey bucket system that they have there

– it doesn't smell too good – but I want to change that to what I just heard from the Minister of the Housing Corporation talk about: the moratorium on the arrears with the people in the Northwest Territories.

I think the Minister made a good statement. It's Christmas and maybe that's a gift to the people in the public housing units, that they have a huge present from the Government of the Northwest Territories for them until April 2012.

I applaud the Members around this House here for raising this issue, and Cabinet, under the leadership of Premier Bob McLeod, to look at this and say this is something very serious that we need to deal with with our people and not kick them out this winter. There are people right down the valley in the Northwest Territories that have huge amounts of arrears, some because they do not go to the Housing Association to let them know that they're not working. If they don't go there, they are charged automatic economic rent, whatever it costs for that unit. Some of them are stuck after that with a huge amount of arrears. However, that can be worked out. I take this as a real opportunity to work with the people, educate our people on these units, and looking at how do we come together to reduce the arrears or the amount of money owing to the Housing Corporation.

A little bit of history here: I talked to a person last night who was at a housing meeting in the 1970s that spoke about how the government said you'll only pay \$2 a month for the rest of your life if you move into housing. Now that's changed so much.

I will ask the Minister other questions on the arrears and how that will work with this announcement on the public housing units. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PERMANENT AVIATION MEMORIALS IN YELLOWKNIFE

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, there is no denial that this has been a very difficult year in the world of northern aviation. Recent air tragedies and the recent loss of aviation pioneers like Mr. Paul Laserich of Adlair Aviation have made some of Range Lake constituents ask what can be done to remind us of the ongoing contribution of aviation in our communities and to commemorate those who risk their lives for the safety and well-being of others.

Bush Pilots Monument in Yellowknife's Old Town was established in 1967, dedicated to bush pilots and engineers who lost their lives flying in the Northwest Territories in the 1920s and the 1930s. Although the contribution of these individuals should not be marginalized, the Northwest

Territories has yet to formally establish a permanent memorial for those who have lost their lives since. It is sad to say, but 44 years have passed for the Bush Pilots Monument, and apart from a new plaque in 1999 and the maintenance by the City of Yellowknife, we, as a territory, have done very little to commemorate our fallen northern aviation heroes.

For the record, there are no other official aviation memorial sites in the Northwest Territories. However, we know that the Government of the Northwest Territories is allocating upgrades to the Norman Wells float base that is to include an aviation museum. Therefore, I ask this government why an aviation memorial could not also be incorporated during these upgrades. It would seem simple, but as Northerners who depend so much on aviation travel, wouldn't we agree that having multiple aviation memorial sites throughout our land would be the proper way to deal with respect? Many think so, including the constituents of Range Lake.

Mr. Speaker, as a resident of the North, I am always concerned why it takes a series of public tragedies for one to reflect on why something has not been done correctly. Therefore, in the spirit of respect and moving forward, I ask that this government look at formally establishing permanent memorials for our northern aviation pilots and for those aviation victims who have sacrificed their lives since 1967. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TSIIGHTCHIC NURSING SHORTAGE

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For a number of years the community of Tsiightchic has been asking for a full-time nurse to be permanently stationed in Tsiightchic. The community has also set aside housing, should a full-time nurse be available to work in the community. I do believe there is legislation stating that every community must have a nurse. I would like to let the honourable Minister of Health know that I am willing to assist him in any way I can to meet the needs of the community.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEED FOR NEW SCHOOLS IN NAHANNI BUTTE AND TROUT LAKE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] ...things I will be talking about and I would like to talk to you in regard to education and

about wondering how you might be able to assist us in coming up with a new school. [Translation ends]

...and I also know that money is going to be very tight, as Mr. Premier had said. But that is no excuse for planning for the needs of the people in Nahendeh, and particularly the young people of Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake who need new schools.

It seems we can spend more than \$100 million on a super school in Inuvik and more than \$180 million on the Deh Cho Bridge. Next to these projects, schools in Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake may be tiny but they are no less important. We have to educate our students wherever they live, including in our small communities.

The school in Nahanni Butte is an old log building. It really does need to be replaced. We also need to get started in Trout Lake. The situation there is even worse. Technically there is no school. Parents send their kids to the recreation centre for classes. Government has told the community that this was temporary, and this has been going on for way too long. The teachers are working hard, but the current system is not fair to them either. Their students that are from kindergarten to Grade 10 are jammed in the small, renovated area in the recreation centre. There is no gym in the community as well. I have been pushing for new schools in Trout Lake and Nahanni Butte for several years. What does it take to get some action for these communities?

It is the Department of Education's duty to provide students with a healthy learning environment and that duty extends to all students across this territory, not just Inuvik and Yellowknife.

I want this government to do what is right and spend its money on the most important necessities in our regions and small communities. A decent education and facilities is a fundamental right. That means schools in Trout Lake and Nahanni Butte should be built before we spend money on new mega projects. The planning must begin now. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDERS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to talk about emergency protection orders and the concerns that have arisen out of that.

The Protection Against Family Violence Act has been in force for about six years now, and I have no doubt that the emergency protection orders that have been issued have been instrumental in preventing violence against many people such as

women and children. However, recent events have certainly highlighted potential abuse in this process and it has created terrible consequences that we have seen. The act does not provide relief for people who have been subjected to emergency protection orders that have been based on false claims and information. In the end, the onus for that person to clear themselves has been defined as someone who has had threatening or violent behaviour is they have to go to court and pay the court costs themselves to clear their name. The fair and unnatural justice isn't a prevalent solution in this particular case. It falls upon the accused to now prove that they have become the victim.

Now that the emergency protection order process has been in place for a few years, I think it is now a good opportunity to take a look at this particular process to see how we can make sure that the system is fair for both those who are seeking protection and justice as well as those who have been accused. Ultimately, the question today before the House will lie is simply this: Will the Department of Justice allow an injustice process to stand or will they find a way to work through it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON TRIBUTE TO KENNETH FRANK DELORME

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to pay tribute to Kenneth Frank Delorme of Fort Resolution who passed away in October. He was more commonly known as Tinker.

Ken Delorme was born on April 12, 1969, and passed away on Monday, October 24, 2011. He was only 42 years old.

Ken had terminal cancer, with no cure, and spent many months in the hospital in the North and the South. Although Mr. Delorme may have been in a lot of pain and turmoil, he never once complained. Ken was a Metis man who loved life and lived it with a passion. He kept his humour about him until the day of his passing.

Ken was a family-oriented man who devoted a great deal of his time to his wife, children and siblings. He always felt connected to the land and enjoyed nothing more than being outdoors in the wilderness.

Tinker was a good hunter, trapper and fisherman and provided for his family. He learned to do the cultural and traditional skills at a very young age from his father and maintained this for his entire life. He always made sure he was never short, or his family was never short, of wild meat, fish or foods from the land. Tinker worked as a carpenter, truck driver and buffalo rancher.

Mr. Kenneth Delorme was a young man with a lot of wisdom. Over the past four years I got to know Ken. He gave me a lot of good, sound advice. It was always given for the benefit of the people of Fort Resolution. When I spoke to him for the very last time, he said, "Remember, we still have to build a road to Big Eddy." For my friend Tinker, I will continue to work on that road.

Tinker is survived by his wife Cynthia; five children, Travis, Kenneth, Jordan, Adam and Tia; two grandchildren, Hailey and Harlin; four siblings, Lucy, Warren and his wife Velma, Richard and Grant; numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and a great-nephew. He was very close to all of his family and spent a lot of time with them. Tinker was a son of the late Eva Fabien and Angus Delorme.

Today I would like to pass my condolence on to his family and friends, especially his wife and kids. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DR. CURTIS BROWN

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise today to pay tribute, as well, to a constituent on the recent achievements of this constituent. That constituent is Dr. Curtis Brown, who is with us in the gallery today. He is an educator that has spent 23 years or so working between Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, mainly in the Northwest Territories and mainly his time as superintendent of the South Slave Divisional Education Council.

In that capacity, Dr. Brown has provided innovative leadership. His leadership over the years has been recognized in the North by the Government of the Northwest Territories. In 2006 he received the Premier's Award for Excellence; in 2009, the Premier's Award for Collaboration; in 2009, again, the Excellence in Education Award.

Most recently Dr. Brown has been awarded the 2011 Canadian Superintendent of the Year by the Canadian Association of School Administrators for his work in the Northwest Territories. This is a prestigious award. It is equivalent to the Stanley Cup for administrators, and it is a singular achievement for a Northerner to make it. It is a credit to Dr. Brown. It is a credit to the government and to the Department of Education and he has served the people of the Northwest Territories very well by those achievements. As a result of this award, he also gets to go to Houston, Texas, in February, to represent Canadian Superintendents at the American Association of School Superintendents.

I would like to ask colleagues in this House to join with me in congratulating Dr. Brown for his singular award and thanking him for his years of service.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mr. Lafferty.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize some of the people in this gallery, members of the Official Languages Board and Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board here in Yellowknife this week as part of their board meetings. They are in the gallery joining us today. Vance Sanderson from Fort Smith, Emily Kudlak from Ulukhaktok, Lucy Lafferty from Behchoko, Georgina Biscaye from Fort Resolution, Margaret Leishman from Kakisa, Rosa Mantla from Behchoko, Elizabeth Hardisty from Fort Simpson, Nadine Koe from Yellowknife, Dora Grandjambe from Norman Wells, Wendy Mantla from Behchoko, Ann Kochon-Orlias from Colville Lake, and also I would like to recognize Albert Canadien who is the director of official languages within our department.

I would like to recognize Dr. Brown who just received his prestigious award. Congratulations. I would like to also recognize my constituent Jonas Lafferty who is a Tlicho interpreter from Behchoko, and also Barb Zoe, my new constituency assistant out of Behchoko. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a constituent of Kam Lake, Mr. Jeff Corradetti.

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

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a couple of people in the gallery. I'd like to recognize the father of my grandson, Mr. Vance Sanderson – he's chairman of the Official Languages Board – and my cousin Georgina Biscaye from Fort Resolution. She's the chairman of the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure to recognize my eldest sister Betty, Elizabeth Hardisty, who is in the gallery with the Official Languages Board. Great to see her here. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure to recognize today an ex-constituent who

has now moved into the Kam Lake riding, Mr. Jeff Corradetti. I'd also like to recognize constituent Cheryl Fountain and last but not least my hardworking constituency assistant, Amanda Mallon. Welcome to the House.

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

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Myrtle Graham, my new constituency assistant, and she's from Hay River North. Thank you.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize constituent Jane Charlie and her two boys from Inuvik and I'm not sure if she's still here, but Ms. Lillian Elias from Inuvik as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize two Languages Board representatives from the Sahtu: Dora Grandjambe from Norman Wells and Ann Orlias from Colville Lake.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 12-17(1): CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IN THE NWT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to follow up from my statement earlier today with questions for the Minister of the Environment. I'd like to ask the Minister if he does indeed agree with the science that has overwhelmingly been stated by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, that global emission must be reduced by at least 25 to 40 percent by 2020 from the levels in 1990. Thank you.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The science as it pertains to climate change is not under dispute or question by the government. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. I appreciate that response. Still, given that and given that we are one of the richest countries in the world – and indeed on average one of the richest regions in Canada – how can this government justify doubling our greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels or 66 percent from 2005, 66 percent-plus, when we need to reduce by 25 to 40 percent by 2020? How can

we justify that and expect other partner jurisdictions around the world to reduce their emissions when they're in a much poorer and more strident state? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. What we as a territorial government can justify is the \$60 million that we've put into alternative energy, the work we've done with our Greenhouse Gas Strategy, the work we've done in the areas of biomass, wind, geothermal, hydro, the work that we will have done and will continue to do in those areas. The construction standards, the attempts to look at efficiencies across the North. So we are a northern jurisdiction and we recognize we have a heavy reliance on fossil fuels, but we are doing things that I think are very progressive and I have no trouble speaking to those. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you. Again, given what we know and given what's required, will the Minister commit to developing a firm track of actions to achieve the necessary 25 percent or greater reductions from 1990 levels in our emissions by 2020? Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: This government intends to follow through on the work that's been laid out in a recently concluded Greenhouse Gas Strategy, and the path laid out in that strategy to look at how we will set targets and meet our obligations as a territory within Canada, of course, and as inhabitants of planet earth. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I did note the Premier's statement today that we must be responsible stewards of our environment so our land and water can continue to sustain future generations. Indeed, it's future generations that we're talking about here.

