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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2001****Members Present**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Honourable Jane Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. McLeod, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Thank you for the prayer, Mr. Braden. Please be seated. Good afternoon, colleagues. I understand that Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, is prepared to enter the Chamber to assent to bills. Mr. Clerk, would you please attend to and escort the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories into the Chamber.

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Glenna Hansen): As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bill: Bill 3, An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Please be seated. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Financial Management Board, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 22-14(4): National Public Service Week**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, June 10th to the 16th has been declared National Public Service Week.

As the Minister responsible for the public service of the Northwest Territories, it is my pleasure to recognize the contributions made by the men and women who make up our public service.

I am proud to say that our public service is characterized by high standards of integrity, professionalism and dedication to service.

Employees of the public service are our most valuable asset. Their hard work and dedication allow the government to deliver services to the people of the Northwest Territories efficiently and effectively. These services encompass everything from the delivery of health care, social and community programs, to maintaining highways and managing our renewable resources and educating our children.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of us, I would like to thank the men and women of the Northwest Territories public service for their many valuable contributions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 23-14(4): Employee Recognition Day

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, in my opening remarks to this legislature at the start of this session, I briefly thanked the members of the Government of the Northwest Territories public service for a job well done. The third week of June is designated Public Service Week and so today, I would like to elaborate on the important work that is done by our public service and to thank all Government of the Northwest Territories employees for their effort and dedication.

Our government employs approximately 4,000 people. Many of these employees have chosen to make their careers with our government and they have been with us for a long time. The work that our employees do, in service to all residents of the Northwest Territories, is what allows us as legislators to achieve the goals and reach the objectives that we establish for government. Our employees work hard to implement the direction we provide and to meet the needs of the people that we all serve.

This government is dynamic and responsive to the rapid changes and advances taking place in the North. Our employees have handled a great deal of change already, such as division of the Northwest Territories, and they have handled it with patience and professionalism. We will be facing more change in the years to come as self-government initiatives are implemented, as oil, gas and minerals and hydro are developed, and as the Northwest Territories reaches its full potential as a self-sufficient, vibrant and prosperous territory. I have every confidence that our able public service will be there to provide a continued high level of service as we move forward.

As Premier, my travels provided me the opportunity many times to meet and talk with public servants throughout the Northwest Territories, representing all departments, agencies and professions. We are continually impressed by the dedication with which our employees serve the public and the quality of the work they do.

We live in very exciting times and our future is bright. Bright futures favour talented, hard-working people. Our staff have more career choices than ever before. Other employers can offer them exciting northern employment opportunities as well. Our challenge is to retain our staff and provide them with workplaces that are supportive, and managers and supervisors who appreciate their contributions.

Although we presently have no formal process to recognize and honour our staff, we have today assembled a representative group of employees who exemplify the best

qualities and achievements in our public service. This group includes three lifelong career employees who will be retiring this year; individuals who have been recognized nationally and internationally for achievements within their professions; and employees who have demonstrated through their excellent work an exemplary attitude and commitment to their jobs and their communities. In alphabetical order, these employees are:

- Rosalie Adams, Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board, Inuvik;
- Dr. Chuck Arnold, Education, Culture and Employment, Yellowknife;
- Gord Bohnet, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Rae-Edzo;
- Violet Edgi, Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board, Fort Good hope;
- Bessie Erasmus, Municipal and Community Affairs, Rae-Edzo;
- Doug Howard, Transportation, Yellowknife;
- George Mandeville, Public Works And Services, Yellowknife;
- Bob McLeod, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Yellowknife;
- Kayhan Nadji, Public Works and Services, Yellowknife;
- Andy Norwegian, Deh Cho Divisional Education Council, Fort Simpson;
- Bob Sanderson, Financial Management Board Secretariat, Fort Smith;
- Faye Stark, Deh Cho Health and Social Services Board, Fort Providence;
- Julian Tomlinson, Aurora College, Inuvik;
- Lew Voytilla, Financial Management Board Secretariat, Yellowknife;
- John Wilderspin, Transportation, Norman Wells; and
- Ray Young, South Slave Divisional Education Council, Hay River.

To all of you, congratulations on your respective achievements, and thank you for a job well done. Mahsi.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Minister's Statement 24-14(4): Award Winning Employees of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, I would like to congratulate two employees, Mr. Bob McLeod and Mr. Greg Hancock, who recently received national and international recognition for their achievements.

Mr. Speaker, the fur trade industry is important to many residents of the Northwest Territories. At the Montreal fur fair, the Fur Council of Canada sponsored a new award entitled Friends of the Fur Trade. This award recognized the work done by Mr. Bob McLeod when he participated on the Canadian delegation that negotiated a European agreement on humane trapping. This agreement set the standards which trappers use today to ensure that fur is harvested in a humane manner.

Mr. Hancock received the prestigious Silver REMI award at this year's Houston International Film Festival for two videos he produced -- the tourism video, Where Winter Begins, and the video called Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur, Fur Fashion Show. This is a remarkable achievement since over 4,300 entries were received. These videos will be instrumental in marketing both our tourism and fur products, and gaining international recognition is really an honour.

Finally, as it is Public Service Week, I would like to thank all the employees of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development for their contributions and hard work in fulfilling the mandate of this department. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Minister's Statement 25-14(4): Advanced Training Fund for Oil and Gas Industry

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, NWT residents will have access to advanced training for the oil and gas industry as the result of an agreement to establish a permanent training site in the Northwest Territories. This is a cooperative venture involving a number of groups that have an interest in developing the gas reserves in the Northwest Territories. The plan was developed by industry and Aurora College in cooperation with aboriginal claimant groups, the Government of the Northwest Territories and the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

Mr. Speaker, this opportunity is possible because of the GNWT's commitment to maximizing northern employment. We are determined to give Northerners the opportunity to advance beyond entry-level jobs in the oil and gas industry. This program will provide the enhanced level of training for people to access skilled oil and gas positions. It will be delivered in the Sahtu, Beaufort Delta, Deh Cho and South Slave regions. Additional training-on-the-job subsidies will be made available to employers.

Mr. Speaker, the centrepiece of this exciting new training initiative is a plan to train drilling rig floorhands at a permanent training site to be developed near the town of Inuvik. This

summer, Aurora College, using instructors certified by the Petroleum Industry Training Service in Alberta, will begin training floorhands on a drilling rig supplied by Akita Drilling.

The projects will create numerous jobs for Northerners and establish a northern infrastructure for future training in the oil and gas sector in such areas as drill rig floorhands, kitchen helper and camp attendant, truck training and drill sump research.

I should say, Mr. Speaker, for those who may be unfamiliar with the terminology, that a floorhand is a member of a drilling crew that also includes tool pushers, drillers, derrick men and motormen. Drilling companies usually promote from within. Floorhands are often groomed to move into more serious positions in the drilling rig operation. So while some individuals may be satisfied with the rewards of being a good floorhand, opportunities do exist for Northerners with the motivation, aptitude, leadership and teamwork skills to move from floorhand into a position requiring additional skills and training.

The training program lasts twelve days -- six in the classroom with a heavy emphasis on safety and six days on the rig itself working 12-hour shifts. This training is scheduled to run from July 30 to August 22. It is modeled on a similar program delivered by the Petroleum Industry Training Service for aboriginal trainees in British Columbia.

Needless to say, Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to announce this training and research initiative. This program, developed in partnership, will benefit both employers and potential employees in the NWT. That is exactly what maximizing northern employment is meant to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 26-14(4): National Aboriginal Day

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, on June 21st, people all across the country will be celebrating National Aboriginal Day. This is a day set aside by the Government of Canada five years ago to recognize the diverse cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples and their outstanding contributions to Canadian society. Across Canada, public events are being organized to mark this day.

Here in the Northwest Territories, we have much to celebrate, Mr. Speaker. The Dene, Metis and Inuvialuit peoples of the Northwest Territories have contributed greatly to our society. Our culture, language, customs and traditions are still an integral part of community life.

Last year, Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs contributed \$24,000 to 18 different communities to help communities celebrate this day. Communities held canoe races, traditional games and dances, bannock and tea-making contests, community feasts and storytelling circles.

This year, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs will be providing support again to aboriginal community groups. We have received 20 proposals so far.

I am proud to say that my home community of Fort Simpson is planning a full day of activities. The day will start with a sunrise ceremony, followed by hand games, canoe races and a golf tournament. The day will end with a fashion show, talent show, a feast and drum dance. Residents in Trout Lake will be feasting on traditional foods at a community barbecue, and in Fort Liard, a traditional hunt is being organized by elders to teach the young people how to hunt on the land.

There will be some old time dancing in Tsiigehtchic and some traditional drum dancing in Fort Smith. In Fort McPherson and Deninu Ku'e, there will be community feasts. In Wha Ti, the entire community will be invited to celebrate with traditional games and a feast, and the elders will be teaching the youth traditional games.

In Tulita, the Metis will put on displays celebrating their heritage and culture, and in Deline, there will be hand games, a feast and a drum dance.

In Dettah and N'dilo, the elders will demonstrate and teach traditional skills such as drum dancing and preparing hides. In Yellowknife, there will be a day-long celebration at Petitot Park.

As you can see, Mr. Speaker, communities up and down the Mackenzie Valley will be offering the public an opportunity to join in the celebrations. I would like to invite everyone to participate in celebrating National Aboriginal Day. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement on Reconciling Environment and Development Issues

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, I rise today on a controversial issue raised by the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in an interview he did yesterday regarding the possibility of three dams on the Mackenzie River. I have received several calls from my constituency wondering what is going on.

I feel that before any statements are made or any ideas are put on the table, we should consult the people who are going to be affected, especially when we have for years been battling the Bennett Dam project in B.C., where we have seen the affects up and down the Mackenzie Valley and the Mackenzie Delta regarding water levels.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, there has not been any consultation. This idea has come out of thin air. Mr. Speaker, we have seen what has happened in other jurisdictions in Canada, such as Quebec and the Quebec Hydro projects, and also the affect of the Bennett Dam.

Mr. Speaker, I for one feel that there must be a time for debate. There must be a time to ensure people will continue to have water resources in the Northwest Territories. For us as a government to take such a hard stand at this time shows that there is definitely...

MR. SPEAKER: A point of order. Mr. Premier, what is your point of order?

Point of Order

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: The point of order is that the Member is referring to statements he believes he heard outside of the House. I believe there were statements by CBC, but definitely not by the Minister. In any case, we are not privy to what the Member is talking about. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I think the honourable Member is making a statement on an item that was publicly broadcast. I believe it is not confidential information. It is out there in the public. I will seek...just a minute, Mr. Kakfwi. I am not finished yet. I will seek some advice on it.

-- Interjection

MR. SPEAKER: As I was saying, this Member's statement is a response to what his constituents may be saying. In the Chair's opinion, there is no point of order. I will allow the honourable Member to continue with his Member's statement. Mr. Krutko, you have the floor.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to this issue, I think we as a government have to seriously separate the economics of what goes on within this government and environmental protection, ensuring that we have a department that is not joined at the hip, that they are two separate institutions who are responsible for protecting the wildlife and environment, and also ensuring that the quality of air in the Northwest Territories, the water and our environment is protected.

We as a government have to seriously look at the implications of these mega-projects regarding the accumulative affect of having so much of these developments taking place, on our water and on our air, and the effect on the people of the Northwest Territories, especially the aboriginal people, who depend on the wildlife, the fish who depend on water.

I feel that we have to seriously consider this issue in light of all of the projects that are taking place. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister questions on this matter later.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Member's Statement on Great Slave Lake Fishing Industry

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to raise an issue concerning the fishing industry on Great Slave Lake. As we know, Mr. Speaker, the fishing industry is an important industry, both from a traditional point of view and from an economic point of view.

We also know, Mr. Speaker, that this industry is heavily subsidized by this government. I think this government puts in approximately \$390,000 to both the summer and winter fishery combined. The current methodology to support this industry through subsidies is both outdated and ineffective. I think that is recognized by both government and the fisher-people themselves, Mr. Speaker.

In the past few years, the fishing industry has not been able to utilize all of the subsidy because of the cost of fishing and getting around the lake to catch the right quotas to access the subsidy.

