



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

6th Session

Day 22

14th Assembly

HANSARD

Wednesday, March 12, 2003

Pages 701 – 746

The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Members of the Legislative Assembly

Speaker

Hon. Tony Whitford

(Kam Lake)

Hon. Stephen Kakfwi

(Sahtu)

Premier

Executive Council

Minister Responsible for

Intergovernmental Affairs

Minister Responsible for the Status of

Women

Hon. Jim Antoine

(Nahendeh)

Deputy Premier

Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

Minister Responsible for the

Intergovernmental Forum

Minister of Resources, Wildlife and

Economic Development

Hon. Roger T. Allen

(Inuvik Twin Lakes)

Minister of Justice

Minister Responsible for NWT

Housing Corporation

Minister Responsible for Public

Utilities Board

Minister Responsible for Youth

Hon. Joseph L. Handley

(Weledeh)

Minister Responsible for Energy and

Hydro Secretariats

Minister of Finance

Minister Responsible for the Financial

Management Board

Minister Responsible for the Northwest

Territories Power Corporation

Minister of Transportation

Minister Responsible for the Workers'

Compensation Board

Hon. J. Michael Miltenberger

(Thebacha)

Minister of Health and Social Services

Minister Responsible for Persons with

Disabilities

Minister Responsible for Seniors

Hon. Jake Ootes

(Yellowknife Centre)

Minister of Education, Culture and

Employment

Hon. Vince R. Steen

(Nunakput)

Minister of Public Works and Services

Minister of Municipal and Community

Affairs

Mr. Brendan Bell

(Yellowknife South)

Mr. Bill Braden

(Great Slave)

Mr. Paul Delorey

(Hay River North)

Mr. Charles Dent

(Frame Lake)

Mrs. Jane Groenewegen

(Hay River South)

Mr. David Krutko

(Mackenzie Delta)

Mr. Leon Lafferty

(North Slave)

Ms. Sandy Lee

(Range Lake)

Mr. Michael McLeod

(Deh Cho)

Mr. Steven Nitah

(Tu Nedhe)

Mr. Floyd Roland

(Inuvik Boot Lake)

Officers

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David M. Hamilton

Deputy Clerk

Mr. Doug Schauerte

Clerk of Committees

Mr. Dave Inch

Law Clerks

Ms. Katherine R. Peterson, Q.C.

Mr. Charles Thompson

Sergeant-at-Arms

Ms. Nicole Latour-Theede

Editors of Hansard

Michele Vanthull

Box 1320

Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PRAYER	701
MINISTERS' STATEMENTS	701
39-14(6) - AMENDMENTS TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.....	701
40-14(6) - MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE.....	702
MEMBERS' STATEMENTS	123
MR. KRUTKO ON SITTICHINLI RECREATION COMPLEX IN AKLAVIK.....	702
MR. DENT ON AMENDMENTS TO THE WILDLIFE ACT.....	702
MR. NITAH ON HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR TRAINING PROGRAM.....	703
MR. LAFFERTY ON ALL-WEATHER ROAD TO THE SLAVE GEOLOGIC PROVINCE.....	703
MRS. GROENEWEGEN ON PUBLIC AWARENESS OF NEW DRINKING AND DRIVING LEGISLATION.....	703
MR. BRADEN ON HIGH COST OF RENT AND COST OF LIVING IN YELLOWKNIFE.....	704
MS. LEE ON RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AT STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL.....	704
MR. ROLAND ON FISCAL LEGACY OF THE 14 TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.....	705
MR. HANDLEY ON VISIT TO K'LEMI DENE SCHOOL IN NDILO.....	705
RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS	706
RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY	706
ORAL QUESTIONS	706
WRITTEN QUESTIONS	716
PETITIONS	716
TABLING OF DOCUMENTS	716
FIRST READING OF BILLS	716
BILL 15 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT.....	716
SECOND READING OF BILLS	717
BILL 14 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT.....	717
CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS	718
REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE	744
THIRD READING OF BILLS	745
BILL 3 - APPROPRIATION ACT, 2003-2004.....	745
ORDERS OF THE DAY	745

YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, March 12, 2003****Members Present**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford.

ITEM 1: PRAYER

-- Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Thank you. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 39-14(6): Amendments To Workers' Compensation Act**

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, it will be my pleasure later today to introduce a bill to amend the Workers' Compensation Act. There have been no major amendments to this act since it became law over 25 years ago. This bill will be the first of two phases of amendments that will give the people of the NWT an entirely modern and effective workers' compensation system.

Members will recall that a legislative panel was appointed in 2000 to make recommendations for changes to the Workers' Compensation Act and the Safety Act. Made up of representatives from both the NWT and Nunavut, the panel's report Act Now, was received by me and the Minister responsible for the WCB in Nunavut the Honourable Kelvin Ng in January 2002, a little over one year ago.

The Workers' Compensation Board of the NWT and Nunavut is unique for both jurisdictions as it is the only remaining shared institution between the NWT and Nunavut. Although we have a shared board of directors, however, both jurisdictions maintain their own legislation.

Mr. Speaker, it is no easy task to develop legislative amendments for the workers' compensation system. First of all, as mentioned, the WCB serves two jurisdictions. In order for the board to maintain a unified legislative base, all amendments made to one government's act, should be reflected in the other jurisdictions. Secondly, by its nature, the legislation also serves two main interest groups – employers who pay for the system and employees who must access the system when an unfortunate incident occurs.