This morning in Durban, the Canadian youth delegation was kicked out of the talks because of their civil disobedience. The Canadian Youth Coalition, of course, includes some residents of the Northwest Territories that I'm very proud of. They stood up during the talks, turned around and on the backs of their sweatshirts or T-shirts were the words "Turn your backs on Canada." I have to ask why would they go to such extremes. It's simply because these are the people that we are making policies for. These are the people that will be dealing with all of the impacts, et cetera, of such policies. So I would like to ask, because they are the ones who will suffer the consequences of our policies and actions, what words does the Minister have to explain our policies, which essentially amount to a crime against humanity, given our understanding of the science, as the Minister has stated today. Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. It appears we're going to take up where we left off in the 16th Assembly.

I totally disagree and reputed the Member's allegation that somehow this government, this Assembly is engaged in crimes against humanity. We are doing an enormous amount of good work, not up to the Member's standards maybe, but very, very progressive work as it pertains to water, as it pertains to mitigation adaptation to climate change, putting significant amounts of money to that, and to put us in the same category as Gbagbo and some of these folks from Serbia and other folks that have been charged over the years, Nazis and stuff with crimes against humanity is I think to me unacceptable and does nothing to help us carry on a respectful dialogue on the best way forward. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 13-17(1):
MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS
DUE TO RENTAL ARREARS

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was very pleased to hear the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation announce a freeze on the evictions for public housing tenants who have arrears. I wanted to ask the Minister when will this policy come into effect and what steps will the people who have arrears have to take to address them between now and April 2012.

I want to thank the Minister and this government for a good Christmas present for the people in the Northwest Territories.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister for Housing, Mr. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The moratorium actually will take effect right away.

As far as the Member's question goes as to what steps do they have to take, we want to encourage public housing tenants to go to their LHOs, enter into repayment plans, not only enter into them, we would ask that they honour them, because, as I said in my Minister's statement, come April 1st for those that haven't entered into and honoured their repayment plans, evictions will happen.

MR. YAKELEYA: I've received notice from Deline that there were a lot of people on the eviction list that have to go through that legal process. This government, through the Minister, has put a moratorium to not go through that legal process. I want to ask the Minister, given the time to educate the people on the arrears if the tenants are not quite there and given the amount of time that we have, and not honour their repayment plan or to look at what the Minister's hoping to do, what are

the consequences for those tenants not quite there to start working on their arrears?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The process that the LHOs are going to follow is all the processes that are in place right now will continue to move ahead. So if there are terminations or rental officer hearings, those processes will not stop. The actual evictions will not happen until April 1st. This gives people ample opportunity to try and get into repayment plans.

The Member asked about the consequences, obviously, and as much as we don't want to do it, come April 1st evictions will happen, and then it's going to be a shame that these people haven't stepped up to the plate after having another opportunity on top of the many that they've already had before.

MR. YAKELEYA: I take this announcement as a golden opportunity to educate people in public housing units with arrears, to look at the responsible side of paying your bills and look at some of the consequences of not paying them. Some of the tenants that we have are fairly young. They think that whatever you damage or break in these units, windows and that, that the government will be there automatically to fix these places. What about the people – I just want to confirm – who are not being responsible for their units, through partying or damages? Will they be part of the evictions as the Minister has stated?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The process won't change at all for those who are being terminated or evicted with cause, damaging units and the likes of that. Those terminations and evictions will go ahead. The moratorium only applies to rental arrears and rental arrears only.

MR. YAKELEYA: I believe the Minister is being very clear that this is a one-time event and that people really need to address their arrears. I'm hoping that the Minister has a good educational plan to help people become informed as to their arrears and how they can be able to start paying off their arrears. Can the Minister inform me in the House here what type of plans they have with the Shelter Policy review and the rent scale review?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The Member makes a very good point, that this is another opportunity to deal with the tenant arrears. Our TROs actually work very closely with the tenants to try and educate them on the responsibility that they have as clients. In many cases in the past we've had numerous opportunities where we've tried to contact tenants, in some cases up to 18 times, and tenants are given chance after chance after chance. We're hoping that they don't see this as another opportunity to put off what they should be taking care of.

I still believe that some people will step up to the plate and that's our goal in all of this, because this is, as the Member said, a one-time opportunity. It will not happen again.

This is the beginning of a new Assembly, the beginning of a new government. We thought this would be a good leeway into the work of the Shelter Policy Review and the rent scale review. That work has for the most part been completed. We're looking for an opportunity to meet with committee and share with them some of our findings and recommendations and options and try to have that implemented as soon as possible. This is a piece of work that has been going on for a while and it's one that people across the Northwest Territories, I think, are going to embrace. It addresses a lot of the concerns that we've heard during the campaign and from Members of this House and Members of the previous Assembly. That work is pretty well complete. We're just going to inform Members and then we'll go public with it.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has talked about the arrears with our public housing tenants. A lot of our people in those units also are Aboriginal people with Aboriginal languages being their first form of communication. Can the Minister, through the Housing Corporation, talk about how to translate these kind of issues and do they have some form of plan to educate people in their own language? Other than having a non-Aboriginal person come to the community to talk about it, can we have some provisions there where people in the community could be looked at in that process to help educate the people on the arrears?

People are still stuck with the version of the history that rent is only going to cost \$2 a month. As I said, the translators that translated this with the chief, and the federal government's take on housing for the Aboriginal people. Can we look for that type of creativity with the Housing Corporation?

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: The LHOs in the communities are the ones that work directly with a lot of the clients, and for the most part a lot of the LHOs have someone in the office that's from the community that's able to speak the local language. If they don't, I'm sure they would do what they can to ensure that clients coming in that don't have a good understanding of English are able to hear some of the instructions in their language. We've always tried to make a commitment that we will work as closely as possible with some of the communities in providing Aboriginal translation services as we did with the NWT Housing Corporation. For the most part the LHOs are local people that know the folks in the community and they speak and understand the language. I can assure the Member that we'll do our best to ensure

that all people understand this process as it's being laid out.

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

QUESTION 14-17(1):
EMERGENCY PROTECTION ORDERS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement today I talked about emergency protection orders and some concerns highlighted in them. The Minister is well aware of some of the concerns as of late that have had an emergency protection order being issued incorrectly under false information. I'd like to ask the Department of Justice if they are going to review these particular circumstances to see if amendments are required to the emergency protection order process.

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

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not able to speak to specific cases or matters that are before the courts, but I can say that the Protection Against Family Violence Act and emergency protection orders are an effective and necessary response to the high rate of family violence in the Northwest Territories. NGOs working with the victims of family violence tell us that one of the most helpful tools are the emergency protection orders.

To the Member's questions, an evaluation of the legislation and associated program was conducted in 2011. It indicates that the legislation is meeting its goals of awareness and protection of victims of family violence.

MR. HAWKINS: The Minister failed to recognize the fact this issue isn't before the courts at all in any manner. The Minister further failed to recognize that this was a particular issue that he thought was fraught with problems. All I'm asking the House here today is: Would the Minister be willing to take a look at this particular issue, ask someone within the department to take a look at this particular situation to see if changes and adjustments need to be made if an EPO was issued in error due to false information? The burden of the removal of the EPO falls on the person it's issued against. It does turn out to be quite costly.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: There are penalties under the act and under the Criminal Code for knowingly making a false statement in an application or a hearing. Under Section 18(b) of the act, any person who "knowingly makes a false statement in an application or hearing under this act...is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction...not exceeding \$5,000," or some time in

jail. So there are punishments already in the act for those individuals who choose to bear false witness against another.

MR. HAWKINS: Clearly, the point is being missed or, rather, it's being avoided. The issue is about the person who the EPO is issued against. That person has been accused falsely in this circumstance. The Minister knows very well of this example. The issue is it's not about the person who lied. The person who lied, the process is correct, as he's highlighted. How does the person who has been accused, who has now become the victim of the circumstance, get the EPO removed? They have to take it to court and it costs \$5,000 in this particular example. There is no relief mechanism built into the process when it's recognized it's been issued in error. That is the problem. Would the Minister be willing to ask the department to have a look to see what to do or what can be done to provide relief to those who have been falsely accused and issued an EPO against?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: As I indicated earlier, there has been a review of this legislation done. It has made some recommendations with respect to EPOs. The department is currently reviewing those recommendations and will be following up on those recommendations.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister said they had reviewed. Now he says they're reviewing. I'd like to be clear on the record. Are they reviewing it at this particular time and are they taking the example I provided to the House as consideration for this review?

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: A review of the legislation has been completed and some recommendations have gone forth to the Department of Justice which are being considered right now.

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

QUESTION 15-17(1):
PERMANENT DOCTORS SHORTAGE
IN HAY RIVER

MR. BOUCHARD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I indicated in my Member's statement, Hay River does not currently have any permanent doctors. My question is for the Minister of Health. What is the territorial government doing to assist local health authorities to recruit permanent doctors?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bouchard. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health is working with the Department of Human Resources to get a health human resource specialist involved in developing some sort of recruitment strategy for physicians that need to come to the Northwest Territories outside of Yellowknife to try to fill the vacancies. We have almost 100 percent vacancy across the territory, with the exception of Stanton and Tlicheo.

MR. BOUCHARD: Does the territorial government currently have any money in the budget to do this, or is this a future process?

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, the Department of Health has a process of recruiting. We have budgets that we work with the Department of Human Resources to recruit physicians across the North. As is the standard for recruiting anyone in the NWT, we have that money to recruit doctors.

MR. BOUCHARD: Is the territorial government working with the federal government to get any additional dollars to alleviate this problem? I know it's not just a territorial problem, that they're having the same difficulties in the provinces.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The Member is right that this is an issue across a lot of jurisdictions who are unable to get physicians to go to a lot of their rural areas. However, our whole system in dealing with the federal government is not specific to recruiting doctors. We do have discussions with the federal government on the Health Accord and the federal government provides money through the Health Accord to the government, which portions of it can be used for recruiting. Thank you.

MR. BOUCHARD: Is the government committed to spending additional dollars in this situation for many communities in the Northwest Territories that don't have doctors in their communities? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: We are hoping that it doesn't require a lot of additional dollars to recruit doctors, but the intention is to try to recruit doctors in all the authorities across the North, but we're doing what we can. The difficulty has not been the money; the difficulty has actually been getting doctors to those locations. Many doctors that want to come to the Northwest Territories have a desire to work in Yellowknife. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 16-17(1):
BACKLOG TO JOINT REPLACEMENT
SURGERIES AT INUVIK HOSPITAL

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Coming from Inuvik, over the past couple of years I've seen a backlog of surgeries, specifically joint replacement surgeries and the

backlog has led to inactivity, sedentary lifestyles, which lead to people becoming overweight and can lead to obesity, which also leads to chronic conditions. With our ever growing senior populations, I'd like to ask the Minister of Health what is the reason for this backlog, specifically joint replacement surgeries.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. The honourable Minister of Health, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The reason that the Stanton Territorial Health Authority is not actively doing elective joint replacement surgeries at this time is due to ongoing renovations to the ventilation system. They have to achieve a super clean operating room in order to do joint replacements because there is high possibility of infection with that type of surgery.