On May 31st, Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to meet with the Fishermen's Federation in Hay River, with representatives from RWED: Lloyd Jones, Paul Wiedrick, and Mike MaGeean. The purpose of the meeting, Mr. Speaker, was to look at the subsidy program and try to come up with a program that would be more effective to the fisherman, and give them some incentive to improve on their industry and to improve their equipment.

The new program that was talked about, Mr. Speaker, is more of a support program that I think will give the fishermen more incentive to do just that: increase the number of fishermen on the lake and better their equipment that they are using.

Also, Mr. Speaker, the new program that was talked about is a program that would be administered by the Fishermen's Federation themselves, giving them more buy-in and making it more beneficial to the fishermen.

I hope that RWED will continue to work with the fishermen in working through the details of this new program, and I look forward to some more talks with the Fishermen's Federation on this.

As we speak, Mr. Speaker, the fisher-persons in Hay River are doing last minute touch-ups to their boat and their equipment, to head out for the summer fishery. At this time, I would like to wish them all the best in the summer fishery. I would also like to encourage this government to continue to work with them to better this industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement on Impacts of Proposed Highway Toll on Income Support Clients

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is an unfortunate reality that many of my constituents rely on income support in order to get their basic needs met. Income support is a program of last resort. However, because there is little employment in the outlying communities, it is often the only resort for many of my constituents.

As I mentioned in the House on Tuesday, it is known that if the highway toll is implemented, all Northerners will face an increase in the cost of living. I know a tax credit has been designed to offset this and this will compensate income earners.

However, I do not see any compensation for people on income support. I am also concerned that in a sense, we as a government will be giving with one hand and taking with the other hand.

Income support payments are minimal to begin with, and the little assistance that there is will be eaten up through higher costs in grocery bills, higher fuel bills, higher travel costs and higher gas prices resulting from the toll, Mr. Speaker. Just this

morning, I heard on the radio that airlines will increase travel and freight costs because of the new airport tax. This translates, again, into higher costs for all Northerners.

I know that the various government departments have looked at the cost of living and the implications of these new taxes. At the appropriate time, I will have questions on this matter, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Member's Statement on Community Services Boards

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to briefly touch once again on the issue and concept of community service boards. Mr. Speaker, it is very clear that the people of Hay River are not happy with the current arrangement with the South Slave Divisional Education Council. I do have a copy of the report that was just done in terms of whether they have been treated fairly or not.

The report indicated that yes, Hay River is being treated fairly, but Mr. Speaker, I think there is an underlying issue here that has to be looked at. We have to look at the government's issues in the South Slave so that we can come up with a way of governing ourselves that is deemed appropriate by all communities. We have the Cuff Report coming. We have a Social Agenda Conference coming. We know there is being work done on governance, and we know within the South Slave there is a chance of regional operations. It has been historically demonstrated that it is not a very viable form of governance.

I would hope that very soon we will be able to seriously look at this issue of community service boards as one way of possibly coming up with a form of governance that will be appropriate, that will allow communities to bring together under one board health, social services, education, housing and justice. This will limit their administration costs, improve program integration and do away with the needless friction between communities that causes so much stress and burns up valuable energy and resources.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will be asking the Premier where this particular concept fits in to the planning process, and when will the people of the South Slave and the individual communities be able to sit down with the government to talk about whether this is in fact a viable option. I believe it is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Health Professionals Recruitment in the Beaufort Delta Region

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on a critical issue that has come up in the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board. Mr. Speaker, I have been informed and have received a fax that notice has gone out on emergency services provided to many

communities in the Inuvik region, and it notifies different communities of the times their health centres will go on emergency services only. Mr. Speaker, this is the second summer now that we are being impacted by centres that are having closures because of a lack of staff in all of the communities.

Mr. Speaker, I was aware this winter that the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board had lined up a recruitment drive to try and get more nurses to deal with the shortages, and things were working out rather well initially. They had put a program together and were ready to do some recruitment overseas. When they contacted the department, they were informed they could not do that at that time. They had to work with the department to develop a process to deal with this recruitment issue.

Mr. Speaker, they had an opportunity to fill jobs. What we are seeing now, I believe, is definitely a direct impact as to the process that is being used now. I am aware that there has been ongoing work to try and improve the system between the department and boards, but right now, communities in the Beaufort Delta region will be impacted due to the lack of nursing once again.

Mr. Speaker, we have to put something in place to help out the health boards across the Northwest Territories to deal with the shortages. Mr. Speaker, if that means the department has to put more resources into dealing with these shortages, then they should do that, or allow the boards to go on their own recruitment drives. Later, Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services on this issue. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Member's Statement on Youth Smoking in the Northwest Territories

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to talk today about youth smoking in the Northwest Territories. I know the Department of Health and Social Services recently released a document titled Smoke Alarm, and it is an environmental scan of smoking in the Northwest Territories. Indeed, many of the findings and statistics in this report are, Mr. Speaker, alarming.

A couple of things that I have browsed over really shocked me. One being that over 42 percent of the population over the age of 17 in the Northwest Territories smoke. That is much higher than the Canadian average. In regard to children, Mr. Speaker, in some of our communities, almost one-quarter of ten to 14-year-olds smoke and three-quarters of 15 to 17-year-olds also smoke.

I think when we think about youth smoking, one of the problems is the fact that youth have such easy access to tobacco. A recent survey discovered that less than half of ten to 14-year-olds attempting to buy cigarettes were asked their age, Mr. Speaker. I do not know about you, but most of the ten to 14-year-olds in my neighbourhood do not look 18. It is certainly quite shocking, Mr. Speaker.

I think we need larger fines for merchants selling to children under 18, but more importantly, I think we need to focus on enforcement. We could do this, Mr. Speaker, but it would take this government making it a priority. We know we have liquor inspectors who go around to establishments on a weekly, sometimes daily, basis to make sure we do not have underage drinking or over capacity. The kind of effort we put into policing merchants who sell cigarettes pales in comparison to this, Mr. Speaker.

The Alberta Government just passed Bill 208, which is the Prevention of Youth Tobacco Use Act, and it allows for fines for minors smoking in public. There is some research, Mr. Speaker, to show that this kind of thing works. Woodridge, Illinois, a community just west of Chicago, has had similar legislation and enforcement. They are reporting 70 percent lower rates for youth smoking than other surrounding areas.

Mr. Speaker, I am not saying we need to start fining kids who smoke, but we do need to do more. We need to get creative. We need to follow the example being set by groups like the Non-Puffers Youth Group in Fort Providence that had such an impression on all of us. Mr. Speaker, in short, we need to encourage people to make healthy choices. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for the Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Member's Statement on Western Arctic Leadership Program

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this weekend I will be joining the students of the Western Arctic Leadership Program for an awards dinner in Fort Smith and I want to make some comments on this program.

Mr. Speaker, this government, in cooperation with the education boards, extended grades into the communities. This has meant that a basic high school education is now available to students in their home communities. However, Mr. Speaker, this basic education does not meet the needs of all of the students in the communities.

Those who decide to pursue a post-secondary education soon come to realize that the basic education received in their home communities does not provide a sufficient academic foundation for success. Mr. Speaker, many of these grade 12 graduates find that they have to take academic upgrading to be successful in post-secondary education. The above-average students from the communities without an academic stream curriculum can apply to live in a residential setting offered by the Western Arctic Leadership Program and attend high school in Fort Smith.

Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, Fort Smith, as a larger regional centre, can offer students an education complete with access to labs, libraries and specialized academic teachers. The Western Arctic Leadership Program provides extra tutoring and leadership training that encourages students' success.

In short, Mr. Speaker, over the past ten years, the Western Arctic Leadership Program has provided students from up and

down the Mackenzie Valley the necessary tools to succeed in post-secondary school or in the work force.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, over the past five years or so, it has become a constant struggle for the program to raise enough funding to continue. It seems that every year, they must wait for this government to decide at the last minute whether or not they will receive core funding for the upcoming year.

This lack of support leads to uncertainty and does not provide the students with a sense of stability. This government is going to spend \$11 million on the various components of the Maximizing Northern Employment Strategy and yet cannot provide core funding for a program that prepares young Northerners to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to them.

I strongly encourage all the DEAs and concerned parents to contact the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, the Premier and their MLAs to demand that the Western Arctic Leadership Program receive stable long-term funding to ensure its continued...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. McLeod, the time for your Member's statement has ended.

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

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude his statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude, Mr. McLeod.

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to say that maybe the Western Arctic Leadership Program should be part of a grandiose strategy like the Maximizing Northern Employment Strategy. At least then, it might get the attention it deserves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Member's Statement on Accessing Northern Employment Programs

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday in the House, I spoke about the Maximizing Northern Employment and how the design of it would not really benefit the outlying aboriginal communities because of the lack of capacity and infrastructure they have in those communities.

I want to encourage chiefs, councils and municipalities, Metis councils and non-profit organizations in those communities to familiarize themselves with this program so that they can get as much of that \$11 million that has been designated in various areas from department to department. Contact the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the right management organizations to utilize these funds. As this is a one-time thing only, there is no guarantee that this will continue. Let us try to utilize this as much as possible so we can benefit from it as much as possible.

It would be good if we could get innovative and work with other departments and see if we could work on something solid and concrete for the communities.

I mentioned the joint venture between the federal, aboriginal and GNWT governments yesterday in developing a building in Paulatuk. Those kind of innovative solutions would go a long way in training and employing our young workers out there who work in the communities, and also for building infrastructure towards a viable tourism development in our communities.

I have said many times in the House before that it is good to have mines, oil and gas, but those things are non-renewable. The economy of the future for the Northwest Territories will be tourism. The sooner we get ourselves ready for that industry, the better off we will be in the long run.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I encourage all organizations to go after this funding that is available now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement on Making Healthy Lifestyle Choices About Energy

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to talk today about lifestyle and the choices we make as we go about our daily lives. So often, Mr. Speaker, what we do is taken for granted. It is a matter of choice. We just go about doing the things we do. That can be things as basic as what are the foods we eat that are going to set the standards for the kind of health we have throughout our lives. Whether we decide to smoke or have a beer too many is going to set the standard for the health and how much we are going to cost ourselves, our families and the system. Whether we read a newspaper or listen to a newscast, that will set the standard for how well we know our communities and what is going on around us.

Another choice that we make, and I think take far too much for granted, is how we use energy, Mr. Speaker. We make choices about leaving the lights on or turning the thermostat up, about the kind of homes we have. These are all things we need to be much more concerned about, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to be able to maintain sustainable and affordable energy. Especially, Mr. Speaker, as we assess the impact on our environment.

The newly formed Northwest Territories Climate Change Centre wants to do something about that. They are challenging those lifestyle choices we make about energy with the first Don't Drive to Work Week, which starts on Monday. The idea here is to encourage people to choose an alternative way to get to work. I think this is something that businesses and offices can have a look at and help the individuals join in there. There are some prizes that are being awarded for those offices that can demonstrate an 80 percent or greater rate of competition. The event begins on Monday morning at City Hall here in Yellowknife, when participants can join together and walk over here to the Legislative Assembly for the launch.

Mr. Speaker, this event is starting in Yellowknife. Hopefully, it will roll out into the other communities. I would challenge

everyone to think about the choices they make, especially as it relates to energy and the cost to the environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

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

Member's Statement on Recognition of Long-Serving Teachers in Hay River

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this time of year is a happy time for all students as they look forward to their summer vacation from school. I am sure that the teachers are also looking forward to this break. It is a time to celebrate achievements, especially as we recognize our graduates and mark this important milestone in their lives. It is also a time to recognize the dedicated efforts of those who teach our youth and who encourage them to work hard and to do the best that they can. It is important to thank teachers for their ongoing efforts for the lives and the example they demonstrate.

In Hay River, we are very fortunate to have some absolutely excellent teaching staff in our school system.

In addition to being a time of celebration, it is also a poignant time of year, as we must say goodbye to some of our dedicated teachers who are retiring this year. Diamond Jenness School is saying goodbye to:

- Graham Mitchell, with 30 years of service;
- Bruce Green, with 30 years of service;
- Pat Bernstead, with 26 years of service; and also
- Ray Young, who is currently the principal of the Diamond Jenness Secondary School, after 31 years of service in the North. I am pleased Mr. Young is being recognized here today and in the visitors gallery.