I would also like to note that this bill presents a first for both our Legislative Assembly and that of the Legislative Assembly of Nunavut. The content of the legislative proposal was developed with input from both governments. The bill itself was drafted by the GNWT Department of Justice, with French translation provided by the Government of Nunavut. I am also pleased to report that the Honourable Kelvin Ng and I were able to discuss and agree on a number of issues, which have been included in the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to advise the House that the amendments I will be introducing later today, address over 70 percent of the 85 Act Now recommendations calling for legislative change. Many of the remainder of the panel's recommendations addressed operational and other issues not requiring legislative change.

Accountability is key for any system to work effectively. These amendments will clearly establish the roles and responsibilities of all the players in the system so that the public will know how it is to work and who is responsible for making it work.

The amendments will also establish, in legislation, the office of the worker's advisor to help injured workers with their claims. The appointment of the workers' advisory will change from the board to the Minister, as will the workers' advisory's reporting relationship. This will create a direct line of communication and accountability from the workers' advisor to the Minister.

When workers are injured, they need quick access to effective treatment so that they can return to work as quickly as possible. The proposed amendments will mandate the workers' healthcare provider, the worker and the WCB to cooperate in the process of the worker's recovery through early assessment, diagnoses and the development of a treatment plan.

From time to time, Mr. Speaker, there can be differences of medical opinions with respect to the treatment plan for an injured worker. The proposed amendment mandate is a cooperative, consultative approach to help resolve these differences. This will remove some of the adversarial nature of the current process.

The proposed amendments will also clarify major sections of the act and make it easier to read and understand. The amended Workers' Compensation Act will be much more user friendly.

As I mentioned earlier, this bill will address over 70 percent of the recommendations that were made in the Act Now report. These amendments will go a long way to improving the workers' compensation system in the NWT and Nunavut, but the bill we will introduce this afternoon is not the end of the process. A second phase of legislative amendments, including a complete rewrite of the Workers' Compensation Act, is needed to address the remaining Act Now recommendations. I expect these amendments to be ready for introduction early in the life of the next government; and I hope that the Members of the 15th Legislative Assembly will continue to support the completion of this important work.

I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, who spent a great deal of time reviewing the legislative proposal. Our discussions with AOC were constructive and helpful and I thank them for their contributions to this bill. In closing, I would like to thank the members of the

Legislative Review Panel who provided the foundation for the amendments that will be introduced later today. Mr. Speaker, they are Louise Vertes, chairperson; Shona Barkley, Dan Halldorson, Steve Petersen, David Simailak, Alex Stuit and Don Yamkowy. I would also like to thank the board and staff of the WCB and the Department of Justice for their diligence in developing this first set of amendments and the Government of Nunavut for their cooperation in ensuring that his bill would be ready to go forward during the life of our respective governments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Minister's Statement 40-14(6): Minister Absent From The House

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Michael Miltenberger will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week to attend the Ministers of Social Services meeting in Toronto. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Ministers' statements. Colleagues, before I proceed to the next item on the order paper, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize in the visitors' gallery some members of the Esteem Team North program. They are touring the Northwest Territories, particularly the Beaufort-Delta region a little later on in the springtime, this week perhaps. With us, we have Mr. Joe Dragon, former Pittsburgh Penguin draftee, Ms. Sharon Firth, an Olympic cross country skier from the Delta; Mr. Jamie Taras, former BC Lions football player; Chris Wilson, Esteem Team Canada executive director; and, Mr. Rob Meckling, the Esteem North coordinator for Sport North. Please welcome them to the Legislative Assembly.

---Applause

Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Sittichinli Recreation Complex In Aklavik

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we all know the importance of infrastructure in our communities, especially our recreation facilities. Mr. Speaker, we've heard a lot about ensuring that we protect the government's assets, infrastructure, protection of people and assets, but, Mr. Speaker, coming from a small community, sometimes we lose sight of how important our recreation facilities are, especially with regard to the community of Aklavik. The Sittichinli Recreational Complex is an important place not only for meeting, dancing and other activities such as hockey programs. This facility is presently under threat because of the condition of the building. The roof is leaking and also they have done an in-depth report of the Sittichinli Recreation Complex in Aklavik with regard to the technical status evaluation. In that report, they've found there is damage to the recreation complex and there is violation of the fire marshal's code and the Canadian Building Code we have to follow.

Mr. Speaker, we heard a lot in the House about certain reasons this government had to replace certain buildings and also

accommodation for certain constituencies. Mr. Speaker, I think it's important that we have to keep in mind that we do represent some 30 communities and that we have to be fair. Mr. Speaker, it's important that we know, as a government, we are not above the law and whenever we find ourselves violating building codes and are in contravention of the fire marshal codes and orders, that we follow them. I feel that in this report that has been done with regard to the Sittichinli Recreational Complex, it's important that this government does something to not only protect this asset, but to ensure we extend the life of this asset in the community of Aklavik. Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be asking the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs about the Sittichinli Recreation Complex in Aklavik.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Member's Statement On Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in 1993, the Minister of Renewable Resources stood in the Assembly and said that a comprehensive review of the Wildlife Act had been underway for a year. Here we are, 11 years since the review started and a new Wildlife Act has not been introduced. In fact, Mr. Speaker, a couple of weeks ago, the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development told the House, in answer to a question by Mr. Krutko, that a new wildlife bill would not be introduced during the life of this Assembly. Surprise, surprise, surprise.