MR. MOSES: With the new standard put in place, that's probably been about the amount of time since the backlog started. It has taken awhile and I was just wondering what the plan in place was to address the backlog and what exactly is the plan that the Department of Health has come up with to address the backlog of these elective surgeries.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The Member is right; there has been a backlog as a result of not doing the elective joint replacement surgery. What we are doing is we are approaching Edmonton, the ones that are emergency situations. Some of the emergency situations are maybe what the Member is describing are possibilities. Although Edmonton, too, also has some on the waiting list. So that is our backup plan, but realistically our objective is to get the operating room back operational. Thank you.

MR. MOSES: I respect the answer that the department is doing as much as it can. Is there an expected timeline that these surgeries can be brought back on schedule so that the people in the communities that have been waiting of the last couple of years have confidence in this government that they are moving forward and have that interest in getting them back on their feet and healthy and becoming society again.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The project to turn the operating room into a super clean operating room is out to tender now. Our objective is to have the operating room operational, I guess, on April of 2012, this coming year. Thank you.

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

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. April of 2012 we can expect people of the communities of the Northwest Territories, the ones that have been waiting for the last few years, to start moving through the process and getting their surgeries taken care of by this 17th Legislative Assembly and the government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. More of a comment. Moving on. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 17-17(1):
COALITION AGAINST FAMILY VIOLENCE
ACTION PLAN

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up on my Member's statement, and I would address these questions to the Minister responsible for Women and the Executive.

I would like to, again, commend all my male colleagues for wearing a white ribbon today, and I would hope that you don't just wear the white ribbon today but that you will continue to wear the white ribbon throughout the year as an indication of your pledge to actively work against violence against women.

The Coalition on Family Violence Action Plan 2 has certainly done a lot of work. It has increased the awareness and the prevention of family violence and abuse throughout the NWT but, as I said in my statement, we need to continue the work that the coalition has been doing. They've done a good job and I feel that we need to continue to support them. I would like to ask the Minister what consideration has the Minister and/or his staff given to the 19 recommendations in the Phase 3 action plan. Thank you.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We, too, are very grateful for the work that has been done by the Status of Women Council and also the Native Women's Association. With regard to the 19 recommendations on the Coalition Against Family Violence, we are just starting the process of reviewing them as we begin getting ready for the business planning process.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister for that response. We are probably entering into a time where the staff and Ministers are developing business plans for the 2012-13 year now and probably in early January. There's a specific request from the coalition for core funding in three areas: one, to stabilize existing shelters; two, enhance community services related to family violence; and three, establish a program for men who use violence and abuse. I'd like to know from the Minister, relative to these three specific requests for core funding to continue the work that's already been done and accomplished and that we recognize, I'd like to ask the Minister how this government will respond to that particular request for core funding. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We will be responding to each of those three requests. On the first one, on the shelters, I believe we have responded in the

affirmative, that as a government we will be continuing funding for the continuation of the shelter program. On the two other requests, we're still reviewing on the training for prevention of violence for men. We are reviewing the proposed program to see if it meets the requirements of both the government and that they will be successful. On the other one, we're also reviewing that specific request as well.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Premier. I'm really pleased to hear that these recommendations are being reviewed and I would hope that they are being seriously reviewed. The Minister mentioned that they will continue funding particularly in regard to stabilizing existing shelters. I would hope that that would be core funding and not just one-time funding, because that is the specific request of the coalition.

I'd like to know from the Minister, as they review these recommendations and as they consider additions or deletions or whatever to the business plans upcoming, how will the Minister, how will the Minister's staff involve the coalition and their partners in the consideration of their requests. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I believe that the coalition has provided a valuable service to the government and we will continue to involve them as we go through in reviewing these 19 recommendations.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks for the answer. I guess I would like to get a little more specific, and I appreciate that you're going to involve them, but can the Premier tell me specifically how you will involve them. Will you bring them in for department discussions or consultation, or will you simply send them e-mails? Can I get an indication of what kind of involvement you're referencing? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We will be reviewing them and we will be involving them where it will make the most sense and where we will get the best advice for the amount of money that we spend on it.

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

QUESTION 18-17(1):
NEED FOR NEW SCHOOLS IN
NAHANNI BUTTE AND TROUT LAKE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up on my constituency need for a couple of schools in Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake. I would like to ask the Minister of Education a couple of questions. I have been raising this issue for several years.

First of all, perhaps I should ask about Trout Lake. I always made the case because the community has always made the case that it is not an actual school. It is a recreational centre where they are being educated. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, are they looking at Trout Lake of building their own stand-alone school? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Trout Lake school has been, as the Member stated, he is quite correct that it has been raised in this House. They have been part of the capital planning process along with other pressing matters that are before us within the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

When we do the capital planning process, we compile the important issues such as one from Trout Lake and one from Nahanni Butte and other regions. It trickles down to which is the most pressing issue in the Northwest Territories. Based on that, the selection criteria is selecting those individual projects and then it is the highlight of what we are here today. We will be discussing the projects as well. Based on that, that is the process.

I did commit to the Member that I will be visiting Trout Lake, the Nahendeh region, in the near future. Mahsi.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Certainly the community will welcome any visit by the Minister to show them their case, indeed. Would the Minister be able to confirm that at least these schools are on the long-term 20-year capital needs assessment? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: This particular school along with other schools, we continue to monitor them. It is based on the teachers in the community, the students, based on the population. If there is an increase in the student population, then we will definitely put that as a high pressing need for the Northwest Territories to be considered as part of the capital project. Yes, indeed, this is part of the process that we must continue to monitor. I understand the issues with the school capacity, so we will continue to monitor that as well. Mahsi.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I am certainly glad that the department is assessing the communities and monitoring them, but I would like to know, are these schools at least on the 20-year needs assessment capital plan. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: When we met in Detah we talked about the goals and objectives of this government. We talked about our capital infrastructures. At that time there was discussion on focussing on the small communities. That is definitely one of our goals as we move forward with this particular GNWT 17th Assembly and when it

comes to capital projects. With the 20-year plan, I have to get that more detailed information. I don't have the plan in front of me today, but I will gather the information. Mahsi.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will certainly look at getting that information on the 20-year needs assessment to see if it is indeed on the capital plan. In my Member's statement I asked just that, is that we start planning. It is important for me to see that on the capital needs assessment. Just one more time if I can ask the Minister if he will commit to have that plan perhaps sent to my office so I can review it as well. Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: My department will share what we can share as a needs assessment, part of the capital projects within the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

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

QUESTION 19-17(1):
PERMANENT AVIATION MEMORIALS
IN YELLOWKNIFE

MR. DOLYNNY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier today, in my Member's statement, I talked about obviously the raft of a lot of tragedies affecting us in our aviation world in the North and obviously the concerns that many of us have in terms of what have we done to recognize or commemorate lost lives in aviation, including the victims of aviation. My question is for the Minister of ITI here. Is there a commitment from this government to work towards the establishment of improving what has been established since 1967 and also the opportunity for the other memorial to be built throughout the North in the next couple of months? Thank you.

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

HON. DAVID RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly thank the Member for raising the issue and his question this afternoon. It has been a difficult past five months in the northern aviation industry. The department hasn't formally received a request for a memorial like the one being proposed, but we would certainly like to discuss this further with Members of this House, stakeholders around the Northwest Territories, the aviation industry, communities and families who would like to come up with a way forward on such a memorial. Thank you.

MR. DOLYNNY: I would like to thank the Minister for the response. On behalf of the families of both the pilots in the aviation world and the families of the victims of these crashes, I would like to thank

the Minister for showing eagerness to work towards resolve. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: It is more of a comment, Mr. Dolynny. Thank you. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. Nadli.

QUESTION 20-17(1):
HYDRAULIC FRACTURING (FRACKING)

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Recently in the media there has been a lot of discussion on the whole idea of hydraulic fracturing. My question is to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources. What is the government or department doing to ensure that the practice of hydraulic fracking is mitigated and also understood? Eventually, more likely the introduction of the practice will be fairly common up here in the Northwest Territories. Is the department taking measures to ensure that it will be done within the regulatory system that's safe and, of course, respects the environment? Mahsi.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a recently new process that is not completely understood. It is a source of great research at the international, national and even in our level as we seek to understand the use of hydraulic fracking for unconventional oils, in particular shale gas.

There is work being done at the federal level. We are striking a committee between ENR and ITI and other relevant deputies and departments to look at this issue and to address some of the issues that the Member talked about to try to get a good handle on the research. Some provinces' fracking for unconventional sources are in use in B.C. and Alberta, Quebec and Nova Scotia, and some others have put a moratorium on it. Some states, as well, are taking a second look at it.

It is an issue, a process that there are a lot of unknowns, lots of potential impacts, use of a lot of substances in an area deep underground and is not well understood. We are going to take the steps necessary to understand this and make sure any steps taken have that balance of protecting the environment as we look at what is possible from this economic development opportunity. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: The Minister has indicated that there has been some consideration in terms of what other jurisdictions have undertaken. I wonder if the Minister and the department have considered as an option, seeming that there are some other initiatives – one of them is a moratorium on evictions on housing – a moratorium on hydraulic fracking in the North. Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we are not at that point in any of our deliberations.

We have to work with the federal government to look at that type of issue. There's still work and research to be done. As I indicated, some jurisdictions to the south of us are using that process. There are a lot of questions and there is work being done and there are meetings, as well, being held across the North by the National Energy Board and ANSI, as well as the Government of the Northwest Territories, especially in the Sahtu, to meet with the communities and individuals to talk about this process and understand the concerns and share the information we do have about this process. Thank you.

MR. NADLI: The Minister has indicated that there is some level of cooperation with the federal government. I wonder if the department is considering, perhaps, some unique ways in terms of how this whole new practice will be introduced to the North. Hopefully at some point the department will consider some unique ways that are northern based, to ensure that the environment is not compromised and understand that there's some positive development in terms of the Water Stewardship Strategy. I understand water is very vital to the people of the Northwest Territories, so I wanted to know if the Minister is considering some unique northern, perhaps, solutions to this practice that's eventually going to come to the North. Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you. One of the, I suppose, most unique practices that we're considering or initiatives we're considering, of course, is to conclude the Devolution Agreement, where we would take over responsibility and authority of our land, water and resource development and be able to speak to these type of practices. I appreciate the Member's comments on the Water Stewardship Strategy. If he has specific recommendations in terms of what he considers unique northern approaches that we may not have considered, I'd be very happy to look at those and would ask that he share that with us so that we can include that in our deliberations. Thank you.

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

MR. NADLI: Thank you. I don't have any questions, but perhaps maybe at some point I'd like to perhaps get a briefing from the Minister in terms of what it is, perhaps that could be considered in terms of a management regime to mitigate the whole practice of hydraulic fracking. Perhaps the Minister could make that available, if perhaps there are some discussions at that time. Mahsi.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: We would be pleased to appear before committee and do a full briefing on the work we've done in terms of crossing the North and educating folks on the process, as well as lay out the process, some of the history and some of the questions and concerns

that are existing in regard to this process. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 21-17(1):

PHYSICIAN RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to follow up on the questions that were asked by my colleague Mr. Bouchard, from Hay River North, regarding the lack of resident physicians in Hay River.