As well, Harry Camsell School is saying goodbye to:

- Joyce Young, with 25 years of service;
- Peter Austead, 35 years;
- Sylvia Boyer, 31 years;
- Jenny Turvey, 19 years; and
- Guy Turvey, who has taught for 24 years.

On behalf of the residents, parents and students of my constituency, I would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to all the teachers in Hay River for the exemplary job they do in educating and guiding our young people, and particularly thank those who are retiring. I look forward to attending the celebrations planned to honour them in Hay River this weekend. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Indeed, congratulations do go out to the teachers, well appreciated.

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement on Recognition of Organization Combating Family Violence

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, family violence is a serious problem in the Northwest Territories. It has a significant negative impact on our society. As we are all aware, the Members of this Legislative Assembly unanimously supported a declaration on family violence in November in an effort to focus attention on and bring an end to family violence across the North.

Today, I would like to acknowledge some of the organizations that continue to make great efforts every day in the struggle against family violence.

Mr. Speaker, Alison MacAteer House is a 12-bed crisis shelter in my constituency in Yellowknife that offers a safe place for abused women and children to stay, as well as numerous support and counselling programs. In the past fiscal year, Alison MacAteer House provided shelter for 64 women and 93 children.

The shelter also operates a 24 hours a day crisis telephone line, and last year received more than 500 calls.

Mr. Speaker, they YWCA operates Alison MacAteer House and also provides several other family violence prevention programs. One of these is the recently introduced project, Child Recovery. This program provides support for children who are faced with violence in their homes by offering children a safe place to express their feelings and to improve their self-esteem.

Last September, in partnership with the Yellowknife Women's Centre, the YWCA also established the Women and Children's Healing Recovery Program. The program, which supports women during their healing and recovery from traumatic experiences, has already received 91 applications from across the Northwest Territories in the first eight months.

The Northwest Territories Seniors' Society is another organization actively involved in the struggle against family violence. On May 17th, I was very pleased to take part in the Taking Action on Elder Abuse Workshop hosted by the Seniors' Society. Elders, caregivers and other interested parties from Yellowknife and surrounding communities participated in the workshop in an effort to develop an action plan to eliminate elder abuse throughout the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I salute these organizations for their continuing efforts to bring an end to family violence. They are key players in a large group of NGOs and individuals in the Northwest Territories working in the field of family violence. Mr. Speaker, we must all be prepared to speak out on family violence. We must all be prepared to step in to stop family violence. When that happens, Mr. Speaker, and only then, can we stop family violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement on Samuel Hearne Secondary School Track Team Accomplishment

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the sporting events conclude for the school year, once again the Inuvik athletes share the spotlight. I am proud to state that the Samuel Hearne Secondary School has been declared the top school team based on average team points for the 2001 NWT Track and Field Championships held in Hay River last week.

As the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, I wish to congratulate the dedicated coaches, Kelly Webster and Heath Israel, and the team members for having a successful track meet. The Samuel Hearne Secondary School team members consisted of Heidi Harry, Neha Sharma, Kayla Hansen-Craig, Tamara Hansen, Paul Carriedo, Shane Gordon, Liesbeth de Klerk, Pat Tingmiak, Dennis Dosedel, Tim Robertson, Gerald Kisoun, Corbus de Klerk, Daniel Fehr, Ian Rogers, Thea Rogers and Joyce Suchodolski.

I also wish to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of these young athletes who made up the Samuel Hearne Secondary School Track Team. I particularly wish to acknowledge the efforts of Heidi Harry. She was awarded the gold medal for the bantam girls. Heidi placed first in the 400 metre, first in the high jump, second in the 800 metre, and third in the 1,500 metre.

Shane Gordon was awarded a silver medal for the juvenile boys. Shane placed first in the 5,000 metre, first in the 800 metre and first in the 1,500 metre. Another young athlete who is worthy of mention is Corbus de Klerk, who competed in the senior category. He placed first in the 800 metre, first in the 1,500 metre and first in the 5,000 long jump.

This track team should be proud of their accomplishment of being recognized as the top school team at this prestigious track meet in which over 1,100 young athletes participated. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

Member's Statement on Release of Bishop Sperry's Book

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very pleased today to share some very good news, that is the publication of Bishop John Sperry's book, *Igloo Dwellers Were My Church*. I am proud to say Bishop Sperry is one of my constituents.

In this very noteworthy book, Bishop Sperry tells the story of the life of he and his family while he was a missionary with the Inuit people in the Kitikmeot region of what is now Nunavut. He knew from a young age that he wanted to be a missionary in the Canadian Arctic. A series of coincidences, which he explains as the mysterious ways in which God moves, resulted in his coming to Coppermine, now Kugluktuk, in 1950 as an Anglican missionary.

This is a fascinating slice of firsthand history of a unique time in the Kitikmeot. It begins when the Inuit were still living in traditional nomadic groups and continues into the time when they began living permanently in communities. To serve his

parish, John Sperry first had to learn Inuktitut. He became so fluent he was able to translate the gospels and acts of the New Testament and several other documents of the Anglican faith into Inuinnaqtun.

This allowed the Kitikmeot Inuit to worship in their own language for the first time. John Sperry travelled approximately 3,000 miles a year, by dog team in winter and by boat in summer, serving his parishioners in the far-flung camps. He brought them not only the word of God, but also mail, news from other people in the region and medical and dental services.

Bishop Sperry's book is not only a record of the traditional ways of life in the Kitikmeot in the 50s and 60s, but also a personal account of a family man much admired for his sensitivity and compassion. He and his wife Elisabeth are still warmly loved by all those whom they have served. They are appreciated for their kindness and help during both good times and bad times, such as epidemics and food shortages. Mr. Speaker, I would like to publicly express my gratitude to Bishop Sperry for writing this very significant book, which perseveres this unique window of time in the history of the Arctic. I urge everyone to join me in congratulating Bishop Sperry on the publication of this book. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Member's Statement on A Legacy of Clean Water

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, many people have expressed concern to me about water quality. The North Slave Metis Alliance and Metis elders in this area have talked to me frequently about the need to manage our water very carefully.

Last week, I held a constituency meeting for the people of Detah and N'dilo. A number of elders including George Blondin, Alfred Ballairgeon and Michelle Paper spoke on the legacy of clean water they had received from their elders. They reminded me of my youth, a time when I remember being able to drink from any stream without concern for my health or the health of the creatures that live in the water.

The elders in Detah and N'dilo feel strongly about preserving clean water for generations to come, so much so that they personally requested I raise this issue in the House. At my constituency meeting, the elders spoke eloquently about what they have seen happen to water quality in their lifetime. They spoke about the impact of mining and community development, especially in the early days of Yellowknife when people became ill from raw sewage flowing into Yellowknife Bay and Back Bay.

Mr. Speaker, clean water is a legacy that the people of Yellowknife, Detah and N'dilo want their children to inherit. As MLA for Weledeh, I support this desire and I will continue to work with the other Yellowknife MLAs to ensure that we make this happen. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable

Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Return to Oral Question 50-14(4): Operational Change at Stanton Hospital

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to an oral question asked by Mr. Dent on Monday, June 11, 2001, regarding the operational change at Stanton Hospital.

Privatization of laundry and housekeeping services was included in the board's proposed deficit recovery plan. Although the proposed deficit recovery plan has not been finalized, I gave final approval of the privatization initiative on March 27, 2001.

Privatization of these services will involve the elimination of nine positions at the hospital. The Stanton board has worked closely with the department, the Financial Management Board Secretariat and Corporate Human Resources to ensure that all requirements of the collective agreement and Staff Retention Policy are followed.

On April 25, 2001, the Stanton Regional Health Board issued letters to housekeeping and laundry staff advising them of their affected status. This procedure is consistent with the Government of the Northwest Territories Staff Retention Policy. Board staff have held initial meetings with affected staff to discuss their options under that policy, and will continue to work with them until all decisions are made. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for the Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to recognize a couple of people today. I cannot see who is all up there, but I wanted to recognize Faye Stark, a long-time resident and nurse from Fort Providence who is here today. Also, my brother, Bob McLeod, a former resident of the Deh Cho and deputy minister of RWED. Both have received a public recognition award today and I would like to congratulate them and welcome them both. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I as well would like to take this opportunity to recognize Mr. Bob Sanderson, superintendent for FMBS out of Fort Smith and also one of the house parents for the Western Arctic Leadership Program. One of the lesser lights, his wife is obviously the main force in that relationship, but I would like to recognize him and congratulate him as well on being recognized. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize four of my constituents in the gallery. Two of them are recipients of a long service award: Bessie Erasmus and Gordon Bohnet. Bessie's husband Joe is accompanying her. Gordon is being accompanied by his wife Mabel Eronchi. Thank you very much.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure today to recognize Mr. Ray Young. I met Ray approximately 28 years ago when I first came to Hay River as an impressionable 18-year old. We shared a few shifts at the RCMP detachment, working midnight shifts as guards. He also taught two of my children. I would like to pay tribute to him today. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to recognize someone from my constituency in this House. I would like to recognize Julian Tomlinson, a very dedicated worker in Inuvik, who works for the Aurora Campus. As well, he has put himself greatly into other community activities. I would like to welcome him here today.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Violet Edgi from Fort Good Hope and John Wilderspin from Norman Wells, who are joining us in the gallery today. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize, acknowledge and congratulate all the recipients of the long time service awards. I would like to single out Mr. George Mandeville, who is originally from Fort Resolution, as a long-time friend, mentor and advisor to me. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: An advisor to many of us. Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize some people. A couple of them are really well known here. First of all, I would like to recognize Lew Voytilla. Lew Voytilla, as you all know, received a national award a few weeks ago. We congratulate him on his exemplary service in the public service.

I would also like to recognize Liz Snider, the secretary to Cabinet, and one of my good constituents, Kayhan Nadji, who works with Public Works and Services. Thank you.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also would like to recognize a good friend of mine in the gallery. He is not a constituent of mine, but Ray Young. I know he has already been recognized, but I would like to recognize him as well. He came to Hay River about the same time I did, about 31 years ago. I would also like to wish him well in his new career that he is about to undertake in the golfing world.

-- Laughter

I would also like to congratulate all of the long service award recipients who are up there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

-- Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Thank you all for coming to the Legislative Assembly and participating in the day's activities. Congratulations and happy retirement from this day onward.

-- Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 83-14(4): Privatization of Laundry Services at Stanton Hospital

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, June 11, I asked the Minister of Health and Social Services about privatization of laundry services at Stanton Hospital. Her responses on pages 298 and 299 of unedited Hansard, the Minister stated she had "...heard of board deliberations around the issue of privatization." She went on to say "I am not sure of the time lines or what the status is of any decisions around that are at this point in time."

Mr. Speaker, yesterday in response to a question about the privatization of the laundry services, she told the House, and I quote again from unedited Hansard, page 486, that she "...signed off on the approval of those as per the recommendation, advice that I was provided with." She confirmed that again in her response to the oral question that she just provide the House a few minutes ago, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, if the Minister forgot that she signed off on this initiative in March, it calls into question the process. I would like to ask the Minister, how detailed was the examination of this initiative?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 83-14(4): Privatization of Laundry Services at Stanton Hospital

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I indicated in previous questions the Member asked on this subject, the negotiations and discussions took place between senior officials in my department and senior officials with the Stanton Board and senior management. I was not directly involved in those discussions, but acted on the advice that came to me from my department as a result of those discussions being concluded. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 83-14(4): Privatization of Laundry Services at Stanton Hospital

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister did say yesterday that she signed off on this decision. She is taking ultimate responsibility for having made the decision. Again I would ask, was she satisfied that this initiative was looked at in some detail? Has she satisfied herself of that?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 83-14(4): Privatization of Laundry Services at Stanton Hospital

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I was the one who was responsible for final approval of those decisions on the privatization initiatives. I was satisfied with the advice that was provided to me in the preparation of those communications to the Chair of the Stanton Board, Mr. Elkin, before forwarding that correspondence. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 83-14(4): Privatization of Laundry Services at Stanton Hospital

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. According to section 38.02 of the Collective Agreement between the UNW and this government, the employers are required to "Provide information, including the rationale relevant to the work that is being reviewed for the potential of contracting out." If this was followed as part of the whole detailed process that the Minister is confident was followed, will she please table that rationale in this House?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 83-14(4): Privatization of Laundry Services at Stanton Hospital

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the initiative came forward from the Stanton Board

and the senior staff at Stanton. We would expect that all authorities, policies and regulations would be adhered to. Due to the delegative authority and autonomy of the boards, I would have to check to ensure that it would be proper for me to provide that rationale in the House for tabling. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary to Question 83-14(4): Privatization of Laundry Services at Stanton Hospital

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the collective agreement between the UNW and this government is not between the UNW and the hospital board. It is between the UNW and the Government of the Northwest Territories. If that is set out in that agreement, then this government must make sure that was followed.