Mr. Speaker, since the last election, no fewer than three Ministers of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development have promised we would see new wildlife legislation done in a timely way by this Assembly. After the last election, the consultation process was started again by Mr. Kakfwi, who was the first Minister responsible for RWED. It was carried on by Minister Handley after he took over and lastly by Minister Antoine during his tenure. Mr. Speaker, all three Ministers have noted that one of the main driving forces behind the need for revision was to deal with provisions of settled claims. Well, as Mr. Krutko noted, it's nearly 10 years since the Gwich'in claim was signed, nine years or so since the Sahtu Dene-Metis claim and here we are, nearly at the end of another four-year Assembly mandate with no legislation coming forward.

Mr. Speaker, last year, I brought forward a private Member's bill that would have reduced the waiting period for NWT residents to apply for hunting licences. That bill was killed by Cabinet when they refused to let it come out of Committee of the Whole. The reasons? The Minister said it was because a comprehensive wildlife bill was coming forward within the life of this Assembly and items like my amendment should be dealt with as part of the overall review. So, since the review was underway and it would result in new legislation in the fall of 2002, the private Member's bill should not receive consideration. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Krutko noted, the government has promised for a long time that we would see a new Wildlife Act. Now, they say we have to wait for a new Assembly. I have tried to deal with the issue of a two-year for resident hunting licences in the 12th, 13th and now the 14th Assemblies, to no avail. I am always told that, since a new Wildlife Act is coming forward, I should be patient and wait for changes as part of that new act.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Krutko expressed the frustration that he and his constituents feel over the time it has taken to see this new legislation. My constituents are frustrated as well. It's now been more than 10 years since I raised the issue. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, the only positive note that I can point to is that in the latest progress report on new wildlife legislation sent out by the Minister of RWED in January, I see the government proposes to reduce the residency requirement for a hunting licence to one year. A flicker of hope, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I guess I am going to have to confer with my colleague from Mackenzie Delta on this issue. Perhaps we should collaborate on a new private Member's bill to move the whole process along. Perhaps we could bring it forward in June. At least one Cabinet Minister said he would support my private Member's bill if a new act wasn't going forward. It may be time to put that commitment to the test. Mr. Speaker, given the speed with which this process is moving, that may be the only way that we will see any action on a new Wildlife Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Heavy Equipment Operator Training Program

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to talk about something good for a change in this House.

---Applause

I would like to congratulate a constituent of mine, Grant Giroux who partnered with Carter Industries to provide a unique opportunity to work towards his journeyman certification. He started a joint venture company to provide heavy equipment training in the NWT. Mr. Speaker, in this unprecedented time of development, this kind of entrepreneurial spirit is what's going to make sure that we, as a society, benefit the most in our non-renewable resource development. They joined forces to offer people in the North a heavy equipment operation journeyman apprenticeship program; Grant, a certified heavy equipment trainer, and Carter Industries, a northern company that has been operating for over 30 years in the NWT.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to also inform the House that our government has participated a great deal in this area. The departments of RWED and Education, Culture and Employment have supported this joint venture. It's this kind of collaboration and entrepreneurial spirit that's going to make their model a reality. Their motto is "Together we can Make a Brighter Future for the People and For the Business of the NWT." Mr. Speaker, they offer a program where, instead of going to Fort Smith, they will come to you. If you have a project in Lutselk'e, Wha Ti or Tsiigehtchic, and you want heavy equipment operation trainers, they will come to you. This is the

beauty of this business. They will provide a service, they make money and they provide viable training and apprenticeship hours, so our northern workforce are certified and benefit to the maximum that's available to them. I would like to congratulate Carter Industries and Mr. Grant Giroux. Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Members' statements. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Member's Statement On All Weather Road To The Slave Geologic Province

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I mentioned that the proposed Bathurst Inlet port and road would have a serious economic and environmental impact on the Northwest Territories. I have always felt that my region was overlooked in this government's transportation studies and strategies and I also know that nothing much has happened with these initiatives because of the lack of territorial and federal dollars.

Mr. Speaker, an opportunity is before us to create our own road into the Slave Geological Province and the time to act is now. Mr. Speaker, along with developing our own road into the Slave Geological Province, I think it is critical that we ensure that territorial concerns about the Bathurst Inlet port and road are heard. In my region which is rich in minerals, a gold mining company is looking for all weather roads and the opportunity to access existing hydro power in the Dogrib region. As I've said in the past, I think we need to look at connecting the communities and hydro and the mines. The clock is ticking and we can no longer delay decisions on an all-weather road and hydro activity in our territory.

I realize that a coalition of Northern businesses is currently lobbying the provinces as well as the federal government for infrastructure funding. The problem with this is that this lobbying is based on the Corridors for Canada document. This government document does not benefit or address the opportunities in the Dogrib region. I'm sure that residents within my region would love to have input into creating this road if an independent household survey was done.

As I mentioned yesterday, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs is going to decide in the next month which type of environmental review will be given to the supply routes. I think this government needs to ensure that a federal and environmental review process known as a Part 6 is undertaken and I think we better get moving on our own road to resources through the Dogrib region. This government could make a powerful statement by just putting an all weather road into Wha Ti. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Public Awareness Of New Drinking And Driving Legislation

MRS. GREONEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you are aware, the Act to Amend the Motor

Vehicles Act, recently given second reading, proposes to toughen up our drinking and driving laws by reducing the legal limit to .05 percent. This is an important step towards the goal of reducing traffic fatalities in the Northwest Territories. However, Mr. Speaker, I believe in order to make this law more effective the public must be aware of the lower blood alcohol limit and what this new limit really means.