This is not a new problem. This has been ongoing for some time. I know the health authority does the best they can with getting locums, and some of the locums are actually rotating in and out on a six-week in/six-week out basis, which is certainly better than no continuity. So I do commend the efforts of the health authority to try and address this difficult situation.

The Minister referred to the challenge that physicians we would like to potentially recruit may not want to live in smaller, remote communities, which I guess Hay River would still be considered remote. I'd like to ask the Minister what currently exists at the departmental headquarters level to assist the regional authorities with recruitment efforts.

We used to have a full-time person on staff in Hay River who did recruitment, but what overarching, territorial, department-wide emphasis or initiative is there within the department to help us find resident physicians? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The Minister of Health, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Department of Health has been working with the Department of Human Resources and has recently hired a health human resource specialist responsible for the development and creation of a specialized recruiting and retention strategy program. This strategy is aimed at increasing the number of physicians in rural communities. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: That's very interesting. It sort of sounds like things we might have done before. Can the Minister confirm that this is something new, innovative, creative, outside of the normal things we've done in the past to try and recruit physicians? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Yes, it's recent. It's something that we're attempting to do in order to help, for example, the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority to recruit physicians that can live in Hay River. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: In his previous comment, the Minister indicated that the compensation

package for resident physicians, locum physicians are very competitive, that money is not the issue, it is just trying to get the people to come and take up practice here in the North.

As we know, the practice of medicine has changed. It isn't like it was in the old days when doctors were on call 24/7 in a small town. We recognize that and we respect that. Would the Department of Health and Social Services be willing to pay an organization such as a private, independent organization? They call them headhunters. When departments and corporations need specialized employees in their organizations, they will pay a fee to a headhunter to find, identify, locate and get people to move to where the jobs are. Is this something that the department would be willing to pay for? Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: The issue of money was that it was not an issue of money in recruitment as opposed to salaries. When I referred to that, it was not an issue of money, it was an issue of getting people to come. I'm sure if we paid anybody enough money, they would come. But this is something that the department would consider. I would say that we would have to work with the various health authorities. One of the things that we are actually contemplating is trying to create one pool that can be shared by the entire Territories and an option to that could be going out to find recruiting people that do headhunting to find people and positions that are hard to recruit in locations where they're hard to recruit in. Thank you.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: I don't think anybody can promote Hay River more or better than those of us who live there, call it home and really, really like it there. So I'd like to ask the Minister what role involvement could he conceive of that the community could become more involved, the MLAs could become more involved, that we would have some point of contact with the people who are trying recruit so it isn't just a recruiting and kind of an abstract way, but to a specific community with a specific set of things going for it like a place like Hay River. Thank you.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I actually thought about that, having lived in Hay River myself many, many years. I actually thought, you know, it's a really nice place to go. I don't understand myself why we're having difficulty recruiting doctors to live there.

One of the things that was apparent was that the doctors were looking at the education of their own kids and thinking that the opportunities for education were a lot greater in the larger centres. Also, investment into buying property was another issue, the fact that the doctors were not sure that they wanted to live in Hay River on a long-term basis, didn't want to make investments and so on. However, I agree with the MLA, and with the other MLAs that Hay River is a beautiful place and if

there's an opportunity for this department or Hay River Health and Social Services Authority to discuss this with other members, like, people who do promote Hay River as a great place to live, we'd be willing to do that. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 22-17(1):
NEED FOR INUVIK REGION
LONG-TERM CARE FACILITY

MR. BLAKE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Health. In the 16th Assembly the Joe Greenland Centre was shut down, the long-term care facility that was in the Mackenzie Delta riding. I'd just like to know what the plans are that the department has in this next four years for the people of the Mackenzie Delta.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although I have not had a full opportunity to check into the long-term care and what they're able to provide to people from other communities in the Beaufort-Delta at this time, my understanding is that there is a shortage of beds in Inuvik for people from other communities in the Beaufort-Delta to go there and that's an issue that we are trying to address.

At this time I do not have an overall plan here with me on what we're going to do with the people that are going from their homes or from senior citizens homes into long-term care.

MR. BLAKE: At the moment we have an average or approximately 300 elders over the age of 60. I think within the next four years here we need to establish a facility either in Aklavik or Fort McPherson, which are the larger communities, to accommodate those elders who need long-term care.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: As everyone in the House is aware, infrastructure money is short with the government at this time. We are doing health infrastructure. We are continuing to forge ahead with health infrastructure. We're looking in areas where there is a need, an immediate need for long-term care. We're looking right across the territory in all of the regions. Hopefully we're building in the region where they're looking, as an example, in the Sahtu to build a long-term facility. We'll offload some of the pressure in Inuvik. We're hoping that if that happens, there will be room for other people in Inuvik, and we'll also be looking right at the Beaufort-Delta for the needs that are there as well.

MR. BLAKE: I look forward to working with the Minister of Health within the next couple of years here to find a solution to the problem.

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

QUESTION 23-17(1):
E-LEARNING FOR HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENTS IN COMMUNITIES

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. With the fibre optic link on the horizon and education and social passing an issue in some of our smaller communities, I was wondering if the department had any initiatives that would bring e-learning into the communities, especially the ones that are sometimes hard to get into that would only have one or two high school students, and make it more cost-effective what they have on the horizon there for e-learning.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank the Member for that question. This particular area is of great interest for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. We've initiated e-learning within the Beaufort-Delta and the Department of Education between 2000 and 2005. We had just over 329 students enrolled successfully at that time. Due to budget constraints in 2010, we had to discontinue that particular program. The good news is that we are continuing with our discussion again, because we feel that this is a real need. Now we talk about the fibre optic broadband connectivity into the region and we feel that we need to explore this area. We're very interested and we will be discussing this further with the Beaufort-Delta.

MR. MOSES: With students coming out of their communities attending regional centres, specifically in the Beaufort-Delta, their culture and tradition are sometimes lost. They don't get a chance to practise it. I'd like to see or find out what the timeline is that the department will be looking into getting this e-learning set back up into the community. It did seem between 2000 and 2005 that they did reach a lot of the students. I'd just like to see what the timeline is to have that brought back into the Beaufort-Delta.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We did just recently initiate our discussion with Beaufort-Delta Education Council, talking about recreating the partnership that we had. We had a very successful partnership. We need to re-establish that as part of our distance education within that region. I'm sure this will trickle along with other regions as well. There's been a lapse in financial aspect towards

this particular program, but we are re-addressing that issue and it is a huge opportunity for us that we need to continue discussing.

MR. MOSES: Being new to the government, I look forward to working with the Minister of ECE to further move this project forward and thank him for his time answering the questions. No further questions from this point on.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Item 8, written questions. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 2-17(1):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES CAPITAL
ESTIMATES 2012-2013

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table to the following document, entitled "Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2012-2013."

TABLED DOCUMENT 3-17(1):
NWT SPECIES AT RISK COMMITTEE
2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLED DOCUMENT 4-17(1):
CONFERENCE OF MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITIES SPECIES AT RISK
2010-2011 ANNUAL REPORT

I wish to table the following two documents, entitled "Northwest Territories Species at Risk Committee 2010-2011 Annual Report" and "Conference of Management Authorities Species at Risk Annual Report 2010-2011."

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 5-17(1):
ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES
OF THE RENTAL OFFICE 2010-2011

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document, entitled "Annual Report on the Activities of the Rental Office 2010-2011."

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Item 15, notices of motion. Mr. Beaulieu.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 8-17(1):

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, December 9, 2011, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Daryl Dolynny, and the honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Wendy Bisaro, be appointed as deputy chairpersons of Committee of the Whole.

At the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

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

MOTION 9-17(1):

RULES AMENDMENTS FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, December 9, 2011, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended by rescinding Rule 85 and substituting the following:

Standing and Special Committees

85. (1) At its first sitting after a general election, the Assembly shall appoint a Striking Committee of five Members to report and recommend, with all convenient speed, Members to comprise the following standing committees of the Assembly:

on Economic Development and Infrastructure;

on Government Operations;

on Priorities and Planning;

on Rules and Procedures;

on Social Programs;

and any other standing and special committees as directed by the Assembly.

(2) The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure shall consider the following matters with respect to the departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Industry, Tourism and Investment, Municipal and Community Affairs, Public Works and Services, and Transportation:

(a) review multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies, including the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and

Nunavut, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation and the Public Utilities Board;

(b) review departmental performance, including that of boards and agencies; and

(c) consider any other matter referred by the House.

(3) The Standing Committee on Government Operations shall consider the following matters with respect to the departments of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, the Executive, Finance and Human Resources:

(a) review multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies;

(b) review departmental performance and official language issues, including that of boards and agencies;

(c) review, as necessary or appropriate, the annual and other reports of the statutory officers of the Legislative Assembly, including the Languages Commissioner, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Equal Pay Commissioner and the Human Rights Commission;

(d) examine the reports on the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories and Report of the Auditor General.

(i) In the event that the Assembly is not in session, the Speaker may provide the Auditor General's report and the Minister of Finance may provide the public accounts to the committee for review, which may include public hearings, in advance of tabling; and

(e) consider any other matter referred by the House.

(4) The Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning shall:

(a) review issues which have government-wide implications, including all devolution-related issues and the overview of the budget and fiscal framework;

(b) review Government of the Northwest Territories reports on financial and performance results and program and policy evaluations to ensure anticipated outcomes are being achieved and accountability is maximized;

- (c) coordinate sessional business scheduling and planning in cooperation with appropriate ministerial representatives;
 - (d) coordinate committee public consultation efforts with respect to budget and fiscal matters;
 - (e) coordinate committee strategic planning efforts;
 - (f) monitor and evaluate ministerial performance issues;
 - (g) consider the budgets and financial management of any boards and agencies that are outside the responsibility of any standing committee; and
 - (h) consider any other matter referred by the House.
- (5) The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures shall:
- (a) review the reports of the Chief Electoral Officer on the conduct of elections, plebiscites, or votes conducted in the Northwest Territories in accordance with statute;
 - (b) review, as necessary or appropriate, the annual and other reports of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner;
 - (c) review and make recommendations on the implications and impacts that the implementation of self-government agreements will have on the powers, structures and procedures of the Legislative Assembly; and
 - (d) inquire into such matters as may be referred to it by the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker or the Board of Management.
- (6) The Standing Committee on Social Programs shall consider the following matters with respect to the departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation:
- (a) review multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies, including the Status of Women Council and programs for seniors, youth and persons with disabilities;
 - (b) review departmental performance, including that of boards and agencies; and
 - (c) consider any other matter referred by the House.

At the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MOTION 10-17(1):
APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STRIKING COMMITTEE

MS. BISARO: I give notice that on Friday, December 9, 2011, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Moses, and Mr. Nadli be appointed to the Striking Committee of this Assembly.

At the appointed time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Mr. Robert C. McLeod.

MOTION 11-17(1):
APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, December 9, 2011, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure:

Mr. Robert Hawkins, the Member for Yellowknife Centre;

Mr. Frederick Blake Jr., the Member for Mackenzie Delta;

Mr. Robert Bouchard, the Member for Hay River North;

Mr. Bob Bromley, the Member for Weledeh;

Mr. Kevin Menicoche, the Member for Nahendeh;

Mr. Michael Nadli, the Member for Deh Cho;

And further, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure as alternate Members:

Wendy Bisaro, the Member for Frame Lake;

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, the Member for Hay River South; and

Mr. Norman Yakeleya, the Member for Sahtu.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you.