I am asking, and I will ask again, will the Minister table the rationale that was provided, pursuant to section 38.02 of the Collective Agreement between this government and the UNW?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 83-14(4): Privatization of Laundry Services at Stanton Hospital

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, I will have to check with the department and the board on that, so I will take that question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. That final question has been taken as notice, Mr. Dent. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 84-14(4): Impact of Cost of Living on Income Support Clients

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, the Honourable Jake Ootes.

As I mentioned in my Member's statement, it is known that the cost of living for Northerners will increase. The airport tax has been introduced and all the airlines are talking about increasing air and freight rates.

Mr. Speaker, if and when the Highway Toll is implemented, Northerners will have additional costs. Does the Minister plan to increase income support payments to reflect increases in the cost of living for those who receive it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 84-14(4): Impact of Cost of Living on Income Support Clients

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is a very good question, and an issue that we have been aware of, Mr. Speaker, once we looked at some of the areas of costs that could impact individuals. We just completed a survey, Mr. Speaker, to look at the increase in food prices across the

territory and we are looking at some changes in our program. We also are taking some time to look at the impact of the taxes that may come in to see what kind of impact it will have. At that point, we will look at additional changes if warranted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 84-14(4): Impact of Cost of Living on Income Support Clients

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Increased prices of food, groceries and fuel will happen if a toll is implemented in the Northwest Territories. I would like to ask the Minister if, whenever there is an increase of any sort, the department would look at coinciding rate increases for income support? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 84-14(4): Impact of Cost of Living on Income Support Clients

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are going to, on an annual basis, look at reviewing the amount of income support that is supplied in relationship to changes that may take place, Mr. Speaker. I cannot guarantee that we will increase prices because it does depend somewhat on the impact of those increases and the percentage of increase it will cause, and certainly we will keep that mind. We have been thinking along that line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary to Question 84-14(4): Impact of Cost of Living on Income Support Clients

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The increases in fares and freight on groceries in the smaller communities, the fly-in communities are hit the hardest. Where they used to get five bags of groceries, now they are getting only three bags of groceries. I would like to ask the Minister if he can give direction to his department and staff that anytime there is an increase, they will look at where the need is most. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Before I ask the honourable Minister to respond, I just want to caution the Member to be careful in the line of questioning here. You are going pretty close to some issues that are on the agenda for later today. I have allowed considerable latitude and I will continue to do that, but it is just a caution. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 84-14(4): Impact of Cost of Living on Income Support Clients

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned, we have just completed a survey and are looking at some changes, Mr. Speaker. The Member has a very good point. As increases are impacted upon people here in the Territories -- what area, how are we responding? We will certainly be

sensitive to any increases that come in. I cannot guarantee, though, Mr. Speaker, that we can react immediately to that because I think we have to look at this on a more regular basis and on a more consistent basis, rather than reacting every time some increase comes in. Certainly I understand what the Member is getting at, and we are prepared to look at this on a regular basis. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 84-14(4): Impact of Cost of Living on Income Support Clients

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he can look at the big picture for income support in all areas. Will the Minister agree with that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 84-14(4): Impact of Cost of Living on Income Support Clients

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Member, in all likelihood, means transportation, food costs, fuel costs and so forth. I should state, Mr. Speaker, for those who might not be familiar, we do pay for accommodation and we do pay for fuel, so individuals are not impacted in that fashion. Certainly as I stated earlier in my reply, we will be sensitive to those that are out there on income support. We also will look at, if there are dramatic increases, to immediately do that, but on an annual basis or on a regular basis, I think is best. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 85-14(4): Consultation on Hydro Electric Development

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley. It is with regard to the initiative that this government is looking at on the whole area of hydro development and his responsibility as the Minister for the protection of the human resource sector in regard to the wildlife and also the environment. I would like to ask the Minister exactly when is he intending to ensure that the public is informed on these initiatives and exactly how they will be consulted when these developments happen by way of public meetings or information going out so that they can review it. I would like to ask the Minister exactly when was he planning to ensure that the public is involved in the consultation process of any of these initiatives?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Return to Question 85-14(4): Consultation on Hydro Electric Development

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have been talking about the hydro potential within the system for several months now since they did the hydro generation study. We have recently had discussions with the people in the South Slave, particularly with the South Slave Metis, with the Salt River First Nations and some of the Akaitcho chiefs. I also attended and gave a presentation at the Dene chiefs meeting, at which the Gwich'in were well represented, along with everybody else a couple of weeks ago in Fort Providence.

I have also sent a letter out to all of the leaders indicating that I am ready and prepared to meet with aboriginal leaders to discuss the concept of hydro power, the pros and cons of doing it. I have an invitation, as I speak, to go to a number of assemblies, including the Dene Assembly, the South Slave Metis again, the Fort Smith Metis and so on. I expect to discuss this concept over the summer.

I want to point out, Mr. Speaker, that this is not at a proposal stage. This is simply a concept we are looking at. It has tremendous potential. It has tremendous environmental advantages for us. I think it has many positive sides in terms of the bigger picture of protecting our environment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 85-14(4): Consultation on Hydro Electric Development

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is that well and good, but the people who are downstream from all these developments are the ones who are going to feel the impacts associated with those developments, from our experience with the Bennett dam in B.C. I would like to ask the Minister, when will you start considering looking at the implications in regards to the residents of the Northwest Territories with respect to the wildlife activities, and also the aboriginal rights relating to water and the management of those waters?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 85-14(4): Consultation on Hydro Electric Development

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I have to comment on the use of the word 'dams'. The Member has brought it up in his question. I have never talked about building dams. We are talking about building flow of the river turbines, or hydro projects. Mr. Speaker, the Member earlier on made reference to me saying that we were going to build three dams on the Mackenzie River. I have checked the transcripts of all of the interviews I have done recently, and I have never used the word or referred to building dams. I am not talking about dams.

CBC, I notice, have used the word dams fairly liberally. What we are talking about is flow of the river. It might back water up as high as the traditional high water mark, but we are not talking about dams like the Bennett River Dam and the Hoover

Dam and those sorts of things. That is not what we are talking about at all. We need to clarify that.

This summer, as we go around, I want to talk to people about the pros and cons of harnessing some of our hydro potential. We have huge potential. I intend to do that over the summer, listen to what people are saying. Developing the hydro potential will go nowhere without aboriginal leadership support on it. As we get support from the leadership in general for the concept of hydro projects, then we will start to go into the communities and talk to people at that level about this. We will not go there without the concurrence of the aboriginal leadership. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 85-14(4): Consultation on Hydro Electric Development

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the Minister has two roles here. One is looking at the economics of the project and also the environmental and wildlife protection. I would like to ask the Minister, who is doing the work on this project? Who is looking specifically at the environmental impacts of these projects?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 85-14(4): Consultation on Hydro Electric Development

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the whole reason for looking at hydro potential is because it is known to be the cleanest source of energy anywhere in the world. It is clean. It goes on for generations. It does not have any emissions like fossil fuels do.

My reason for looking at it is that I believe we need, over the long term, Mr. Speaker, to get our communities off fossil fuels and off diesel fuel and on to either gas as a cleaner fuel, or better yet, on to hydro potential. That is the cleanest thing we can do for our environment.

Mr. Speaker, we have not gotten into any detailed studies of the environmental impact on hydro projects because we are not at that stage yet. We are just talking about the concept. If, as I said earlier, aboriginal leaders are agreeable to it, then we will begin to work on the environmental impact of each of the many possible projects if we keep proceeding with this.

Mr. Speaker, really, when someone knocks at your door with an opportunity, you have to open the door and look at whether or not that is a friend, whether it is someone bearing a gift or an offer or whatever it might be. You cannot just cower in the corner, afraid to peek out the window because it might scare you and might be dangerous. You have to get out there and try it.

These things are long term. We have to open them up. We have to be open to new ideas. Let us have a look at it. If it is deemed to be something that is not worthwhile by aboriginal leaders, then we will not do it. This is long term. We are not talking about building dams next year. We are talking about a long-term project that I think environmentally, I believe, is the

right direction to go. The detailed studies will be done if people agree with me. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Handley. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary to Question 85-14(4): Consultation on Hydro Electric Development

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with these major projects we are looking at in regard to pipelines, hydro developments and other mega projects, I think the door has been swung wide open in regard to all of these initiatives. I feel it is critical that we get the support of the people whose lifestyles depend on the harvesting activities that take place and ensure the protection of the food sources and of the environment.

When will we speak to the ground roots people on this issue? Not the political leaders, but people who live in our communities who depend on the wildlife as their traditional food source.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley.

Further Return to Question 85-14(4): Consultation on Hydro Electric Development

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I agree with the Member. We do realize that we have to have the support of the aboriginal people, but we have to look at this very responsibly. The first step, and we are in the first step now, is to look at the concept, discuss it with the aboriginal leaders and if they agree with us, then we go to communities.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot go into the communities and start discussing this without having the aboriginal leaders onside. If I do that, then I am going to be interfering in their leadership. I am convinced we should get the aboriginal leaders to agree with us and then go into the communities. I am ready and prepared to do that this summer if the leaders invite us to do that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Question 86-14(4): Youth Access to Tobacco

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services and it follows my statement on youth access to tobacco. Someone mentioned to me that as far as inspection, we have someone who comes up from Alberta. I believe it is a federal inspector, someone we borrow a few times a year, Mr. Speaker, to look at whether or not merchants are selling tobacco to minors.

I am wondering, do we have someone in the GNWT inspect our merchants and see if they are selling tobacco to minors the same way we do for drinking establishments?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 86-14(4): Youth Access to Tobacco

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is right. This is a federal jurisdiction, enforcement, right now. Our territory is served by someone who travels out of Alberta. I believe the Member's question was are there any local authorities to report an incident if there was an observation of tobacco being sold to minors, and I do believe that it would be possible to report this to the RCMP, but the enforcement under the tobacco legislation is a federal jurisdiction and monitored from Edmonton. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 86-14(4): Youth Access to Tobacco

MR. BELL: Thank you. So selling tobacco to minors does not violate any territorial legislation, and that is why, in fact, we do not have anyone in the territorial government to do the inspection. Is that correct? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 86-14(4): Youth Access to Tobacco

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are looking at, in conjunction with our Tobacco Strategy and the Smoke Alarm Report, we are going to look into the advisability and the practicality of possibly looking at legislation here in the Northwest Territories to have jurisdiction over such things as the sale of tobacco to minors. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 86-14(4): Youth Access to Tobacco

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am glad we are looking at it. The statistics are clearly appalling. You do not need the statistics. You can drive downtown and see the number of children smoking to see the problems we have. I am wondering if the Minister can indicate what the current fines for merchants are in the Northwest Territories who are in fact caught selling tobacco to minors. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 86-14(4): Youth Access to Tobacco

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not have in my possession any statistics around the violations for which retailers may have been charged under the federal law. I did hear the same interview that probably many of you heard on CBC this week, where the enforcement officer was here and spoke with a CBC reporter and indicated some of the challenges they face in bringing awareness to this subject here.

I could undertake to get the statistics from Health Canada to show what kinds of incidents of infractions there are under this legislation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

Supplementary to Question 86-14(4): Youth Access to Tobacco

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am wondering if I can get the Minister, in addition to looking at the federal legislation and fines, to do a comparison of other provincial jurisdictions to see what provincial legislation and fines are in effect, and do a comparison for us. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 86-14(4): Youth Access to Tobacco

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we would be pleased to look at what other jurisdictions do in this matter. It would form a part of our deliberations on what we might do in this matter. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Members of the House, there have been a lot of questions asked as to who the visitors in the gallery are, and I want to take a moment here to recognize in our gallery today a very distinguished group. The Chair would like to recognize the Heads of Missions, who are participating in a tour of northern Canada for the next week. The group includes ambassadors and high commissioners from 20 different countries. They are accompanied by staff members from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs and with Parks Canada.