We've all heard the ads that equate one beer to one glass of wine to one ounce of liquor. In the past we have done a fairly good job of informing the public about how much the average person can consume while safely being below the limit of .08 percent level. With the new limit on the horizon, the public must be informed on how the new rate reduces what can be consumed before getting behind the wheel of the vehicle. If the public isn't familiar with the new limit, the benefit to public safety that this bill was meant to provide won't be realized and that, Mr. Speaker, would be a tragic waste.

There are many ways to get the message out. Increased presence of the RCMP, perhaps including more frequent road side breathalyzer testing, is one possibility. But it is critical that we find ways to get the word out before someone gets behind the wheel. Setting up breathalyzer equipment in a few bars could be an eye opening experience for many. Other possibilities include informative posters or signs for display in all businesses that serve or sell alcohol and other key locations; stickers or messages on cans, bottles, and paper bags; a mass mail out informing the public of the new limit and what the change means; or perhaps an insert in any government mailing. Public service announcements targeting youth and a notice of the lower blood alcohol limit could be provided at the same time as driver licenses or vehicles are registered.

There are a great number of things that can be done to inform the public of the new limit and to make the public aware of how the new tolerance will decrease the amount of alcohol that can be legally consumed before getting behind the wheel. This government must do all that it can to get the word out and I hope they will consider these suggestions. Mr. Speaker, laws that are not understood are unlikely to be effective and there can hardly be a more important law than one that helps prevent another death from drunk driving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Member's Statement On High Cost Of Rent And Cost Of Living In Yellowknife

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already expressed concern about the desperate housing and cost of living situation faced by low and middle income families many times in this Assembly. I believe it is shown by the almost 500 signatures on the affordable rental housing petition that we do need a better way of looking at the skyrocketing cost of rent and the cost of living. In these replies to the petitions that I've tabled, I'm looking forward to the Minister's positive and hopefully innovative approaches to dealing with the crisis, not only here in Yellowknife but in other NWT communities.

Mr. Speaker, in this Assembly in the last few days, we've been grappling with other aspects of housing, namely the harmonization proposal. The redistribution of wealth is an important part of government's job and is very much at the core of this initiative. It is clear that subsidies and supports such as income support and housing are an essential part of our work and these are principles that I won't abandon. This government clearly needs to look at how we support those citizens with the greatest need and balance that with those who can pay accordingly, so that we won't break the bank.

Speaking of banks, Mr. Speaker, housing isn't the only signal of the sustained and increased economic pressure on low and middle income families. Here in Yellowknife this is evidenced by the growing lines at our food bank. Where there used to be about 60 families coming in every two weeks, there are now over 100. Mr. Speaker, this is more people than the population of a number of our smaller communities. Where the food bank spent about \$3,500 a month, it is now spending about \$4,500. The volunteer board says that at this rate they will run out of funds by June. Is the government's social safety net meeting the needs as it should? What's happened to the increases for the food allowances that we worked so hard to establish?

Mr. Speaker, work goes on to try to address these issues. In fact, in Yellowknife there is a seminar that is put together by Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation which is going to look at the current and future situation of housing in Yellowknife. I'm going to be going there, and perhaps tomorrow I will have some more things to say about this dramatic need here in the territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement On Recruitment And Retention Of Health Professionals At Stanton Territorial Hospital

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the continuing challenges facing the recruitment and retention of the health care professionals in the North and in particular, the nursing staff at the Stanton Territorial Hospital. During this budget session, Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has already approved an additional \$8.3 million and we will be asked to approve more money under the supplementary appropriations bill later on today. What concerns me is that all of this additional money may not translate into an increased number of positions at the hospital. I must say, Mr. Speaker, it is highly frustrating when, as an MLA, you push hard to get more money to a certain program area and see no visible benefits.

Mr. Speaker, the information I have is that there continues to be a real deficiency in the retention area of the government's recruitment and retention strategy. In fact, the health care professionals have dubbed the latest strategy from the government as the "recruitment" strategy because it lacks the element of retention. Mr. Speaker, we should feel alarmed about this because logic would dictate that, without a meaningful retention effort, any recruitment effort will be fruitless. This is affecting all areas of staffing at Stanton, whether they be doctors, nurses, physio and occupational

therapists, X-ray and other imaging technicians or lab technicians.

Mr. Speaker, in the case of the nursing staff, the government's guarantee of jobs for new nursing grads coming out of the school have been a mixed blessing in practice. No one can argue that this is a good thing for those new grads and I appreciate that we will benefit as a society from having northern nurses in our midst. What the government has failed to do thus far is to recognize fully and compensate appropriately the experienced nurses who are already there. Unless the government takes care of retaining the experienced nurses with proper compensation and benefits, we will not be able to rely on them to train and mentor the new grads.