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

MOTION 12-17(1):
APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, December 9, 2011, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Government Operations:

Mr. Michael M. Nadli, the Member for Deh Cho;
Ms. Wendy Bisaro, the Member for Frame Lake;
Mr. Daryl Dolynny, the Member for Range Lake;
Mr. Alfred Moses, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake; and
Mr. Norman Yakeleya, the Member for Sahtu;

And further, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Government Operations as alternate Members:

Mr. Frederick Blake Jr., the Member for Mackenzie Delta;
Mr. Robert Bouchard, the Member for Hay River North; and
Mr. Robert Hawkins, the Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MOTION 13-17(1):
APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL PROGRAMS

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, December 9, 2011, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Programs:

Mr. Alfred Moses, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake;
Ms. Wendy Bisaro, the Member for Frame Lake;
Mr. Daryl Dolynny, the Member for Range Lake;
Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, the Member for Hay River South; and
Mr. Norman Yakeleya, the Member for Sahtu;

And further, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Programs as alternative Members:

Mr. Bob Bromley, the Member for Weledeh;

Mr. Kevin Menicoche, the Member for Nahendeh; and

Mr. Michael M. Nadli, the Member for Deh Cho.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Mr. Blake.

MOTION 14-17(1):
APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND PROCEDURES

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, December 9, 2011, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures:

Mr. Bob Bromley, the Member for Weledeh;
Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, the Member for Hay River South;
Mr. Robert Hawkins, the Member for Yellowknife Centre;
Mr. Kevin Menicoche, the Member for Nahendeh; and
the Honourable Glen Abernethy, the Member for Great Slave;

And further, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures as alternate Members:

Mr. Daryl Dolynny, the Member for Range Lake;
Mr. Albert Moses, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake; and
the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with the motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Blake. Mr. Yakeleya.

MOTION 15-17(1):
CONSENT TO INTERRUPT PROCEEDINGS
TO RECEIVE AN ADDRESS FROM THE
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, December 9, 2011, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that notwithstanding any rules or usual practice of this Legislative Assembly, that on Thursday, December 8, 2011, this House shall interrupt its regular business at the appropriate hour in order to receive

an address from the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable David Johnston, together will all the introductory and related remarks, and upon completion of such address the House shall continue with the business before it;

And further, that this House shall welcome representatives of the Aboriginal governments of the Northwest Territories to enter the Chamber at the appropriate time to bear witness of the address from His Excellency the Governor General.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today.

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

MOTION 16-17(1):
BILL C-10, SAFE STREETS AND
COMMUNITIES ACT

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, December 9, 2011, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that this Legislative Assembly urges the Government of Canada to recognize the special implications that Bill C-10 will have for the Northwest Territories;

And further, that this Legislative Assembly urges the Government of Canada to put in place measures to mitigate the costs of Bill C-10 to the Government of the Northwest Territories for additional court time, legal aid services, incarcerations and corrections infrastructure, and to provide funding for measures to address the root causes of crime;

And furthermore, that the Government of the Northwest Territories acts promptly to design, fund and implement comprehensive programs integrated across relative departments to prevent and divert offenders that might enter the justice system in order to avoid many of the justice and other costs government and people must bear resulting from the impacts of Bill C-10. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the deputy chairpersons of Committee of the Whole motion I gave notice of earlier today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

Motions

MOTION 8-17(1):
APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY CHAIRPERSONS
OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
CARRIED

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS it is a requirement for the naming of two Members to hold the position of deputy chairpersons of Committee of the Whole;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to appoint two Members;

Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that the honourable Member for Range Lake, Mr. Daryl Dolynny, and the honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Wendy Bisaro, be appointed as deputy chairpersons of Committee of the Whole. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the rules amendments motion I gave notice of earlier today.

---Unanimous consent granted

MOTION 9-17(1):
RULES AMENDMENTS FOR THE
STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Section 44 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act states that the Legislative Assembly may establish such standing and special committees to aid and advise it as it considers necessary;

AND WHEREAS the standing and special committees of the Legislative Assembly are established in the rules of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly has chosen to make revisions to the standing committees;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that the Rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended by rescinding Rule 85 and substituting the following:

Standing and Special Committees

85. (1) At its first sitting after a general election, the Assembly shall appoint a Striking Committee of five Members to report and recommend, with all convenient speed, Members to comprise the following standing committees of the Assembly:
- on Economic Development and Infrastructure;
 - on Government Operations;
 - on Priorities and Planning;
 - on Rules and Procedures;
 - on Social Programs;
- and any other standing and special committees as directed by the Assembly.
- (2) The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure shall consider the following matters with respect to the departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Industry, Tourism and Investment, Municipal and Community Affairs, Public Works and Services, and Transportation:
- (a) review multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies, including the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation and the Public Utilities Board;
 - (b) review departmental performance, including that of boards and agencies; and
 - (c) consider any other matter referred by the House.
- (3) The Standing Committee on Government Operations shall consider the following matters with respect to the departments of Aboriginal Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations, the Executive, Finance and Human Resources:
- (a) review multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies;
 - (b) review departmental performance and official language issues, including that of boards and agencies;
 - (c) review, as necessary or appropriate, the annual and other reports of the statutory officers of the Legislative Assembly, including the Languages Commissioner, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Equal Pay Commissioner and the Human Rights Commission;
- (d) examine the reports on the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories and Report of the Auditor General.
 - (i) In the event that the Assembly is not in session, the Speaker may provide the Auditor General's report and the Minister of Finance may provide the public accounts to the committee for review, which may include public hearings, in advance of tabling; and
 - (e) consider any other matter referred by the House.
- (4) The Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning shall:
- (a) review issues which have government-wide implications, including all devolution-related issues and the overview of the budget and fiscal framework;
 - (b) review Government of the Northwest Territories reports on financial and performance results and program and policy evaluations to ensure anticipated outcomes are being achieved and accountability is maximized;
 - (c) coordinate sessional business scheduling and planning in cooperation with appropriate ministerial representatives;
 - (d) coordinate committee public consultation efforts with respect to budget and fiscal matters;
 - (e) coordinate committee strategic planning efforts;
 - (f) monitor and evaluate ministerial performance issues;
 - (g) consider the budgets and financial management of any boards and agencies that are outside the responsibility of any standing committee; and
 - (h) consider any other matter referred by the House.
- (5) The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures shall:
- (a) review the reports of the Chief Electoral Officer on the conduct of elections, plebiscites, or votes conducted in the Northwest Territories in accordance with statute;

- (b) review, as necessary or appropriate, the annual and other reports of the Conflict of Interest Commissioner;
 - (c) review and make recommendations on the implications and impacts that the implementation of self-government agreements will have on the powers, structures and procedures of the Legislative Assembly; and
 - (d) inquire into such matters as may be referred to it by the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker or the Board of Management.
- (6) The Standing Committee on Social Programs shall consider the following matters with respect to the departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment, Justice and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation:
- (a) review multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies, including the Status of Women Council and programs for seniors, youth and persons with disabilities;
 - (b) review departmental performance, including that of boards and agencies; and
 - (c) consider any other matter referred by the House.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Beaulieu.

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with the Government Operations committee appointments motion I gave notice of earlier today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Unanimous consent granted

MOTION 12-17(1):
APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS,
CARRIED

HON. TOM BEAULIEU: I move, seconded by the Member for Monfwi:

WHEREAS Rule 85 requires the Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Government Operations;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Government Operations:

Mr. Michael M. Nadli, the Member for Deh Cho;
Ms. Wendy Bisaro, the Member for Frame Lake;
Mr. Daryl Dolynny, the Member for Range Lake;
Mr. Alfred Moses, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake; and
Mr. Norman Yakeleya, the Member for Sahtu;

AND FURTHER, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Government Operations as alternate Members:

Mr. Frederick Blake Jr., the Member for Mackenzie Delta;
Mr. Robert Bouchard, the Member for Hay River North; and
Mr. Robert Hawkins, the Member for Yellowknife Centre.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the Striking committee motion I gave notice of earlier today. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MOTION 10-17(1):
APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STRIKING COMMITTEE,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: I move, seconded by the Member for Thebacha:

WHEREAS it is required by Rule 85 that the Legislative Assembly shall appoint a Striking Committee of five Members to report and recommend, with all convenient speed, Members to comprise the standing committees;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Bromley, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Moses and Mr. Nadli be appointed to the Striking Committee of this Assembly.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Robert C. McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion that I gave notice of earlier today.

---Unanimous consent granted

MOTION 11-17(1):
APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
CARRIED

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: I move, seconded by the Member for Thebacha:

WHEREAS Rule 85 requires that Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure:

Mr. Robert Hawkins, the Member for Yellowknife Centre;

Mr. Frederick Blake Jr., the Member for Mackenzie Delta;

Mr. Robert Bouchard, the Member for Hay River North;

Mr. Bob Bromley, the Member for Weledeh;

Mr. Kevin Menicoche, the Member for Nahendeh;

Mr. Michael Nadli, the Member for Deh Cho;

AND FURTHER, that the following the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure as alternate Members:

Wendy Bisaro, the Member for Frame Lake;

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, the Member for Hay River South; and

Mr. Norman Yakeleya, the Member for Sahtu.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Mr. Abernethy.

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

---Unanimous consent granted

MOTION 13-17(1):
APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL PROGRAMS,
CARRIED

HON. GLEN ABERNETHY: I move, seconded by the Member for Thebacha:

WHEREAS Rule 85 requires that Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Programs;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Programs:

Mr. Alfred Moses, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake;

Ms. Wendy Bisaro, the Member for Frame Lake;

Mr. Daryl Dolynny, the Member for Range Lake;

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, the Member for Hay River South; and

Mr. Norman Yakeleya, the Member for Sahtu;

AND FURTHER, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Social Programs as alternative Members:

Mr. Bob Bromley, the Member for Weledeh;

Mr. Kevin Menicoche, the Member for Nahendeh; and

Mr. Michael M. Nadli, the Member for Deh Cho.

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

Mr. Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

---Unanimous consent granted

MOTION 14-17(1):
APPOINTMENTS TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON
RULES AND PROCEDURES,
CARRIED

MR. BLAKE: I move, seconded by the Member for Kam Lake:

WHEREAS Rule 85 requires that Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures:

Mr. Bob Bromley, the Member for Weledeh;

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, the Member for Hay River South;

Mr. Robert Hawkins, the Member for Yellowknife Centre;

Mr. Kevin Menicoche, the Member for Nahendeh; and

the Honourable Glen Abernethy, the Member for Great Slave;

AND FURTHER, that the following Members be appointed to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures as alternate members:

Mr. Daryl Dolynny, the Member for Range Lake;

Mr. Alfred Moses, the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake; and

the Honourable Robert C. McLeod, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

---Unanimous consent granted

MOTION 15-17(1):
CONSENT TO INTERRUPT PROCEEDINGS
TO RECEIVE AN ADDRESS FROM THE
GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA,
CARRIED

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS Their Excellencies the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of

Canada, and Mrs. Sharon Johnston, as part of their first trip to the Northwest Territories, will be visiting the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, December 8, 2011, and have expressed an interest in addressing the Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories has the authority to waive any of its rules, procedures, customs or precedents;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that notwithstanding any rules or usual practice of this Legislative Assembly, that on Thursday, December 8, 2011, this House shall interrupt its regular business at the appropriate hour in order to receive an address from the Governor General of Canada, the Right Honourable David Johnston, together with all the introductory and related remarks, and upon completion of such address the House shall continue with its business before it.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Oh, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: I'll continue on with the motion.