They begin their seven-day tour of the North today in Yellowknife. They will visit the Ekati Mine, Whitehorse, Dawson City, Old Crow, Inuvik, Baker Lake, Resolute, Nunakput and Iqaluit. I would like to say welcome to the Assembly, special visitors.

-- Applause

Thank you for your indulgence, Members. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 87-14(4): Mandate of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question this afternoon is for the Premier as the Minister responsible for the Executive, and for one of the arms of the Executive, the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat. The Intergovernmental Forum, Mr. Speaker, is one of the most significant pieces of business that this Assembly has so far achieved in its mandate. It started up with the idea of working with aboriginal and federal governments to negotiate the devolution of resources and royalties to the northern governments, a significant piece of work in itself. Since then, a number of other things seem to have been added to its agenda.

My question, Mr. Speaker, is could the Premier please advise the Assembly, what is the mandate of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return to Question 87-14(4): Mandate of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat has the job of working for the aboriginal governments, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the federal government on a number of issues we have agreed will form our agenda.

There is preliminary work done to ensure the ongoing ability of the Intergovernmental Forum to function. Specifically, it is focusing on economic development, namely revenue sharing and devolution. Recently, we have moved to focus on capacity building. Specifically, we have asked the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat to look at regional reorganization as a specific element within regional capacity building, in a way to allow all governments in the Intergovernmental Forum to have a common basis for beginning discussions on capacity building. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary to Question 87-14(4): Mandate of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Mr. Premier, for that explanation. To me, Mr. Speaker, this is quite a change and expansion of the original mandate. I would like to ask the Premier if he can confirm that these new roles are indeed an expansion from the original concept as was delivered to the government back in January of 2000? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 87-14(4): Mandate of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I believe all the governments have recognized that it is a logical progression to include capacity building on the agenda. The Intergovernmental Forum is about recognizing governments, allowing governments to begin exercising their jurisdictions in a way that provides for good government. It recognizes that all governments need to be able to manage and to carry out the responsibilities they accept. Capacity building is a logical development of the Intergovernmental Forum, and has been recognized as such. Regional reorganization is one element of that. We have agreed to let the secretariat begin the initial work to develop a discussion paper that can be used by the aboriginal governments, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and the federal government to facilitate discussions on this important agenda item. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary to Question 87-14(4): Mandate of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to repeat and emphasize my support for these initiatives. We are indeed moving fast and breaking new ground on an intergovernmental basis between our levels of government: federal, territorial and aboriginal.

My concern rests with how the work of the secretariat fits in with the other agencies and infrastructure that we have within the GNWT.

How will these new job assignments for the Intergovernmental Forum be coordinated and cooperating, and I hope collaborating, with the other levels of administration that we already have set up, that are already more or less engaged in these jobs? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return to Question 87-14(4): Mandate of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government has dealt with the issue of division of the Northwest Territories. Past governments have done that successfully, concluded that exercise. The government has also been faced with implementing regional claims in the Beaufort Delta and the Sahtu. We are now looking at the possible conclusion of the Dogrib claim in the latter part of this year. The Deh Cho Framework Agreement has been approved by all parties, and work is beginning as we speak.

There are several self-government agreements underway which will impact on the way that programs and services are managed and how this government will administer the programs and services to the outlying regions.

Regions are redefining themselves and have been doing that for a number of years. All the governments are aware of that. There is at this time no single document that has been drafted by any one party that articulates what the state of affairs is. We are moving to do that. We are choosing to do that primarily through the Intergovernmental Forum so we can work together on developing regional capacity.

Having said that, the government is also agreeing to look at the Beaufort Sea Self-Government Agreement, which should be concluded sometime this year. We are looking at the Dogrib Agreement, which has self-government provisions. The Beaufort Delta Self-Government Agreement will impact on the Sahtu, which has been part of the Inuvik region for some time.

While we are working to develop a good grasp of the state of affairs in the outlying regions and communities, we also have to accept that as much as possible, we need to move in agreement with the aboriginal governments. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 87-14(4): Mandate of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and perhaps a short, succinct answer as well.

-- Laughter

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

MR. BRADEN: The National Round Table on the Environment and the Economy last week released quite a document on aboriginal communities and non-renewable resource development. A recommendation, Mr. Speaker, was that the Intergovernmental Forum should promote regional and community-based approach to capacity building and play a lead coordinating and support role.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to ask the Premier, what is the GNWT's response to this recommendation from the National Round Table? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The Premier's equally short response, Mr. Premier.

Further Return to Question 87-14(4): Mandate of the Intergovernmental Forum Secretariat

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: It is not in my nature to be short and brief, and in this case, I am actually unable to give a short answer to it, so what I will do is provide in some capacity the statements, notes and agreements we have made to the National Round Table on the Environment and Economy last week with the recommendations we have already responded to. I will be circulating that to all Members as soon as possible. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Question 88-14(4): Aboriginal Languages Contribution Agreement

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, dealing with aboriginal language initiatives. Mr. Speaker, the administrative structure seems to be very inflexible regarding the payment schedule, which seems to be very different from that of the French language group. The aboriginal language payment schedule for the contribution agreement is 50 percent up front, 25 percent after an interim activity report is received from the aboriginal language community, and then another 25 percent after the new fiscal year has started.

The Francophone contribution is different, Mr. Speaker, as I stated. Fifty percent of the contribution is paid up front and 50 percent is given to them after they submit the activity report.

Mr. Speaker, why is the payment schedule for aboriginal initiatives different from that for Francophone initiatives? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 88-14(4): Aboriginal Languages Contribution Agreement

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was not aware that there was a different payment schedule, but certainly I will check into that and see what the rationale behind that may be, so we can get an answer back to the Member. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 88-14(4): Aboriginal Languages Contribution Agreement

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If the Government of the Northwest Territories wants to empower aboriginal communities, this two-tiered system has to stop. What can the department do to relax the guidelines used in the development of contributions, so the transfers of contributions runs more smoothly? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 88-14(4): Aboriginal Languages Contribution Agreement

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, certainly we want to ensure that it does run smoothly. The Member may have a very good point there. As I said, I do not know the rationale behind the system that is employed. I will check into that. I am sure that if it is possible to streamline that, then we will certainly provide instructions to do that, Mr. Speaker. As I said, I do not know the rationale, so I have to check that first. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 88-14(4): Aboriginal Languages Contribution Agreement

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess that is the closest to a commitment I can get from the Minister at this point in time. Mr. Speaker, the language community has not been without a contribution since the beginning of the fiscal year. It does not look like they will be getting a contribution until some time in July. They have to spend their own money, which, unfortunately, they do not have much of, or none of.

What I would like to know is what can the Minister do to fast-track the contribution prior to July so they could start using the funds? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 88-14(4): Aboriginal Languages Contribution Agreement

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this is the first I have heard of it, Mr. Speaker. I will check into that. If I can fast-track this, then I will do so, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

Supplementary to Question 88-14(4): Aboriginal Languages Contribution Agreement

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The commitments are flying now. I wish every day in the House was like this, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the department table the GNWT's Annual Report to the federal government on contribution agreements for aboriginal languages as soon as the report is finalized? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 88-14(4): Aboriginal Languages Contribution Agreement

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not sure what the annual report may be. Again, I will have to check into that to see what we are speaking of there and to seek a bit of clarification from the Member, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 89-14(4): Linking Reorganization and Restructuring Initiatives

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow up on my Member's statement regarding the issue of community service boards and the very many forces and factors at play here with the Cuff Report, regional reorganization, and looking at regional governance.

I would like to ask the Deputy Premier how in fact will these various initiatives be linked? When will that particular issue be brought to bear? When will communities -- in the South Slave, particularly -- be able to look at options such as that? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 89-14(4): Linking Reorganization and Restructuring Initiatives

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will have to take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 90-14(4): Western Arctic Leadership Program Funding

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in my Member's statement, I made comments about the Western Arctic Leadership Program. I stated the program has problems with long-term funding every year. It struggles to get by and we really do not know what the future holds for them. I would like to ask the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment what his department is doing. Is there committed funding for the long-term? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Return to Question 90-14(4): Western Arctic Leadership Program Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our funding is base-funded. Therefore, it is in the funding on an annual basis, subject to approval by the House. I certainly had no intention of removing that funding, Mr. Speaker. There was a challenge there for us earlier this year when the program ran short of funding. It required some extra funding in order to keep going because it looked like other funders who support the program were going to pull out.

Mr. Speaker, I was able to assure the program that if the other funders did not come through, we would support the program to the end of this year with that extra funding.

In the interim, Mr. Speaker, I did have someone who is interested in doing fundraising and supporting that effort. Already, some of that has come through from the private sector. That is continuing. I am supporting that process strongly, Mr. Speaker. We are hopeful we can ensure that adequate funding will continue in that. If not, then I will and I am taking a great interest in the program. Thank you.

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

Supplementary to Question 90-14(4): Western Arctic Leadership Program Funding

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I take it from the answer from the Minister that there is a commitment for long-term funding. I am not clear as to what percentage of the program requirements this government is funding. Could he tell us what the percentage is we are funding?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 90-14(4): Western Arctic Leadership Program Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be practical about it. I think the requirement was in the neighbourhood of \$300,000 to \$350,000, somewhere in that area. The funding came from a number of sources, one of which we were the principal suppliers, to the tune originally of \$175,000. We are now at \$225,000.

Mr. Speaker, there is still the challenge of narrowing that gap because there is always the threat of outside funding disappearing on us. That is what I meant, that I have someone who has initiated the fundraising on this from the private sector. If we have difficulty there, then I am prepared to address that issue in order to ensure that the program has adequate funding to carry on. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 90-14(4): Western Arctic Leadership Program Funding

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if his department is working with the board to explore the different options for outside funding with federal foundations or private sources. Could he answer that please?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 90-14(4): Western Arctic Leadership Program Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Yes. I am not working directly myself, Mr. Speaker, but as I said, I have an individual who has volunteered to do some fundraising on this, and that is the route we have taken. So far it has proven to be somewhat successful. I am hoping that it will prove to be really successful.

Mr. Speaker, I should also state that we had an analysis report prepared so that we can be of help to the program itself in suggesting where the gaps may be in terms of operations, success rates and so forth, and to ensure that we can refine our contribution to this program. The program is run by a board of directors, so we want to be able to be sure that we can move forward with this program on a positive basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. McLeod.

Supplementary to Question 90-14(4): Western Arctic Leadership Program Funding

MR. MCLEOD: I would like to ask the Minister if this is the only program of this nature available to students in the North as an option. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return to Question 90-14(4): Western Arctic Leadership Program Funding

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, that is correct. At the moment, that is the only program in the territory of this nature where we have a Western Arctic Leadership Program where students are boarded and provided extra assistance in a setting. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

Question 91-14(4): Recruitment of Health Professionals In Inuvik

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following up on my Member's statement, I would like to know from the Minister of Health and Social Services what is going on in the area of recruitment and retention, specifically with the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 91-14(4): Recruitment of Health Professionals In Inuvik

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member referred to a foreign recruitment initiative that came forward from the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board, and the department and the board have been working closely to explore the opportunity to bring trained nurses from the Philippines to work in the Northwest Territories. That work is still in progress at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 91-14(4): Recruitment of Health Professionals In Inuvik

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister elaborate a little more as to what she means by 'closely', because my understanding is that there have been some delays. The department has made some requirements, I believe, of the board in the past as to how things would flow. Can the Minister inform us to what kind of work they are doing when she says they are working closely together? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 91-14(4): Recruitment of Health Professionals In Inuvik

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, the initiative commenced with the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board, but in fact we had to broaden out the work that was being done on it because I believe that the number of nurses was in the vicinity of 50 that they were potentially looking at recruiting. It was always my understanding that the Inuvik board certainly did not see these nurses coming here just for themselves, so we expanded the working group to also include CEOs and board chairs from other health boards who might also be interested in participating in this initiative.