I don't believe, Mr. Speaker, that it is fair and it is not right for the government to expect the experienced nurses to continue to fill overtime shifts and mentor and train the new grads without being properly compensated and recognized for that extra work. Their compensation, as it is, is not competitive in comparison to their counterparts in other jurisdictions. Mr. Speaker, I acknowledge that the government's objective of guaranteeing all nursing grads placement is laudable in theory, but it must come with the government's commitment to recognize the extra burden it is asking the experienced nurses to take on. Mr. Speaker, I would like unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may continue, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I conclude by saying, the government's objective of guaranteeing all new nursing grad placements is laudable in theory, but it must come with government's commitment to recognize the extra burden it is asking the experienced nurses to take on. Reclassification of current positions is one thing, Mr. Speaker, but this is taking way too long and this will not move far enough to get the nurses to be competitive when it comes to retaining the experienced nurses we have. I know the government is aware of this problem, Mr. Speaker, and I want to put the government on notice that I will be paying very close attention to this area in the coming weeks and months. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Fiscal Legacy Of The 14th Legislative Assembly

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, an old saying "red sky at night, sailor's delight; red sky in the morning, sailors take warning." Mr. Speaker, the Good Ship NWT had better look towards the horizon to see if it's a red sky in the morning. Mr. Speaker, I say that because in the budget we've been dealing with, we are just over \$2 million from cresting \$1 billion in expenditures throughout the NWT. One billion to 43,000 people in the NWT.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, we heard of concerns that health care issues aren't being dealt with, that education issues aren't being dealt with, that economic activities and demands are placing greater demands on our transportation infrastructure and so on. We

are having difficulty meeting those needs. Mr. Speaker, as we've gone through this term as the 14th Assembly, we have indeed set high expectations and the residents of the NWT will now look to see if the government can continue to spend as it has spent in the 14th Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, in the Finance Minister's Budget Address, he spoke of initiatives we are doing and potentials we had of our deficit situation. In his Budget Address, Mr. Speaker, in appendix B5, it shows a fiscal framework operation summary. Mr. Speaker, it shows that by the end of the fiscal year 2003-04, total debt will hit \$214 million. The 15th Assembly will be looking potentially at a \$370 million debt by the first year they are in the government. Mr. Speaker, is this what we have been planning for? We've taken from where we are, we are saying we are leaving the next government better off than the way we found it. Well, we are still close to the debt wall, but the demands out there are going to be higher than ever.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that we have looked to the horizon and said that it looks good, but from where I am standing, I see this picture, although they put a rosy lens on at the start of the 14th Assembly, I think we should have been looking to see that "red sky in the morning, sailor take warning." So watch out, Good Ship NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Visit To K'alemi Dene School In Ndilo

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So often in this House, we look at things so pessimistically and at problems and so on. I want to follow Mr. Nitah's example and talk about a real success story. There are a lot of good things happening out there.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I had the opportunity, along with other MLAs in Yellowknife, to visit K'alemi School in Ndilo. That is one successful school. In fact, I would venture to say the best school in the Northwest Territories. It opened in 1998 with 14 kindergarten to Grade 3 students. Today there are 68 students in kindergarten to Grade 7 and they will be adding Grade 8 next year, up to 80 students. These are all Ndilo children who have chosen to go to that very exciting school. They also have the Aboriginal Head Start Program, which opens a full Dene kindergarten for 10 students in that community.

Mr. Speaker, the children attending the school know that it's their school, they believe it's their school and they identify it as their school. I want to say the teachers do an excellent job, a super job. The principal, Angela James, and her staff are some of the best educators. They are voluntarily at school at 8:00 in the morning, allowing children to come in if they wish and spend time in school before the school day opens. They stay there voluntarily until 5:00 in the evening, all of them, in order to have an atmosphere for the students.

The program in the school is exciting. It's based around Dene language and culture, academics and technology, virtual education, physical and active living. They are very successful with their culture-based and on-the-land program. The atmosphere in the school is warm; it's welcoming and is full of

love and a perfect place where children want to spend the day. The teachers are a committed, caring group of professionals that exceed any expectations that we may have generally.

The community of Ndilo is a small community, but it's a community that has long believed in having the school next door, the school across the street, and they have shown a lot of success. I think we have to say congratulations to the Ndilo parents, the students and the staff who have worked hard to have the best school in Canada. Good government should reward success. This school, the way it is going, Mr. Speaker, is going to be bursting at the seams within two years and I think that as a government, we have to use this as an example for all our educators and provide them with the resources, the space and so on that they need.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Handley, your time for Member's statement is over. Mr. Handley. Okay, the honourable Member has concluded his statement. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 160-14(6): The Need For Changes To The Residential Tenancies Act

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Braden on March 5, 2003 regarding annual reports of the rental officer and the status of the government as a landlord under the Residential Tenancies Act.

There is no statutory requirement for the rental officer to file annual reports. The rental officer's contract requires him to make annual reports to the Department of Justice. The reports include information on statistics, trends, issues, recommendations and the activities of the rental officer I would be pleased to make copies of the reports available to the Member if he wishes to see them.

Mr. Speaker, the GNWT and its agents, the NWT Housing Corporation and local housing organizations, are subject to Residential Tenancies Act.

In the NWT, subsidized public housing is the responsibility of the Housing Corporation and either it or an LHO is the landlord.