AND FURTHER, that this House shall welcome the representatives of the Aboriginal governments in the Northwest Territories to enter the Chamber at the appropriate time to bear witness to the address from His Excellency the Governor General.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, Member. Item 18, first reading of bills. Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 2-17(1), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2012-2013, with Mrs. Groenewegen in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other Matters

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We have one item on the agenda before us today, but I will ask what is the wish of the committee. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHE: Thank you very much. We wish to hear the opening remarks from the Minister of Finance on the tabled capital estimates.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): And proceed with general comments on the tabled document?

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Yes, we will.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Good, we'll see how far we can get, then. But before we do that, we'll have a break. Thank you.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. The item we will be dealing with here today is the Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2012-2013. I'd like to turn the floor over to Minister Miltenberger for his opening remarks. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Madam Chair, I am here to present for the committee's consideration the 2012-13 Capital Estimates of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The estimates outline appropriations for government and community infrastructure investments of \$124.2 million in the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The estimates do not include appropriations for housing infrastructure proposed by the NWT Housing Corporation in 2012-13, totalling \$13.2 million. The appropriation for these investments will be sought during the review of the 2012-13 Main Estimates. The NWT Housing Corporation's proposed 2012-13 Capital Plan, however, has been included in the estimates document as an information item for review and comment.

Including the proposed housing investment, the total planned infrastructure investment in 2012-13 will be \$137.5 million. This reduced level of investment returns the GNWT to a more fiscally sustainable level of capital investment, as required by the current Fiscal Strategy.

Although smaller than previous years' budgets, the 2012-13 Capital Estimates still provide a stable source of funding for community governments, and permits the completion of many of the projects begun during the 16th Assembly.

This level of funding, however, will not address the GNWT's growing infrastructure deficit, which is currently estimated at \$3 billion over the next five years. This does not include deficits also accruing in our municipal and housing infrastructure needs.

The GNWT is facing the difficult challenge of maintaining existing assets, improving housing stock and meeting legislative requirements, with limited fiscal resources. Our ability to meet these needs is further constrained by a borrowing limit whose definition is broadening while the limit remains restrictive and does not reflect the debt carrying capacity of the territory. Under the current limit, there is limited opportunity for the GNWT to make investments to improve our territory's essential infrastructure base to deliver programs and services, to respond to slowdowns in the

NWT's economy or to make the required investments in strategic infrastructure that will better position the territory and all of Canada to maximize economic opportunities of the North.

Major highlights of the 2012-13 Capital Estimates include:

- \$25.6 million for highways and winter roads across the NWT;
- \$11 million for school replacements and renovations;
- \$28 million to continue to fund community governments for infrastructure;
- \$30 million for health facility replacements and renovations;
- \$11.9 million for small capital projects across all departments;
- \$1 million to complete the required planning for the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk all-weather road;
- \$4 million for the Deferred Maintenance Program; and
- \$654,000 to continue the Capital Asset Retrofit Fund Program for energy efficiency upgrades to upgrade existing GNWT buildings. The energy savings resulting from these investments will be used to enhance the program.

We are prepared to discuss the 2012-13 Capital Estimates with the committee. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Will the committee agree to have the deputies join Mr. Miltenberger at the witness table during our general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort the witnesses into the Chamber, then we'll get ready to go with our general comments.

Mr. Miltenberger, for the record, can you please introduce your delegation.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. We have with us today Deputy Minister Mike Aumond from Finance, Deputy Minister Russ Neudorf from Transportation, and Deputy Minister Paul Guy from Public Works and Services. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. General comments. Just in terms of process today, Members, we'll make general comments, you have up to 10 minutes, and then we will ask the Minister if he would like to respond after each Member has spoken. Any general comments on the capital budget? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Having had the capital budget in front of us for two minutes

here now, I'd like to start off by just saying that I note that \$1 million had been budgeted to complete the required planning for the Inuvik to Tuk all-weather road. I'd like to ask the Minister what has been spent to date to confirm that this will complete the planning for that project mentioned in his opening remarks.

I want to compliment the Minister and the government for establishing this Capital Asset Retrofit Fund. It's something we've talked about for a number of years. It provides for energy efficiency upgrades to upgrade existing GNWT buildings and I'm happy to see that in there based on savings as a result of the previous projects that have reduced greenhouse gas emissions, reduced our energy expenditures, provided more employment and helped develop a brand new industry in the Northwest Territories. All kudos there. I'm hoping that we can see that build as we continue the retrofits that yield these annual savings.

The Minister has noted again that our debt limit is compatible or consistent with our increasing level of annual budget. I'm curious, I wonder if the Minister would know what our annual budget was at the time that we had the \$500 million debt limit imposed on us in our fiscal responsibility policy or adopted that.

That's it for now. I haven't had much time to look at this budget but I'll look forward to detailed comments later.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the Member's comment about the Capital Asset Retrofit Fund. We do have all the particulars at Public Works and Services in terms of the savings and costs and how we plan to move forward with reinvesting that money.

I can tell the Member that pre-division, 1999, the budget for the whole combined Northwest Territories was about a billion dollars. Post-division both budgets very quickly approached a billion dollars each and our current budget is almost \$1.3 billion, almost \$1.4 billion in total.

With regard to your question about the borrowing limit and when the \$500 million was put into place, I would point out, as well, that in regard to our budget, our debt-to-revenue ratio, or debt-to-GDP ratio, makes us one of the best managed jurisdictions in Canada, second, I think, only probably to Alberta. We appreciate and agree that the borrowing limit is a constraining factor.

I would ask, Madam Chair, with your indulgence, to get Mr. Neudorf to speak to the million dollars and the Tuk-Inuvik highway.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Neudorf.

MR. NEUDORF: Thank you, Madam Chair. The department is continuing to do some planning for the Inuvik-Tuk road. There is certainly much to do to prepare and get underway. The number that's in the 2012-2013 Capital Plan is a bit of a holding figure meant to signal the commitment of this House to the project, assuming the project is approved. In the meantime, we are using other resources that are available to us at the present time to do the planning for it. Of course, it started off with \$1 million from the federal government for the project description report. We've used some of the money that was originally scheduled for the Tuk gravel access road. We've re-profiled that to spend it to help carry on with the environmental and other related studies for the full Inuvik-Tuk road and that's just over \$1 million.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Members, at this time I'd like to draw your attention to the visitors gallery to a former Member and Premier of this Assembly and now president of the IRC, Nellie Cournoyea, and the mayor of Inuvik, Mr. Denny Rodgers. Welcome.

---Applause

Very timely. We were just discussing the budget allocation for the Inuvik-Tuk highway. Good timing. Thank you. Anything further? Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate the responses there. I just want to confirm the Minister of Finance's information was that we were just shy of \$1 billion. I suspect that we were under \$1 billion at division and we adopted this \$500 million at that time. If that's the case, then obviously our budget has gone up probably much greater than 30 percent, with no change in our debt limit. Maybe I'll stop there. Briefly, if the Minister could just confirm that I got that right.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. In point of fact, we do have and will be going into our last year of a \$75 million bump-up that we got because of the Deh Cho Bridge impacts. The budget shortly after division was very close to \$1 billion. I'd have to commit or ask Mr. Aumond if he knows the detail of the \$500 million as a loan limit, but that's been there, to my recollection, for a good number of years. I'd ask Mr. Aumond. He's indicated that he doesn't have that information with him, so I'll commit to get that information for the committee.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Anything further, Mr. Bromley?

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I did note that Mr. Neudorf mentioned that the \$1 million to complete the required planning was part of the resources for this year's work on completing the

planning for the Inuvik-Tuk all-weather road and that in the past we have reconfigured some of the resources, like, for the gravel access road and so on. I'm wondering what other resources proposed for the fiscal year under discussion are being proposed and where they will be coming from.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As we pursue the work on our borrowing limit, we're also pursuing our discussions with the federal government about the \$150 million. We're trying to find out what the opportunities are in terms of how that money can flow and can their money flow before it first, as we sort ourselves out. Those type of questions have not yet been finalized. I would once again ask Mr. Neudorf if he has any further detail in addition to our own resources other than the million dollars.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Neudorf.

MR. NEUDORF: Thank you, Madam Chair. It certainly will take a lot of funding in order to plan for the project. It is a \$250 million to \$300 million project. We are taking a measured approach to that. We do recognize the fiscal situation of the government and want to be able to move forward, working with Finance and working with the others that require approval of the project in order to move it forward.

We also don't want to start spending a significant amount of money, because we do have to continue the discussions with the federal government. They are a partner in the project and if we spend some money up front then we won't be able to cost share those expenditures with the federal government. We just have to consider that as well.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Neudorf. Anything further, Mr. Bromley?

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I suppose one last one is, I'm again very appreciative of the Capital Asset Retrofit Fund program but it is quite a comedown, quite a modest effort compared to the extraordinary \$15 million a year that we enjoyed for energy projects in the 16th Assembly as made available through careful planning and hard work, I'm sure. Is there a plan to seek those sorts of resources as our fiscal situation hopefully improves early in the term here?

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. The actual money that was put towards renovating and updating and retrofitting government facilities was substantially less than the \$15 million a year overall that we tried to put to the various alternative energy priorities. If you look at the actual number, which Mr. Guy could probably provide, the savings that we are realizing and the payback times are actually quite significant. The payback times are short. The savings for the

amount of money we've spent I think are fairly good. If we get an adjustment to our borrowing limit, then we will be collectively, as I've indicated in other forums, having a collective discussion about the amount of room and the type of resources that we want to be able to collectively put to bear if we get the ability to borrow for strategic infrastructure requirements.

I would suggest that we've made a very significant commitment in the last Assembly of almost \$60 million carrying over to this year. That is one area where there is a lot of momentum that we would hate to lose. I would suggest that, yes, we would have that discussion, should we be successful.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Next on the list for general comments is Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have a number of comments. I'm kind of jumping around here but I'll lay them out. I don't have a lot of questions but I do have a lot of comments.

I'd like to also speak to the Inuvik-Tuk highway. I appreciate that it is a priority of this government and that we are putting some funding into it, and I know that the federal government has allocated some \$150 million towards the project. Knowing that our debt limit is what it is and knowing the amount of borrowing – I should say our borrowing limit, not our debt limit – is where it is in the amount of borrowing that we currently have on the books and that we have to account for, it leaves us very little room to put any serious money into the Inuvik-Tuk highway project. I know that there has been some suggestion that we may be able to access the federal funding first and then when our borrowing limit and the gap of our borrowing and the limit has been eased somewhat, we could maybe access our own funds later on. That would be a question to the Minister: Is that something that the department is considering? Is it something that's feasible that we could use the federal money, say, in the first two or three years, and then use our own money after that, so that would give us a little breathing room and enable us to move ahead on that project?

I am disappointed. I haven't totally examined the budget yet, but I believe there's very limited money in here for schools. I think the Minister says \$11 million for school replacements and renovations. My belief is that it probably is \$11 million going towards projects which are already in the works. The Inuvik school is not yet finished and I can't remember what other schools we have on the go. There are several school projects which are already in progress and which need to be finished. I don't believe there is any new money in the budget to address the needs of Yellowknife schools. I speak specifically of Sissons School and Mildred Hall School here in Yellowknife. There's no funding to do the necessary...to finish the renovations at

Mildred Hall and to do the much-needed renovations at Sissons School. I recognize that we don't have a lot of room to add new projects in this particular budget year, but I'd like to serve notice that for sure Sissons is a school which is desperately in need of renovations and I'd like to see it on the capital plan, at least see it as a projected project within the life of this Assembly, because the school really shouldn't be waiting much longer than it already has.