There are a couple of federal jurisdictions involved in this as well, including Immigration Canada, so there were a lot of logistical considerations to contemplate when undertaking bringing a group of this size into the country. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 91-14(4): Recruitment of Health Professionals In Inuvik

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister inform us as to when this initiative will be ready to go and they will actually start recruiting? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 91-14(4): Recruitment of Health Professionals In Inuvik

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I understand that one of the principal people working on this with the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board, Charles Taylor, I believe, is going to be offered an opportunity to work directly with the recruitment and retention unit within the department in order to see this work to conclusion. I do not have an exact idea of the time lines of when we might expect to see nurses here. I have responded to any requests made directly to me and have provided instructions to the department to pursue this. I think it is a very good idea. I think that in the interim, until we have enough of a northern workforce trained, this is an excellent option. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Your final supplementary, Mr. Roland.

Supplementary to Question 91-14(4): Recruitment of Health Professionals In Inuvik

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is very good that the Minister is moving forward with this initiative, even though somewhat late. It is better late than never, I suppose. Is it a fact that the Inuvik Regional Health and Social Services Board was prepared to go but the department held it back so that they could pull the whole NWT into this recruitment drive? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 91-14(4): Recruitment of Health Professionals In Inuvik

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, I do not think that that would be properly characterizing what happened. I think that the Inuvik board did not contemplate that the entire complement of nurses they were attempting to recruit was only for the Inuvik board. We did, through the department, see some areas where there was assistance needed to be provided in dealing with Immigration Canada and Human Resources Development Canada, ensuring that the proper processes were in place for screening the applicants, checking out credentials, accommodating the ones they have here, providing for orientation, these sorts of things. We felt that a collaborative effort was better. If it appears to be something that stalled the operations, we certainly did not intend it that way. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Question 92-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are addressed to the Minister of Health and Social Services with regard to the two-day conference, the Social Agenda Conference coming up, which I understand is being very heavily subscribed to. I have heard a number of as many as 300 people who may be at that conference. I have some questions with regard to the logistics and time scheduling issues.

If there were in fact 300 people that showed up and each was given two minutes to say hello and who they are, and some of their key issues, that alone could consume ten hours, Mr. Speaker. That has not even touched the speeches that will go on from the Ministers and any of their guest speakers, which I would anticipate would take another two to three hours. That would give us 13 hours gone out of a two-day conference, giving frontline workers a very brief period of time to try to come to grips and provide direction on some very critical and complex issues.

I would like to ask the Minister if she could outline what the scheduling will allow for the maximum input of frontline workers, or will we in fact be in a situation like I have just described. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Return to Question 92-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I just signed off today some packages that will be sent out to the Members in the next few hours which outlines the agenda for the Social Agenda Conference. We have some very professional facilitators and conference coordinators who have been engaged to help us ensure that we can make maximum use and benefit from the time that we do have together. About two-thirds of the conference delegates are frontline workers. The rest are made up of community leaders, aboriginal government leaders, ourselves, cabinet Ministers, MLAs.

The way it is set up is that we would be together in a large group setting initially in the day, and there would be 20 tents set up which will provide for break-out groups, smaller groups, which would each be having one facilitator to help coordinate and keep the discussions going in that small group.

These groups will be mixed up so that you have a variety of different people from different perspectives in those groups. There would be specific topics. They would go out to the break-out groups and information brought back and compiled. I realize that it is a fairly tight agenda, but we are hoping that with the assistance of our coordinators and facilitators and people recognizing each other, we will be able to hear from all the delegates. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 92-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a general sense of how it should flow, but there is no clarity for me in terms of the actual timing that is going to be required. As I indicated, if there are 300 people, and it takes 10 hours just to say hello, and another two hours to do the speech, you have taken up well over a day of a very brief two days.

Could the Minister indicate how much time she anticipates will actually be devoted to the front-line workers being able to put

their minds around some of these very complex issues? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 92-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I said, the exact time lines, the time frames and guidelines for the conference are in the process of being delivered to the Members. I think that will give Mr. Miltenberger a better idea of how much time is allocated for each of the various activities.

The intention with the front-line workers is to have a dialogue with them. It would be an exchange, an interaction with leaders. I am confident that the time frame set out, which Mr. Miltenberger can review when he receives the package, is ample, that we should be able to arrive at some good conclusions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Honourable Members, the House will recess for a short break.

-- Break

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order after a short recess. When we left, we were in the final minutes of question period. Mr. Miltenberger, you were on your final supplementary to the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services. Final supplementary, Mr. Miltenberger.

Supplementary to Question 92-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was going to ask the Minister if she could provide some tiered time lines in terms of how much time 300 front-line workers, or at least 200 front-line workers, are going to have to do work that is going to provide feedback to the government. I have estimated anywhere from ten to 13 hours just to do the ceremonies and opening procedures, and the pomp and circumstance.

Can the Minister indicate: is it going to be five or six hours or eight hours? Could she indicate that to the House, please?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Department of Health and Social Services, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Further Return to Question 92-14(4): Social Agenda Conference

HON. JANE GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For the two main days of the conference, on Tuesday and Wednesday, it looks like we will have about six hours each day. Three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon. During that six hours, there is a combination of activities. There are some introductory remarks from keynote speakers. There are panel sessions, but I would suggest that the opportunity, apart from questioning panelists, I would suggest that the main opportunity for interaction with the front-line workers will be the small-group sessions.

There are a couple of opportunities during the course of the conference for the small-group sessions. Then we will hear questions from front-line workers, I am sure, of the panel sessions. Also, during the social activities, because some of these subjects we will be discussing can be fairly intense, we are going to have some entertainment and some social times. I am sure that as people get together over those times as well, they will discuss...sometimes the informal times are when a lot of good discussion takes place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

Question 93-14(4): Deh Cho Influence in Pipeline Development

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the Aboriginal Pipeline Working Group just wound up their discussions on the Hay River Reserve. There seems to be significant support for the pipeline going down the Mackenzie with aboriginal groups having a one-third percentage of ownership of the pipeline.

However, the Deh Cho has decided not to sign the MOU. I was going to ask the Premier, but since our able Minister of Aboriginal Affairs is here, the question I have is, does the Deh Cho have veto power over the pipeline if they go against the pipeline? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister responsible for Aboriginal Affairs, Mr. Antoine.

Return to Question 93-14(4): Deh Cho Influence in Pipeline Development

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a process agreed upon by the representatives that were attending the Aboriginal Pipeline Group meeting in Hay River last week. The Deh Cho are going through a process of consulting their membership. We should give them that opportunity to do so. At this point in time, my understanding is that there is a whole series of activity going on in the Deh Cho to try to get the views of the people in the Deh Cho region to see how they read the proposal that is before them.

It is difficult to make a comment, a statement to see whether they have veto power. At this point in time, I am told that the only place where they may be able to have a say in regard to any pipeline proposal down the valley would be for environmental reasons, and that would probably be under the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. This is what my understanding is at this point in time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Supplementary, Mr. Nitah. No supplementary. The time allocated for question period has ended. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return to Written Question 3-14(4) Fuel Rebate Program

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, Return to Written Question 3-14(4) asked by Mr. Bell and responded to by the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation concerning the Fuel Rebate Program.

1. The extension of the program from March 31, 2001, to April 30, 2001, was not advertised in any NWT newspapers or other media due to the volume of applications still arriving at the headquarters office of the NWT Housing Corporation after March 31, 2001. This extension allowed 600 additional applications to be processed. Many of the original applications that were received were either incomplete or had incorrect information. Rather than reject all of these applications outright, housing corporation staff contacted each applicant and worked with them to correct the information. Although this process took time, it did ensure that qualified applicants would receive one of the subsidies offered.
2. Although only 70.5% of the original budget was expended for the duration of the program, we believe that the majority of qualifying clients did access this program. Due to significant new employment opportunities in the resource sector and the fact that many more households already received some sort of fuel subsidy from their employer than was originally anticipated, some of the projected eligible clients either exceeded the income thresholds or were disqualified for not meeting other program guidelines.

As with my last response to a written question regarding this subject, I would like to reiterate that these are still preliminary numbers only as the Housing Corporation is still processing the final applications that were received. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 20-14(4): Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement Annual Report of the Implementation Committee, April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have three different tabling of documents. If I could, Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document, entitled The Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claims Agreement Annual Report of the Implementation Committee, April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2000.

Tabled Document 21-14(4): Inuvialuit Final Agreement Implementation Coordinating Committee Annual Report 1999-2000

The second document I would like to table is the document entitled Inuvialuit Final Agreement Implementation Coordinating Committee Annual Report 1999-2000.

Tabled Document 22-14(4): Sahtu Dene/Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, 1999-2000 Annual Report of the Implementation Committee

The third document I would like to table, Mr. Speaker, is the document entitled Sahtu Dene/Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement, 1999-2000 Annual Report of the Implementation Committee. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Tabled Document 23-14(4): Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act Consultation Documents

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table four consultation documents related to the proposed Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act. They are actual configuration classifications, draft toll zone descriptions, draft toll zone maps, and draft fee schedules. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Tabled Document 24-14(4): Interactivity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 Within Departments April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2000

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as required by section 32.1(2) of the Financial Administration Act, I am tabling a list of all interactivity transfers exceeding \$250,000 within departments for the period of April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Tabled Document 25-14(4): A Quick Guide to Family Emergency Preparedness in the Northwest Territories

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents I would like to table today. The first is A Quick Guide to Family Emergency Preparedness in the Northwest Territories.

Tabled Document 26-14(4): Office of the Fire Marshall 2000 Annual Report

Mr. Speaker, the second document is entitled Office of the Fire Marshall 2000 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Allen. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabled Document 27-14(4): Letter From Premier Kakwi Regarding Sole-Source Contracting

MR. MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, during the Cuff curluffle, the Deputy Premier indicated that one of the problems was the signing authority of deputy ministers and that it should be restricted. I wrote to the Premier and asked for clarification. I would like to table his reply called Sole-Source Contracting, which basically rejects the suggestion by the Deputy Premier.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Tabled Document 28-14(4): Letter From the Gwich'in Tribal Council Regarding Government Contracting Procedures and Approaches

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter I received from the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council regarding government contracting procedures and approaches and a problem they see with this government living up to its obligation under chapter 10 of the Gwich'in Agreement, the economic measures chapter.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Tabled Document 29-14(4): Letter from the Hamlet of Aklavik Regarding the Closure of Retail Gas Station

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table a letter I received from the Hamlet of Aklavik today in regard to the closure of the retail gas station, addressed to myself, asking for the assistance from the government to find an alternative source of gas for the community.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for the first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTION FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 13: An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Monday June 18th, 2001, I will move that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 15, notices of motion for the first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with motion 8-14(4), Establishment of Independent Commission on Member's Compensation, today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Roland, you may proceed.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 8-14(4): Establishment of Independent Commission on Members' Compensation (Carried as Amended)

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues;

WHEREAS the last comprehensive, independent review of Members' and Ministers' indemnities, expenses, allowances and benefits was conducted in 1996;

AND WHEREAS that commission recommended that the compensation package for Members be reviewed every five years;

AND WHEREAS it is important that independent, neutral and knowledgeable persons should carry out a review of Members' compensation;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is of the opinion that it is timely to undertake a comprehensive, independent review;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that the Legislative Assembly hereby appoints Mr. Fred Carmichael and Mr. Robert Clark as the commission on Members' compensation;

AND FURTHER that the commission shall:

1. assess and review the additional indemnities, allowances, expenses and benefits provided to members to determine the appropriateness of the amounts provided;
2. assess and review the reporting requirements and procedures for members' expenditures to determine the level of accountability acceptable to the public;
3. review any other matter that the commission considers relevant, respecting the compensation being provided to members;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the commission shall report with its observations and recommendations to the Speaker by October 1st, 2001 and the Speaker shall file the report to be tabled in the Legislative Assembly without delay, if the Assembly is in Session, and if the Assembly is not in Session, as soon as reasonably practical.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just at this time, I wanted to speak to the individuals that have been named in the motion.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Freddie Carmichael is a long-time Northerner, respected businessman and has just been recently elected to the Tribal Council as president.