Mr. Speaker, the Member is correct that there are some provisions of the act which do not apply in the case of subsidized public housing, the main one being the requirement to give a three-month notice of increasing rent. In essence, if an individual qualifies for subsidized public housing, the guidelines of that program apply. The rent paid is based on income, and when that income increases or decreases, the subsidy is adjusted immediately, not three months later. In such circumstances, the giving of three months notice would make no sense.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, the act provides that a landlord can increase rent only once a year. This does not apply to subsidized public housing. If it did, it would obviously be impossible to adjust the subsidy and, in effect, the rent, on an ongoing basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize five very important people in the gallery today. First of all, Bob Haywood with the Federation of Labour; Steve Petersen and Dan Halldorson, who are on the Act Now panel; Andy Wong, the chairperson of the Workers' Compensation Board; and John Huffman, an injured worker who has provided me a lot of good advice over the last few years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

MR. DENT: (English not provided)

---Applause

Mr. Speaker, today I would like to welcome from Ecole Allain St-Cyr the 6th and 7th grade with their teacher Mr. Pierre Ouellette.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to the Legislative Assembly and enjoy your visit. I would also like to take this opportunity to wish my youngest son, Ian, happy birthday today. It's his 32nd birthday.

---Applause

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

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 218-14(6): Repairs Required To The Aklavik Recreation Complex

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question concerns my Member's statement and is directed to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to follow up on a letter I wrote to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to urgently request repairs to the Sittichini Recreational Complex in Aklavik. Mr. Speaker, the technical assessment commissioned by his department states the water damage to the recreation complex brings the facility into violation under the fire marshal's code. The community has also expressed concerns about the safety of this facility and the implication to the residents. The community wants to ensure that it is up to certain standards and there is not a potential danger of the ceiling falling in and hurting residents.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of MACA to please confirm that the protection of people and the protection of assets are high priorities of this government, especially the corporate capital planning process. How does a community like Aklavik meet this criteria and see something done when it comes to their recreation facility?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Return To Question 218-14(6): Repairs Required To The Aklavik Recreation Complex

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a request to MACA, Public Works did an assessment in February 2002. The recommendations from the report for Public Works recommended that an inspection on the roof be done by a qualified engineering firm and that the department get an assessment of the amount of damage to the roof. MACA, as a result of that report, notified the hamlet that if the cost to repair the building was under \$100,000, the community would have to bear the cost themselves. They were funded for that type of project. If it was over \$100,000, then MACA would put it into the capital planning process. The community informed MACA that they would be using the Housing Corporation in October to do an assessment of the roof. However, to date we have nothing back from the community or been advised that the Housing Corporation was involved at all in the inspection because they said it couldn't really be done until May. So MACA is waiting for a report back from the community.

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

Supplementary To Question 218-14(6): Repairs Required To The Aklavik Recreation Complex

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the recreation facility in Aklavik represents a central infrastructure for the community and it's very important that the community have access to this and they don't want to see it shut down. So I would like to ask the Minister, knowing there is potential danger and a hazard to its users, the residents of Aklavik, the community and myself would like to know, will the community receive the necessary funds and resources to repair the complex so that no one is hurt by the roof caving in?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 218-14(6): Repairs Required To The Aklavik Recreation Complex

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I could commit to any kind of expenditures, I would have to have a report from Public Works or the community on what the actual cost of repairs is. Like I said, MACA informed the community if it's less than \$100,000, they will have to do it themselves. If it's over \$100,000, then we will consider putting it into our capital plan.

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

Supplementary To Question 218-14(6): Repairs Required To The Aklavik Recreation Complex

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am in a haze with the Minister's comment. If something is over \$100,000, his department will look at it. He is also the Minister of MACA. This is an infrastructure that is owned by the government and the people of the NWT. What has to happen here? Does the roof have to cave in? Somebody has to get hit in the head before this government does anything?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 218-14(6): Repairs Required To The Aklavik Recreation Complex

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. MACA has already advised the community that there is nothing that Public Works can do until May. Up to now, the community had given the impression to MACA that they were going to be doing an assessment on the roof themselves using the Housing Corporation. That was in October, so we didn't do anything. MACA didn't request any more from Public Works because Public Works recommended that the assessment of the roof damage be done by qualified engineers. Without the funding to do it, Public Works could not do the assessment. So MACA has to have an agreement with the community that either the community is going to do the assessment or we are going to have to go back and ask Public Works to do it again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 218-14(6): Repairs Required To The Aklavik Recreation Complex

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been continued repairs and replacement of community facilities in the NWT. We hear from the Minister's riding, all of a sudden, bang, a project pops up because of fire code violations. This is a fire code violation. Mr. Speaker, we have an obligation to ensure public safety in government facilities. This is a government facility. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister explain in this House what efforts are being made to implement the plan of this government to ensure that we protect the life of the residents of our community, protect the public and protect the assets? This is the criteria we hear from this side of the House day in and day out. So why is it in the community of Aklavik they don't meet that criteria when it comes to their recreation facility?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 218-14(6): Repairs Required To The Aklavik Recreation Complex

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to give the Member assurance, Mr. Speaker, that after May, MACA will have an indication of whether or not we will put the project into the budget. We can't do anything until we get the report back from Public Works or the community agrees that Public Works will do it rather than them. The last indication from the community was they would do it. That's what I am waiting for.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Colleagues, before we proceed to the next question, I would like to direct your attention to the presence in the Speaker's gallery of Mr. Robert Vandersanden, of Hewitt Associates of Calgary and Sean Macaulay of James P. Marshall, a Hewitt Company from Vancouver here to assist Board of Management with some of their work. Welcome.