I am pleased to see the emphasis on small capital in the budget. I don't know if the number is larger than it was in the previous capital budget, but I think it probably has increased somewhat and I think that's a good thing. Particularly in the area of health, I remember from the previous Assembly that Health specifically spoke to us about the need for investment in small capital. They have huge amounts of technology that needs to be upgraded and updated all the time. I would hope that the amount of money that we have in small capital is going to address some of those urgent needs of the Health department.

I want to also commend whoever developed our document. The substantiation sheets are, in my mind, wonderful. They're extremely thorough. I can't say that I've read every one of them, but certainly if I had a question about a project, I could go to that substantiation sheet for that project and it pretty much told me everything I needed to know. I'd like to commend the Minister and staff for changing our process a little bit and for providing that background information to Members, because it certainly makes it easier to figure out what things we're talking about and the background on them and gives us a lot more information.

I have a bit of a concern with ongoing needs in our communities. I know the Minister, in his opening remarks, mentioned there's \$28 million to fund community government, and I think he said earlier on in his statement that we are providing a stable source of funding for community governments. I agree that it's stable, but I can't agree that \$28 million is addressing the needs of our community governments. I don't know the amount but I know that the infrastructure needs of our community governments are huge, and I believe the funding we provide them and that they can get even through gas tax money and any other sources of funding other than GNWT funds only addresses some 60 percent of their community infrastructure needs. In my mind, we need to be well aware of the fact that, yes, we're giving them a stable source of funding, and perhaps this year there's no increase but we have to seriously consider increasing the amount of money we give to our communities for infrastructure, and not in five years' time but in one year's time.

I'm really pleased to see that there is a planning study for the Stanton Territorial Hospital. That's a project which has been talked about for probably 10 years and a little more positively in the last couple of years, but there's been no action on it and it's a facility, as well, that desperately needs renovations and upgrading. It needs to be brought into the 21st Century, so to speak. I'm hoping that the planning will be done with all haste and that we can actually get some construction and design money into the budget next year and get started on this project. I'm not quite sure how we're going to be able to fund it. The Minister has said previously that it's a \$400 million project. That may be a little high, but it's still going to be many millions of dollars. But with the planning study done, we know what we need in order to get the project off the ground, and I think we can then start to try and find creative ways to fund it; creative but legal, by the way.

I am disappointed that there's no money for Highway No. 7. I have to support my colleague Mr. Menicoche, in that Highway No. 7 is one of our highways which is desperately in need of some major revisions. We've covered off three or four highways, I think, in the budget, but Highway No. 7 is quite obviously missing any funding in this particular year.

Again, as with Mr. Bromley, I am really pleased to see the emphasis on deferred maintenance. I think it's done us really well in the last three or four years where we have put an emphasis on deferred maintenance. I think it's proven to be successful and I'm glad to see that we're not moving away from that particular tack that we are going to continue to do that.

I guess the last thing that I am a little bit concerned about is carry-overs. It's not mentioned in the Minister's remarks, I don't believe. We have had carry-overs every year in the last Assembly that I was here. Certainly the amount went down somewhat and, actually, I'm not surprised that we have carry-overs, considering the size of our capital budget. In 2011-12 it was huge. We took advantage of the federal stimulus money and it benefitted us greatly. But I guess I would like to know from the Minister whether or not we can anticipate that the carry-overs from this budget year that we're considering now, 2012-13, whether or not those carry-overs are going to be somewhat less than what we've experienced over the last four years. I think we've gone down from 35 or so percent down to maybe 25 percent of our projects are carry-overs, but I would hope with a smaller budget dollar amount we would be able to reduce our carry-overs after 2012-13 to something a lot lower than 25 percent.

I think that's it, Mr. Chair. I don't have anything else on my list. Thanks very much.

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

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As we indicated in a previous response, we are talking to the federal government about their commitment to the road, \$150 million, and when it could flow and how it would be sequenced to see if we could, in fact, put their money to work as soon as we can while we sort our own circumstances out.

I've noted the comments on the schools in YK, but clearly, with a \$75 million budget, there are far more needs than we have resources

The small cap budget hasn't increased, but Health has made the case that there should be a separate amount of money put aside for their very specific and ongoing needs.

I would point out, in terms of your concern about the ongoing community needs, that they do have significant needs, but up until this budget their money that we committed to them has grown at a rate greater than all other government programming. But we, as well, share the concern that we have to continue to be supportive of them.

There is \$1.6 million left in carry-over dollars, apparently, for Highway No. 7. Clearly not enough and it's one of the items that's on our red flag list. As our budget stays at these modest numbers, the amount of carry-overs will, I think, absolutely drop. The bigger the budget, the more challenge.

Once again, I appreciate the Member's concerns but over the years with the changes we've made to the capital planning processes, we have, as well, seen a progressive drop on a percentage basis even with a \$1.1 billion budget over the last three years. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Minister has presented us, I guess, an eye opener in terms of what our needs are in the Northwest Territories and what type of funding we are going to look at for the next year. We understand that our needs are higher than the revenue that's coming into the Northwest Territories. We are very happy that the federal government is contributing to the Mackenzie Valley Highway, through their recent announcement of working on a portion north of Inuvik and they already started the Tuk to Inuvik road. We, as government, are supporting this process through allocating \$1 million to complete the planning for that section. The work is starting. I think we need to continue to support that aspect of the Mackenzie Valley Highway just as much as when the rest of the regions are going to be going through their process of putting a proposal together once the PDRs are completed and environmental assessments are done when we need to secure

money for the construction of the road up the valley to meet the Dempster. So we look for that type of support in the future.

I hope that there are some provisions with the upcoming appropriation act and under small capital planning to finally get the needs of the Colville Lake people met. Ms. Bisaro talks about bringing health into the 21st Century. I think Colville Lake is still in the 16th Century with the honey bucket system. This is utterly ridiculous in this day and age, where small capital funding could simply install proper washroom facilities at a public facility such as our health centre in one of our small communities. Why is it taking so long? I've been here eight years and I plan to be here another four more years. I hope to goodness that by the time I'm finished this 17th Assembly, Colville Lake will have a running facility like any other facility in the Northwest Territories.

For eight years I have been hearing nothing but excuses, excuses and excuses why we can't simply replace the honey bucket system at the health centre. They have their good reasons and they have their good excuses, but that doesn't do any good to my people in Colville Lake who, today, have to use that honey bucket system. That is not very good.

You could spend millions of dollars on other things that the government seems to move pretty quickly on. They build millions of dollars of infrastructure, but I don't understand why it is taking so long to take the honey bucket out of the health centre and put proper washroom facilities in there.

I ask the Cabinet and Ministers to think about this and see what we can do for Colville Lake. I ask that they could consider that in their planning. Their money is being divvied up amongst the departments as to their funding. I ask this on behalf of my people in Colville Lake. I think it can get done. We could put \$182 million into our bridge. I think we can put a simple little washroom in the health centre in Colville Lake.

At the same time, I want to speak about the honey buckets in our public school in Colville Lake. There are about 53 to 56 kids in that education system in two separate buildings. There is no proper air ventilation in the school. It stinks in there when you go in there sometimes. That is what kids have to go through. They have no other choice but to go to school, because they are like anybody in the Northwest Territories and the families support their children getting the proper education. But, Mr. Chair, could you imagine children sitting there and smelling their own sewage? That is not very good. I was in there last week. One of the portable units that they have for the school has 25 kids in there.

Again, I would ask the government to look at doing something with those facilities. Make it happen. I want to ask the government on behalf of the people, on behalf of the parents that send their kids

to the school and we encourage them to go to school and to have a proper facility. It is unbelievable; in the same washroom area they also have a program where they are teaching children preventative measures on the dental hygiene care. I am going to raise it again until I know for sure that they have a proper running toilet, sink and that is taken care of with proper ventilation. I ask that under the capital plans and I will ask more questions later on.

I am just looking at the capital estimates. I know that the Minister talked about the bleak picture that we have in front of us and the great needs that are needed in the Northwest Territories. I am hoping that the Minister has good meetings with Finance Canada on some of the bigger issues, the debt wall, the borrowing and help us with our finances.

Colville Lake is also asking – and I agree with them – and some of my colleagues have spoken; they also are looking forward to seeing where in the planning we could look at a new school in Colville Lake. They are asking if it could be brought to the attention of the government to start putting it into the planning books for Colville Lake. It is overcrowded. If you ever watched the program, Mr. Chair, called “Hoarders” on TLC, they have junk everywhere, stuff in people’s houses. Well, the Colville Lake School is like that. It is so small and crammed up and they are trying to teach a proper Slavey class or the young grades class. They have books and stuff piled up. It is unbelievable. Those teachers should be given a medal for teaching in those types of conditions, with a honey bucket and the overcrowding. There are four grades in one room like this. There are paper wall partitions where they are trying to teach. Kids are just kids. They make a lot of noise. It is very hard to teach in those conditions. That is the reality of our school in Colville Lake. They really need a new school. Offer a facility to educate them. They need a new building. I am going to keep raising this to see where the government can work with us.

Colville Lake wants to work with you. Tell us what kinds of numbers you guys need to work with. They are independent, proud people and they will work with you. You give them a number. They will help you. They want the best for the kids just like any of us. We have friends and family ourselves who have children in their own classrooms. They want the best. They are no different than you and I on educating their kids. That is what I want to say to this government. I look forward to having further discussions as we go through this. Mahsi cho.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. We will go to Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I can recollect back over the years when Colville Lake... They moved out to Colville Lake because they wanted a traditional community

with minimal trappings of civilization. Clearly, as we have been there over the years, there has been a growing concern about the fact of having some of those amenities. We are working on that.

There is, in fact – and I will ask Mr. Guy to confirm this – money and work being set up to deal with the actual infrastructure requirements to improve on the honey bucket system and to put in those types of amenities, but there is also another piece that has to be done before those can be made operational, and that is the lagoon and the disposal part of the process.

The issue of a new school, of course, will have to go into the capital planning process, keeping in mind at this juncture we are going to be looking at \$75 million a year for the next number of years unless there is some type of change to our borrowing limit. Once again, if there is a bump-up to that, then we will have another discussion. There will be enormous pent up demand that we know is already there, red flag projects and projects that are already on the list as the Member knows, like the long-term care facility in Norman Wells.

So I will ask Mr. Guy maybe if he could speak to some of the particulars in regard to the Member’s impassioned plea about the schools and the health centre facilities. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Mr. Guy.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, the Minister is correct; we do have a project in this fiscal year to upgrade the washroom facilities at the Colville Lake school. That work is underway. A tank storage building is being constructed and it will be delivered on the winter road and the rest of the work will be completed so that that facility will be available for the fall school year in the fall of 2012. That is on the provision that the other piece of the work gets done by the community, that we need to have the sewage lagoon constructed and water and sewer trucks operating in the community so that we can put that work into operation that we are taking care of. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Guy. We are continuing on with general comments. Mr. Kevin Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I know that while we did work hard with the capital estimates and trying to do the best with the limited resources that we had, but I am still very disappointed at the zero investment in Highway No. 7 for 2012-2013.

I was just recently in Fort Liard and I was speaking with the chief and the residents there, and one of our focuses, too, of the new Assembly is economic development and jobs and training, and the chief had actually said it’s no use talking about that if we can’t use the highways to get those investments

here. So Highway No. 7 is very critical to Fort Liard and to the Nahendeh riding.

I believe that the future of economic development is dependent on Highway No. 7 and the investment in projects like Canadian Zinc or any new emerging industries that may want to develop around Fort Liard and/or Fort Simpson. So I continue to highlight the importance of Highway No. 7 to the economic development of my region. I certainly would like to see more investment there.