Mr. Speaker, I think that we were looking for an independent person that has some stature in the Northwest Territories and I trust that Mr. Carmichael will be able to fill those qualifications quite easily.

Mr. Robert Clark, Mr. Speaker, is at this time the current Ethics Commissioner for Alberta and Members are also seeking, again, an independent review. So we feel that Mr. Clark is more than capable to give an opinion and look at things at an independent, arms-length view.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I think, as stated in the previous Members' commission that was done, five years was the time they suggested. It is one of the last outstanding recommendations that came forward at that time in 1996, and I believe it is appropriate to fulfil that at this time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am seconding this motion. I think that it is about time that, according to the last review, it says it will be five years to have a review, to look at the compensation and the pension of the MLAs. I think it is time to do it and I think the people whom we have named are able and willing to do this kind of work. I am looking forward to the report once it is concluded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Antoine. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to move an amendment. The amendment is supportive of the motion.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Motion 8-14(4) be amended by adding, after Mr. Robert Clark, the words, "and Mr. Red Peterson". Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The motion is in order. We are just circulating the document here. Give the Chair a minute or two here before it gets to all Members. Thank you. The amendment is in order. To the amendment. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, there are a couple of points that I would like to make to this amendment. I believe the work of this commission will be greatly enhanced by the addition of a third member to the panel, for a balance and for quality and calibre of input and review.

The name put forward, that of Mr. Red Peterson, is a very familiar one to the people of the Northwest Territories and, of course, for Nunavut, for the community that he represented, Kugluktuk, and the riding that he represented, Kitikmeot West.

He served in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, from November of 1983 to October of 1991. He served as a Minister from 1985 to 1987 of a number of portfolios, including Cultures and Communications, Renewable Resources, the Status of Women, People Employment Directorate and the Minister responsible for Personnel.

He was the Speaker of this Assembly from November 1987 to October 1989. I believe that he would be a very competent and welcome addition to the panel and I would endorse, along with the seconder for the motion, the Member for Thebacha, that we do include Mr. Peterson as the third member of this commission. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion on the amendment. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion to amend is carried.

To the motion as amended. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried as amended. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to deal with motion 6-14(4), Appointments to Board of Management, today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion.

Are there any nays? There being no nays, Mr. Nitah, you may proceed.

Motion 6-14(4): Appointments to the Board of Management (Carried)

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker, colleagues;

WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council Act passed being amended to require the appointment of alternate members to the Board of Management;

AND WHEREAS the Board of Management name some appointment to the board, due to the resignation of the Member for Hay River South;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly is of the opinion that new appointments should be made;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Legislative Assembly hereby appoint as follows:

- The Honourable Joseph L. Handley, Member for Weledeh;

As a member of the Board of Management; and

- The Honourable Jim Antoine, Member for Nahendeh;
- Mr. Leon Lafferty, Member for North Slave;
- Mr. Michael McLeod, Member for Deh Cho;

As alternate members to the board. Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Item 16, motions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with Motion 5-14(4), Extended Adjournment of the House to July 23, 2001, today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to deal with his motion today. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Braden, you may proceed.

Motion 5-14(4): Extended Adjournment of the House to July 23, 2001 (Carried as Amended)

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that notwithstanding Rule 4, that when this House adjourns on Friday, June 15, 2001, it shall be adjourned until Monday, July 23, 2001;

AND FURTHER, that at any time prior to July 23, 2001, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the executive council and the Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and there upon the House shall meet at the time stated

in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Motion 5-14(4), be amended by striking out "Friday, June 15, 2001" and substituting "June 14, 2001, immediately following adjournment of the House." Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is being circulated among the Members. All Members have their copies. The motion to amend is in order. To the motion to amend. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion to amend is carried.

To the motion as amended. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried as amended.

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 11: Architects' Act

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 11, Architects' Act, be read for the first time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 11 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Bill 12: An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River North, that Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act, be read for the first time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 12 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS**Bill 6: National Aboriginal Day Act**

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 6, National Aboriginal Day Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would designate National Aboriginal Day on June 21 as a public holiday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Antoine. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 6 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Bill 7: Powers of Attorney Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 7, Powers of Attorney Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill extends the legal scope of powers of attorney to provide a person with greater ability to plan for the management of his or her financial affairs in the event of certain contingencies, such as his or her mental incapacity, and to avoid the possibility of legal proceedings relating to trusteeship orders.

Some of the key provisions of this bill are concerned with:

- Permitting a power of attorney to come into force or to continue in force on the mental incapacity of the person who made it;
- Determining whether the specified contingency on which a power of attorney is to come into force has occurred;
- Clarifying the powers and duties of an attorney;
- Setting out the formal requirements for making a power of attorney; and
- Providing the person who wished to make a power of attorney with information about the implications of doing so.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Antoine. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 7 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee.

Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Bill 8: An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Hay River South, that Bill 8, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act to clarify the provisions relating to seat belts and child restraint systems. The bill also limits the number of persons who may ride in a motor vehicle and specifies that they must be in designated seating positions unless they are riding in certain specified vehicles. The bill also removes the exemption that allows persons to ride in the box of a truck in certain circumstances. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A large part of this bill is good. The area where a person cannot sit in the box of a vehicle troubles me. I represent two communities, one of which is Lutselk'e. There is no taxi or bus service available. There is no public transportation available. There is a limited amount of vehicles. The airport is some three kilometres outside of the community.

We all know the weather in the Northwest Territories. It gets very, very cold in the winter. In summer, when you want to walk, it gets very dusty.

With a limited amount of vehicles in the community, people have no choice but to sit in the back of a box to catch a ride into town, or from town to the airport. This bill will make this illegal. I am afraid it will make criminals out of people that do not deserve this kind of distinction.

I encourage the department to amend this section of the bill to reflect that concern. I have worked with the Minister and the committee and have introduced an amendment to the bill that was agreed to by the Department of Transportation and the Minister. However, Cabinet retracted that amendment and decided to go with the original bill as stated. I think it is a bad move on behalf of the government. It is not recognized in the limitations and challenges that small communities such as Lutselk'e have.

I do not agree with this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for the Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I too have similar concerns on the bill. I believe that people have the right to mobility. They have the right to move within certain avenues, especially to carry out traditional functions, where people may come to the community with a boat, where they have to unload with families and all their supplies and they have no other options in our communities.

This bill is great for where you have major highway systems and what not, but I believe that you have to put some realistic terms to when we establish these bills.

The hardship that this causes small communities and people in small communities, such as Aklavik, where a lot of people depend on the transportation of the boats and what not. They travel to the communities. They go out to their whaling camps.

They go out to their fish camps and I think that we have to be realistic here.

Sure, it is a great idea. People should not ride in the box in a vehicle on the highway. However, I think the Minister had his opportunity to do the right thing. He submitted, saying that he was going to do it, and now he is coming back, rescinding that commitment.

I for one will make this clear that I will fight this all the way until he lives up to his commitment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the principle of the bill. The House is prepared for the question. All those in favour, please signify. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 8 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Bill 9: Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 9, Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill requires carriers to obtain a trip permit before a commercial vehicle makes a trip across the boundaries of one or more prescribed zones on primary highways in the Northwest Territories.

Certain commercial vehicles, such as vehicles that are not carrying cargo, or vehicles on a trip within one zone, are exempt from trip permit requirement. Trip permits will be issued by the Minister on application, and will specify information sufficient to identify the commercial vehicle and its route.

Transport officers will have enforcement powers, including the power to detain commercial vehicles if there is a failure to properly obtain a trip permit. The Minister is authorized to enter into agreements with a contractor for the issue of trip permits to carriers generally, or with a particular carrier for the issue of trip permits for the commercial vehicles of that carrier.

This bill provides for offences and for the enactment of regulations. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have heard much of what it is now called the Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act.

Mr. Speaker, much information needs to be sent out to the public as this will come forward. There is concern that the impact this will have, when you look at the increases in the airline industry, you look at the increases this will have on people in the Northwest Territories. We have to look at what this will actually do.

Some of my constituents have heard rumours of a, at the time, commercial vehicle toll fee that was being proposed. There was some discussion in the media. They are concerned about what

impact it will really have on residents with the high cost of living already in the North.

I think as we go through this process and we go to public hearings, if it makes it past this stage, there needs to be a lot more information put out by the government. When committee does travel, that this information is already in the hands of residents because it is a very big act. It is a big change in the Northwest Territories and it will have long-term impacts. There has been a lot of talk about the long-term benefits of this, but there will also be impacts. As you know, the cost of living in the Northwest Territories is rising as we speak.

I am hoping the department and the government will come forward with a lot of information on this, as to what the real impacts will be, Mr. Speaker, not just assumptions. We have heard of the assumptions and, usually when it comes back, people have had more of an impact.

I am going to be watching as to what is coming forward and, as well, what this government plans to do to help residents deal with the cost of living increases as a result of this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the principle of the bill. Question has been called. Is the House ready for the question? Would the honourable members please assist the Chair in making it very clear your intentions? The Chair will not guess as to how you wish to vote. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed, please signify. Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 9 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Bill 10: Public Highway Improvement Fund Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes that Bill 10, Public Highway Improvement Fund Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill establishes the Public Highway Improvement Fund. Trip permit fees and administrative penalties collected under the authority of the Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act must be paid into the fund and, subject to an appropriation, amounts can be paid out of the fund to pay costs associated with the improvement of primary highways, the principal and interest on loans taken to finance the improvement of primary highways and costs of administering the Commercial Vehicle Trip Permit Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Is the House ready for question? All those in favour, please signify. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 10 has had second reading. Accordingly, the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 11, Architects Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Steen. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with his bill. Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: The Chair heard two nays. Consent has not been given. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in committee of the whole of bills and other matters: Minister's Statement 1-14(4), Minister's Statement 3-14(4), Minister's Statement 4-14(4), Bill 1, Bill 4, and Committee Report 4-14(4), with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

ITEM 19: CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We have a number of items to deal with in committee of the whole: Minister's Statement 1-14(4), Minister's Statement 3-14(4), Minister's Statement 4-14(4), Bill 1, Bill 4, and Committee Report 4-14(4). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I would like to recommend that we deal with Bill 1 first, followed by Committee Report 4-14(4), followed by Bill 4.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We will deal with Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act. I would like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he has any opening comments. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, economic activity in the oil and gas sector, as well as the diamond industry, is increasing dramatically, which is resulting in many new business opportunities for northern companies. By increasing the limits for loans, bond-guaranteed loans, or indemnified loans that can be made by the Business Credit Corporation, we can assist the private sector to assess these financial opportunities.

The objective of the BCC is to stimulate economic development and employment in the Northwest Territories. The BCC provides financing to businesses in the Northwest Territories where conventional lending institutions are not prepared to participate. This assists companies to become full participants in our industries, including our oil and gas and secondary diamond sectors. As of March 31, 2001, the BCC had total outstanding credit facilities of \$27.5 million. This is well within the \$50 million working capital advance from the consolidated revenue fund. This fund is a revolving fund, so money is repaid by businesses with existing loans can be used to fund future projects.

BCC financing is demand-based. The BCC will consider business proposals for any viable business opportunity that will stimulate economic development and employment in the Northwest Territories. Strict commercial lending practices are followed by the BCC. Its lending guidelines and practices are subject to annual audits conducted by the Auditor General of Canada.

The proposal before you is to amend the BCC Act by increasing the total limit from \$1 million to \$2 million per

business, or for related businesses. The act currently provides for an upper loan limit of \$1 million. This limit has been in place for roughly ten years. Accordingly, it is time to change.

This proposal supports the objectives of the document Towards a Better Tomorrow for a northern controlled economy that is balanced, diversified, stable and vibrant. The change to the act will provide an option for companies who want to finance capital intensive operations associated with resource development as well as other business ventures. The proposed change will apply only to new loan applications. It will be a benefit to NWT businesses who have different corporate entities.

For example, most aboriginal development corporations have several operating businesses. Under the BCC Act, the \$1 million cap applies to all related businesses. The amendment will increase the borrowing room for these development corporations.

I believe this amendment will be welcome by the private sector and am pleased to have the opportunity to review the amendment with the Members of the Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Does the standing committee responsible for reviewing this bill have any comments? Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development conducted a public review of Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act, on June 11, 2001. The committee would like to thank the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and his officials for presenting the bill.