---Applause

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

Question 219-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, the progress report that the Minister has issued recently notes that the current Wildlife Act is 20 years old and outdated. It doesn't report that consultation has now gone for more than 10 years on a new act. During the 14th Assembly, we continually heard from Ministers that new legislation would come forward and now we are hearing that it won't. Mr. Speaker, my question is, what happened? How did this get thrown off the rails and why is it that legislation is now only going to be tabled instead of being introduced?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 219-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess the simple answer to that question is we worked with the aboriginal governments, the Inuvialuit, the Gwich'in and the Sahtu Dene-Metis. They have land claims and in one particular case, we have been working with the Inuvialuit Game Council. There was a difference of approach and it subsequently slowed down our process. As I indicated earlier in this House, we have come to an agreement and things are moving along fairly quickly. Unfortunately, there won't be enough work done to have legislation in place by June. We intend to have a tabled document and the intention is that the tabled legislation would be a draft that would include all the different components of legislation and the intention is to table it so it's public and everybody in the North will see it. We want to do it right and that's the process we have identified and it looks like with all our working partners, the aboriginal governments, this seems to be acceptable. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 219-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the last time the act was amended was done to reflect the Inuvialuit claim. It took several years for that to come forward. It's been more than 10 years since the Gwich'in claim and almost 10 years for the Sahtu Dene-Metis claim. Why has nothing been done to accommodate those two claims?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 219-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are doing the work right now, but the question is to go back to an era before becoming familiar with this file. However, my understanding is that the work seriously started in the life of this government. Prior to that, there was no real political will. There were lots of disagreements out there with the aboriginal

governments and those who haven't settled their claims have to be considered as well. In the life of this government, we seriously undertook to try to have legislation passed in the life of this government. My recollection of my involvement has been that. Roughly, the Gwich'in agreement came into place in 1992 and the Sahtu was in 1994. So we are a little bit behind schedule, but it's legislation that needs to be done right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 219-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as things have progressed, it's taken this long to look at dealing with settled land claims. Does the Minister believe the legislation that's tabled will be able to be passed by the next government if we haven't seen settled land claims in all regions? Can this legislation go forward before all land claims are settled in the Territories?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 219-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that the amount of consultation that we have undertaken in this process to date -- we've had three rounds of consultation and we are currently engaged with the Inuvialuit, Sahtu and the Gwich'in with legal counsel giving direction and drafting the legislation. That's how involved we are at this table. Usually with other legislation, we do it ourselves. However, with this one, the aboriginal governments want to be more involved, so that is part of the reason for the slow process. With the amount of consultation we have done to date with the Aboriginal Working Group that we set up, they covered all the regions and went to all the communities. I would like to say we've done a thorough consultation on all the areas in all the communities including areas that aren't settled. Having said that, I think we have done as much consultation as we could. We are hoping this will be enough so that once we table this draft legislation towards the end of the life of this government, that in the new government all the work will be there. It's a matter of consultation and approval. Hopefully, it will be enough to satisfy the areas that have settled land claims. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 219-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we've spent a lot of time and effort on consultation on this. I think one of the problems is clearly that some areas haven't settled their claims. Why will the Minister not consider bringing forward legislation that deals with those areas of settled claims only and look at subsequent legislation as claims are settled throughout the NWT? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 219-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: We looked at the legislative proposal that we put in earlier on to initiate this process. However, we thought that it would be better to keep the legislation whole, together, and we've been moving in that direction. I think there was a discussion of that nature earlier on and it was decided not to go that route but to have it all comprehensive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Colleagues, with your concurrence, I would like to direct your attention to the presence in the Visitors' Gallery of Ms. Penny Ballantyne, president of the Workers' Compensation Board of the Northwest Territories.

---Applause

As well, colleagues, we have Mr. Dave Grundy, the senior policy advisor for WCB; and, Michael Triggs, legal counsel for WCB.

---Applause

I hope they are here as visitors and not expecting any accidents here. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 220-14(6): Environmental Review Of Bathurst Road And Port

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, the Honourable Jim Antoine. In my Member's statement yesterday, I mentioned that within the next month, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs will make a decision as to what type of environmental review, either a part 5 or part 6, the Bathurst road and port will undergo. What has the Minister and his department done in reaction to this study that is happening? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 220-14(6): Environmental Review Of Bathurst Road And Port

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, earlier on when this issue came up, I wrote a letter to Minister Nault indicating that the nature of the proposal is going to have an effect on us here in the NWT. It's going to have an impact, therefore, we took the position of going after a section 6, which is a comprehensive environmental assessment looking at the socio-economic impacts that the project is going to have. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 220-14(6): Environmental Review Of Bathurst Road And Port

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if the government is committed to doing an economic analysis of this project because it has such a great implication on the whole region of the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 220-14(6): Environmental Review Of Bathurst Road And Port

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, our department has been looking at the implications of such a proposal from the very first time it was announced that this initiative was being pursued. Of course, it's going to have an impact on us in a lot of different ways. In fact, we also, in the NWT, have been talking for a number of years about a transportation corridor into that part of the country. That's been a scenario that's been around. Surely this type of initiative would have an impact. So, yes, we are looking at this proposal to try to look at the economic impact it's going to have on us.