I'm very pleased to hear about the \$1.6 million worth of carry-over, and it's work that should have been done this year. Despite that, at least it's a little bit of investment for this coming year. I certainly would urge my colleagues and Cabinet and anybody from this House that this is definitely a priority as we move forward. I know that studies were done and proved that severe reconstruction of Highway No. 7 has to occur. However, we can at least start to piecemeal it. So that's critical and I'll continue to raise that.

In today's Member's statement I spoke about my smaller communities needing new schools. I raised a couple of issues about big megaprojects; I think it was the \$100 million school in Inuvik, as well as \$180 million bridge. I believe in our small communities. You know, we're talking maybe a \$4 million investment for a new school. It's not very much money, and that's why I believe that we can put it in the needs assessment or in our capital plan within the next five years. I truly believe that it is manageable to have investments in our regions and smaller communities. Their needs are just as important and they should be taken care of as well.

Another big emerging issue out of Fort Simpson is the planning study that was scheduled for the Fort Simpson Hospital. It may be in the O and M budget for 2012, but maybe the Minister can confirm that for me, whether it's in the 2012-13 budget or else the 2013-14. That's something that is critical. It's another one of the infrastructures that you cannot defer much longer without getting into some serious issues up to and including even shutting down the hospital if need be.

As well, Trout Lake has always been wanting to get a snow blower for the existing airport. I believe that will assist their community. In fact, it will actually help them, I think, because they've had issues about the equipment taking out the runway lights. It's very expensive to repair and they really believe that a snow blower will assist them in cleaning the airport and maintaining their current infrastructure.

Just in closing briefly, I know that any investment in Highway No. 7 has been red flagged, which means that if we do get any more capital dollars that they'll certainly be highlighted, but there are other needs there. I'd just like the assurance of the Minister and of our government that if there indeed is any red flag money that Highway No. 7 definitely gets on it

and this does not get punched over to red flag D kind of list there, Mr. Chair. I don't believe that if we're going to set up a red flag list, you don't bump it over again if there are any resources that do come open. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. We'll go to Minister Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to Highway No. 7 and the red flag list, I can assure the Member and this House that if there is an opportunity to put more money into capital through a bump up to our borrowing. We want to look at targeted infrastructure in the capital planning process and the committees will be fully involved. The work that's been done up to date, the red flag lists will be put out there and we will have that discussion both in terms of the amount of money and how we move forward to put the money that we have available to work strategically. So, yes, I will confirm to the Member that that list will be there and the red flag is there because they're next in line. So that will be part of the discussion going forward.

The Member raised his concern about the schools in Nahanni Butte and Trout Lake that have been ordered already. The planning study in Fort Simpson, I'll just point out and I'll ask Mr. Guy to confirm, but we have roughly about half a billion dollars' worth of health projects on the books. When you add them all in that we now have before us, including Fort Simpson, we do have our challenges when you look at a \$75 million capital plan, and just health alone, let alone transportation could spend that amount of money and more to upgrade and maintain the road system we already have. But I'll ask, Mr. Chairman, for your permission to get Mr. Guy to speak specifically to the health or the planning study for the Fort Simpson Health Centre.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. We'll go to Mr. Guy.

MR. GUY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There was funding in the 2011-12 Capital Plan for planning studies and one of the planning studies that was identified in that funding is the one for Fort Simpson Health Centre. That work is underway right now and we're anticipating having that done this fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Guy. Continuing with general comments, I have Mr. Sonny Blake.

MR. BLAKE: Thank you. As I mentioned before, I really disagree with the process, but I do realize at the end of our term we'll be setting priorities for the next 18th government. So I just wanted to state that. I'm hoping that within the next year here, in the fall, we have the new school on our agenda for the community of Aklavik. As I mentioned, it's getting

close to 40 years old and I believe it's well above the 28-year assessment needs.

I do realize in history with this government the Mackenzie Delta is getting not very much in terms of projects. I know there's a bunch of renovations planned. I'd like to see change before our February budget. It needs to match our priorities and I hope to see those changes. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Blake. We'll go to Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The school in Aklavik would have to go through, at this point, the normal process in a very competitive environment with a limited amount of money. I appreciate the Member's comment in that the terms of what's going to happen in February, in February we will be doing an interim appropriation, which will be giving us as a government enough money to do business so that we can do the final budget debate and approval in May/June. The business planning process is now currently underway and we will be, right after Christmas, engaging fully with committees on reviewing all the business plans for all of the departments, which is for their O and M budget. There will be an opportunity there, which is why we've delayed things to have that fulsome discussion about all these program issues, some of which the Member has touched on. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Any other further general comments? I'd like to recognize Mr. Nadli.

MR. NADLI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I think it's been fairly clear in terms of the path that is before us, at least for the past couple of weeks that we've been here. It's fairly clear that we're challenged with limitations and fiscal resources. At the same time we're challenged with continuing to deliver programs and services and links that are vital to ensuring that our citizens and residents of the Northwest Territories enjoy their lifestyle here in the North, and ensuring that they bring up their families and ensuring that we have a future for all of us to share this part of Canada. It's been very eye-opening for the past couple of weeks in terms of the challenges that are before us.

At the same time there are still needs and wants that our communities bring up periodically. Quite often we hear that there needs to be infrastructure at least brought to the communities in terms of schools, roads and so forth. There are still aspirations of local communities to ensure that there are programs and services at the same time delivered to communities and residents. There are still needs of communities that are not really reflected in this whole initiative at this time. I realize that.

What is very interesting for me, at least from my perspective, is that some common themes I've heard from all of us thus far is that there is a need because we're challenged with delivering the programs and services to our residents at the same time we're challenged with creating new capital infrastructure projects. We need to try to make less; we need to do more with less resources at this time. Some common themes that I've been hearing is that we need to integrate. Perhaps we need to decentralize, or else we need to maybe look at better cooperation with communities and local governments, or regional governments and partnerships. Those are a few signals that I've been seeing thus far.

I like what I'm hearing. I think we've started off at the gates where we kind of took off and I see some positive signals that we're undertaking. My hope and sense of optimism at this point is that all is not lost in terms of the communities that still aspire to get the services that they want. For example, in Kakisa they're still very interested in a central heating system so that they have an alternative to the fossil fuels that they burn at this point. In Enterprise there's still a need for them to realize their wish to see a school established in their community. On the reserve in Hay River – K'atlodeeche – they still aspire to create services for their youth. My hope is that those wishes of the communities will not be lost in the shuffle, that somehow governments and departments will ensure that in the spirit of trying to work with everybody that people will listen. At the same time, try to be creative and work with communities and local leaders, residents, to ensure that, yes, we are challenged with finding the funds that perhaps are non-existent at this time, but ensuring that we could perhaps make things possible by realizing the aspirations of communities by working together.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Nadli. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Once again, just to point out that the money that's there, the \$28 million for communities has been maintained, and over the years that I've been around, we've maintained the level of growth at a higher level than all other program areas, probably with the exception of health.

The Member talks about money while we talk about the struggles. We do have to keep in mind that we are still spending \$1.34 billion across the North and we're going to continue to spend that amount and probably more with all the growth pressures.

The other piece – and I have to take this opportunity to say it since the Member gave me this opportunity as we talk about the communities and their needs and wants – because we do not have a Devolution Agreement, we're going to leave over \$60 million on the table this year. The last five

years, if you can visualize a pile of cash worth \$300 million sitting in the middle of this Legislature that we've left on the table that we'll never be able to spend to meet all the needs that we've just spent the last hour talking about, because it's not retroactive. As we go forward and we talk the talk about the money for our communities, we have to walk the walk and we can get the money in one way that we know: through devolution.

Some other opportunities are not as palatable given our tough economic times, which are revenue increases and tax increases. We do know, year after year, \$60 million and rising goes to the federal government that we don't get to put into these varied services that we all so passionately talk about. We're going to have an agreement hopefully within a year and implementation hopefully shortly thereafter, and then that money will flow to us and to the Aboriginal governments and will help us address some of those needs.

The specific issues about the central heating in Kakisa, I know there's work underway. I'd have to ask Mr. Guy if he has any specific information on that. I know the Member has raised the issue of the school in Enterprise, which would have to as well get onto the list. It's not there yet. The services for youth sounds very specific about a very good subject to discuss through the business planning process as we look at the O and M budget. I would have to ask Mr. Guy, or do any of the Three Wise Men on capital have any... I see a shaking of heads. I'd have to commit to get some information on the central heating project that is underway in Kakisa. I know that there's been work done and that there was some involvement of the government, but I'd have to commit to get that information for the Member.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dolynny): Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Looks like one of our final general comments. Mr. Moses.

MR. MOSES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just a couple of comments here. Being back home in Inuvik on my last time out, I had a few constituents approach me about the lack of jobs in the community and how some of them had to take their pride into consideration and go on income support. Creating these jobs and putting people back to work will affect some of our social concerns that we have in the Northwest Territories and also help with a good discussion we had earlier today on the Anti-Poverty Strategy.

I'm really happy to see that there has been \$1 million earmarked to complete the planning for the Inuvik-Tuk highway. It will go to use and a lot of people will benefit from that within our departments, social departments as well as people up in the Beaufort-Delta going back to work. I just wanted to congratulate the government on looking at that for this next fiscal year.

We spoke a little earlier, just listening to comments about if the government decides to go beyond its debt wall for the new fiscal year, we will be looking at the red flag projects. I would also like this government to look at some new possible projects that some of our new Members that have come into the Assembly might be bringing forth, that they not be put on the waiting list. Specifically one project that I made reference to in my Member's statement is the Children First Centre in Inuvik. The community itself has invested a lot of time and energy, and when you have a vested interest like that, you know the community will go forth and do good with the project and make sure that it's successful. If we get the government behind them, you know it will be a strong and good investment, especially with all these infrastructural projects that we have lined up for years to come. It would be very smart for the government to look at helping create that so when the new school opens and the existing facility is gone, professionals and people coming up to Inuvik will have a place for their children to go to school while they're working and contributing to the economy of Inuvik.

We had some talks in terms of devolution, and personally, with all the social issues and money that we have and stresses that affect all our communities, we've heard it here over the last hour. Like you said, I'm really hoping that we can come to terms and get an agreement signed this year, because it is a lot of money that can be going to communities. I do look forward to being part of that and giving the best advice, and influence and encouragement that I can.

So you guys are doing a great job and I really look forward to this. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Mr. Moses. Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Madam Chair. I do appreciate the Member's comments, and just to reiterate the commitment that should there be a successful conclusion to our borrowing limit talks – and we do have some room to make additional strategic investments – that we collectively will fully engage through our processes to identify the amount of money and how and where it will be targeted.

I will point out for the new Members that they will quickly come to learn how interested and intense the discussion is about capital, given the long list of demands and the always short list of resources. I thank the Member for his comments.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Does the committee agree that that concludes... Mr. Moses, did you have further comments?

MR. MOSES: That's fine. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): Does committee agree that that concludes general comments? Mr. Menicoche.

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

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mrs. Groenewegen): I'd like to thank Minister Miltenberger for his presentation and his staff here today. I'd like to thank the witnesses for their participation here today and I'll ask the Sergeant-at-Arms if he would please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. I will now rise and report progress.

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Tabled Document 2-17(1), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2012-13, and would like to report progress. I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

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

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Thursday, December 8, 2011, 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

- Tabled Document 2-17(1), Northwest Territories Capital Estimates 2012-13

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, December 8, 2011, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:34 a.m.