The bill would amend subsection 37(3) of the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act and increase the limit for loans, bond guaranteed loans or indemnified bonds from \$1 million to \$2 million.

During discussions on the bill, the committee expressed two major concerns. The Business Credit Corporation's requirement to increase the limit prior to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development's consideration of the government's Business Program Review Committee's upcoming report and the ongoing necessity for balanced risk management and diversification.

Committee members recalled during their review of the government's 2001-02 business plans and main estimates, the government established a business program review committee to consider the amalgamation of the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation, the Northwest Territories Development Corporation and its business development fund.

A report from the review committee was originally due on March 31, 2001, but this has been moved to June, 2001. The standing committee has not yet received a copy of the report. The committee members were of the position that consideration of the report may aid in its consideration of the BCC's request to increase its lending limit.

The government answered that the standard review process involving Cabinet and the standing committee may be lengthy. However, they provided assurances that the BCC needs the

legislation as soon as possible to meet capital requirements from recent developments in the diamond and oil and gas sectors.

The Minister added that the government has consulted and received support from the review committee regarding this proposed lending limit increase.

Committee members noted that as of March 31, 2001, total outstanding borrowing for the Business Credit Corporation, stood at \$27,500,000, with \$22,500,000 remaining to lend out in accordance with its act.

The standing committee was concerned that an increase of the lending limit may increase overall risk by concentrating limited funding with a few business enterprises, or a group of related enterprises.

Committee members confirmed with the Minister that a single business, or related entities of a single business, may not access more than the lending limit, and the proposed lending limit would continue to ensure that the loan portfolio remains diversified.

Mr. Chairman, following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act, to the Assembly as ready for committee of the whole. Additional questions or comments of Members may be posed as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Roland. At this time I will ask the Minister, will you be bringing in any witnesses?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, I will.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in his witness?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witness in? Mr. Minister, for the record, could you please introduce your witness?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me is the celebrity of the day, Bob McLeod, deputy minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Welcome, Mr. McLeod. General comments. Detail? Clause by clause? Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 2. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just further on what the committee stated as area of concern with increasing the loan limit to \$2 million. We asked the Minister to provide us with a list of loans that were applied for in the area of \$1 million over the last number of years, and the Minister did provide that information. He did state that loan applications in the area of \$1 million that were received, for example, last year, it was two and neither were approved. In 1999, there were two and only one approved. In 1998, three and three were approved. It is not a very high demand for the area of \$1 million.

The Minister went as far as to show that in the area between \$800,000 and \$999,000 the amount of applications that were in that area, and again the numbers are not very high. There were none, by what I see, in 1999 or 2000 in that area. There does not seem to be a very high demand, and we know that there is much work going on in the area of oil and gas and the diamond sector, but there is a big push for this. I would like the Minister to elaborate on the need for this, and if there are people waiting for this to happen so that they can get on with their work, so to speak. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, the \$1 million limit has been in effect for ten years and it is pretty commonly known in the industry that that is the maximum they can apply for. We do have inquiries, and we have been saying to people that the maximum is \$1 million. We do not get very many loan applications for more than \$1 million. I expect that as we increase the limit to \$2 million, we will find people who normally may have to put their business plans on the shelf now coming forward.

We have difficulty estimating how many there would be but expect, given the increased economic activity, that we will see an increase in loan applications. Right now, we have one application before us where the applicant is looking for more than \$1 million, but I believe there will be more as soon as this is passed. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is one company or group waiting for this amendment so that they can apply for more than the \$1 million limit. Is there only one? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, yes, there is only one actual application before us. They are waiting for this change and they are also waiting for federal funding as well. This is not the only source for their borrowing. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Have there been requests by companies to increase the limit? I understand what the Minister stated, that people know it is \$1 million so if they wanted more they just would not apply for it. They would apply for what they needed, I guess, up to the \$1 million limit, but have there been requests by companies in the Northwest Territories to increase that limit? Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, Mr. Chairman, there have been a number of requests to increase the loan limit.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 1 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Agreed. Bill 1 is now ready for third reading. I would like to thank the Minister and his witness.

As we agreed earlier, the next item we will deal with is Committee Report 4-14(4), Accountability and Oversight Report on the Review of Human Resource Management Study. General comments. Mr. Miltenberger.

MR. MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am glad that we have this report in the House and that maybe it will be the catalyst for the Regular Members and Cabinet to move ahead to bring some progress to this particular issue. There are some recommendations in there that I think will enable us to do that, and I hope they are well received by Cabinet, and that the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight is ready to go.

I think there is a general sense, from what I have heard talking to people out in the public service, that they would like some clear direction, some united direction from the Legislative Assembly on this very critical issue, not just what kind of entity may be created to deal with appeals or other such related issues, but also the broader human resource strategy issues as they pertain to all employees in the Northwest Territories -- the civil service, the affirmative action program and all the areas that were identified as needing work by the Grant Thornton report.

I am pleased that we are at this point and hope we can move forward with some alacrity here to demonstrate to the civil service and the people of the Northwest Territories that we as a legislature are prepared to take decisive action. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): General comments. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Mr. Miltenberger has noted, this has been an issue for Regular Members for quite some time since the introduction of the motion requesting the government look at establishing a public service commission. I think that in response to the Grant Thornton report, what we want to do now is to see if we cannot find a process by which we can move the issue forward, whether that is to establish a public service commission or some other body, or to improve the whole administration of human resources practices within the government. We are hoping that we can find a collaborative way to work together with the government to achieve that.

Since the report has already been read into the record, Mr. Chairman, I think the best thing to do now would be to introduce the recommendations in the form of motions in the House to make them part of the official record.

Committee Motion 12-14(4): To Establish a Working Group to Oversee the Implementation of a Human Resources Policy and Program (Carried)

I MOVE that this committee recommends that a working group consisting of members appointed from the Executive Council, that members appointed from the Standing Committee on Accounting and Oversight be established to set a framework and oversee the implementation of a human resources policy and program.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried. Mr. Dent.

Committee Motion 13-14(4): To Continue to Work Toward the Establishment of an Independent Body Responsible for Safeguarding the Values of a Professional Civil Service (Carried)

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The second recommendation from the committee report, that I would also to make a point of motion now is;

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the government, through an established joint working group, continue to work toward the establishment of an independent body that would be responsible for safeguarding the values of a professional civil service;

AND FURTHER, that such a body or commission would be established as an independent, arms length entity to hear appeals and to report to the Legislative Assembly annually on the Northwest Territories Public Service;

AND FURTHERMORE, subject to further direction, that body or commission would assume such other human resources roles assigned to it.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Dent. The motion is in order. To the motion. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried. Does the committee agree that Committee Report 4-14(4) be concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. The next item that we agreed to deal with is Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act No. 1, 2001-2002. I would like to ask the Minister if he will be bringing in any witnesses? Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes I will, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, can you escort the witnesses in, please? Mr. Handley, for the record, could you please introduce your witness?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, with me is the other celebrity of the day, Lew Voytilla, secretary to the Financial Management Board.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Yesterday we left off on page 22, highways, not previously authorized, \$850,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Ferries, special warrants, \$160,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Special warrants, total department, \$3,236,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, \$1,490,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, capital investment expenditures, resource management and economic development, special warrant, \$563,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Not previously authorized, negative \$145,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, special warrants, \$563,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total department, not previously authorized, negative \$145,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We will deal with Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Schedule, part one, vote one, operations expenditures, \$25,107,974. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Just under total operations expense. Hearing some of the details that came out of this, one area under operations expense that I had concern with referred to strategy 7 of the Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy and, upon review of that strategy, that particular strategy refers with highways, highway infrastructures, winter roads and so on.

Under transportation of \$85,000, there is talk of a development plan for an airport. I would like to know if in fact that strategy 7 has expanded?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Chairman, as I explained yesterday, there was a misprint in the book. That should read strategy 12 instead of 7, in that case. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Roland, I believe this was debated yesterday and hopefully they will make that change for the record. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I was just going by our documents that we have in hand that still state number seven. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): There was clarification given yesterday on this matter. Hopefully that change will reflect that in the brief, where it was raised and where there was clarification. There was supposed to be that change, so hopefully the change does happen.

We are dealing with vote one, operation expenses, total supplementary appropriation, total operation expenditures, \$25,107,974.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Under schedule, part two, vote two, capital investment expenditures, total supplementary appropriation for capital investment expenditures, \$31,871,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Total supplementary appropriation, \$56,978,974.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Back to page one, with the bill preamble. Preamble.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 4 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 4 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Mr. Minister, witness. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I move we report progress.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried. I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. Item 20, report of the committee of the whole. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Business Credit Corporation Act, Committee Report 4-14(4): Response to the Report on Human Resources Management Study, and Bill 4: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2001-2002, and would like to report progress with two motions being adopted, that Committee Report 4-14(4) is concluded, Bill 1 and Bill 4 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of the committee of the whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with the third reading of his bill. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may proceed, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 1: An Act to Amend the NWT Business Credit Corporation Act

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act, be read for the third time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried. Bill 1 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with third reading of Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2001-2002. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking consent to proceed with the third reading of Bill 4. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You have consent to proceed with third reading of your bill, Mr. Handley.

Bill 4: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2001-2002

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker,

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2001-2002, be read for the third time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. Question has been called. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried. Bill 4 has had third reading. Any further third reading of bills? No further third reading of bills.

At this time, colleagues, I would like to recognize the pages who served us so well this past week. This will be the last opportunity we will have, so I would like to say on behalf of all the Members, thank you. I will just go over their names: Jamie Jacobs, Kimberly Theo, Kathleen Stroder, Adam Fillot, Leslie Vixie, Jamie Stephen-Emery, and from out of town, Desiree Moses, Jessica Skeard, and Jennifer Skeard. As well, we have Vital Manuel, who is here with us quite frequently. I would like to say a big thank you to them for the fine service they have given us over the past week. Colleagues, show your appreciation.

-- Applause

I beg the indulgence of the House for a few moments. We are awaiting the arrival of Her Honour, the Commissioner, to assent to bills. The Commissioner is not in the House yet. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I seek unanimous consent to return to oral questions.

-- Laughter

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Nay.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. You have not received consent. The House will take a short recess. The bell will ring. Please return at the sound of the bell.

-- Break

ASSENT TO BILLS

COMMISSIONER OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES (Hon. Glenna Hansen): Mr. Speaker, Mr. Premier, Members of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to thank you for the work and dedication that you have once again demonstrated on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories.

You have sought and achieved consensus on a number of matters that were before you. This is not always an easy task. It is rarely done without debate and not always without emotion. One thing I know we agree upon -- these are important times for the future of the Northwest Territories and for territorial leaders and elected Members of the Legislative Assembly, the decisions are not easy.

Next week Canada will celebrate National Aboriginal Day. It will be an opportunity for all of us to recognize the rich contributions that aboriginal peoples have made and continue to make to our society.

It is also a time to celebrate our territory and its people -- residents of all origins who live and work in an environment of respect for each other's heritage, language, cultural practices and spiritual beliefs.

I hope that you will each join in the celebrations for Aboriginal Day in your community, mindful of our diversity and unity -- both as aboriginal people and Northerners.

As you prepare to leave this Assembly and return to your communities and families, I pray God will grant you travelling mercies. Many of us will meet again at a variety of gatherings and assemblies over the summer months.

I hope these opportunities to come together as peoples of the Northwest Territories will be a source of renewal and inspiration.

As Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, I am pleased to assent to the following bills: Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Credit Corporation Act; and Bill 4, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2001-2002.

Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, please be seated. Before we go to orders of the day, it will be about a month before we reconvene. I wish that you enjoy that time, as much of it that you can spend with your families, and do have a safe journey home, those of you who are travelling. We look forward to seeing you, as the Commissioner said, at a variety of activities. Until then, I hope you have a very safe month of duties and pleasantries. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE ASSEMBLY (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, Orders of the day for Monday, July 23, 2001:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions

11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 11, Architects Act
 - Bill 12, An Act to Amend the Wildlife Act
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 1-14(4), Sessional Statement
 - Minister's Statement 3-14(4), Fiscal and Economic Update
 - Minister's Statement 4-14(4), Update on the Social Agenda
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, July 23, 2001, at 1:30 p.m.

-- ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.