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

Supplementary To Question 220-14(6): Environmental Review Of Bathurst Road And Port

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask the Minister if he or his department have consulted with any of the aboriginal governments or the city of Yellowknife or Lutselk'e, all these people who are going to be affected. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 220-14(6): Environmental Review Of Bathurst Road And Port

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we haven't formally initiated a new consultation with regard to this project to all the different local governments, all the different organizations that might be impacted. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Your final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

Supplementary To Question 220-14(6): Environmental Review Of Bathurst Road And Port

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he can make a commitment to do consultations with everyone that will be affected in the Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 220-14(6): Environmental Review Of Bathurst Road And Port

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the initiative is on the drawing boards. They are going through their own process of going to the Minister responsible, the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs, Minister Nault. He has the authority to make the decision on what type of review is going to take place. Once that becomes formal, of course we will be engaged to do that. At this point in time, I would ask for some direction from my technical staff to see where this process is and at what stage we start consulting. At some point in time, we will do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 221-14(6): Update On Federal Health Funding

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier and it's with regard to the extra dollars that we were able to receive from the federal government. Mr. Speaker, there were discussions and questions on this area earlier in the session, but at the time details had not yet been worked out. I am beginning to get suggestions and advice from health care professionals in my riding as to where best this money should go. So I would like to ask the Premier where the government is in terms of what it's planning to do with the money. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 221-14(6): Update On Federal Health Funding

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister of Health would be in a better position to answer that. As I understand it, it is work that is ongoing with the federal government. We have set up some process and assigned some officials to work with the federal officials over the next few weeks and months. The secretary to Cabinet has just returned from Ottawa and reached agreement on how we would like to proceed. I will be writing a letter, an information item, to Members in the next day or so to outline those, to keep Members informed. As well, Cabinet will be developing an overall strategy on how to advance these issues and other issues regarding funding programs of the federal government that will become available over the next few months. So Cabinet will be developing a strategy on that as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 221-14(6): Update On Federal Health Funding

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am a little puzzled. There is a lot of information there that the Premier has given. I pursued questions in this area and I was told the details were still being worked out and that we would be advised in due course. I wasn't aware that the Minister was travelling to talk about this. I would have thought we would have had more advice. Mr. Speaker, could the Premier confirm whether or not the Minister of Health is travelling right now to work out the details of this agreement? Is that what he's travelling for? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 221-14(6): Update On Federal Health Funding

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Minister Miltenberger is chairing the meeting of the Ministers responsible for social services in Toronto. They are dealing with some of the programs that were announced in the recent budget such as early childhood development and it is not to do with health dollars specifically. If the Member will recall, earlier in this fiscal year, we gave a supplementary amount to the Department of Health of \$8.6 million to deal with additional

costs that were not budgeted for at the beginning of the fiscal year. Some of the money that we are receiving from the federal government is, in fact, probably already spent. It's the Minister of Health that can better articulate how that money will be used and received. So we will just wait for him to give that answer to the Member. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 221-14(6): Update On Federal Health Funding

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was thinking that we were putting in \$8.6 million extra into the fund, plus we would get some money from the federal government. But it seems the money has already been spent and we really have nothing to be excited about in terms of new dollars for health care. I guess I will have to ask the Premier, do we have any reason to think that there is going to be any new money going into our health care system within the next little while other than that \$8.3 million?

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

Further Return To Question 221-14(6): Update On Federal Health Funding

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the money that we were allocated from the recent First Ministers' meeting is what was allocated on a per capita basis. As Members recall, as a Premier, along with the premiers of Nunavut and Yukon, we rejected the notion that we should receive funding only on a per capita basis. The Prime Minister agreed that per capita does not work. We agreed that we need more than what was allocated to us on a per capita basis. The Prime Minister and his staff indicated that they are prepared to allocate an additional \$60 million over three or five years for the three territories. This amount will become available in the new fiscal year and it is to be seen as a floor that raises the prospects for us, and those additional dollars will be available in the new year. We have had some meetings involving all officials and the federal officials to assign a process and assign some people to begin that discussion. As I said earlier, the secretary to Cabinet just returned from Ottawa a day ago. So we will be drafting a letter to inform Members exactly where we are in that process. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Final supplementary, Ms. Lee.

Supplementary To Question 221-14(6): Update On Federal Health Funding

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess my point is that I, along with many Members in this Assembly, have brought up a lot of issues about health care, issues concerning health care delivery and the health care system, and I am fully expecting that I will be involved in that process of deciding what to do with that money. I realize there are other policies that the government and the Premier have to work out with other governments but could I get a commitment from the Premier that, even though we will be out of session and going in all different directions, that we as Members and the other stakeholders in the medical professions and everywhere else

will be full participants in deciding where this extra money will go? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 221-14(6): Update On Federal Health Funding

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, it is the Cabinet and the Minister that have primary responsibility for proposing how dollars and resources are best used for health. At the same time, it is true that the Members are involved. The recent \$8.6 million supplementary allocation late in the previous year was, I think, attributed in part to lobbying and the concerns shown by Members as well as the public, and we responded to that. We are committed to working on a cooperative approach with Members of the Legislature and always being accountable and for taking advice on how best to use our limited resources. So I have no difficulty... in fact, we are very interested in working with Members to ensure that the public and Members of this House are comfortable with the way we make use of the existing annual resources for health. Thank you.

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

Question 222-14(6): Benefits Generated From Government Activity

MR. NITAH: Mahsi Cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister responsible for the public service in his role as chairman of the Financial Management Board, Mr. Handley. Mr. Speaker, we recognize there are a lot of problems in the Northwest Territories. We have a social agenda for that. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, how we handle those dollars is, we give it to NGOs and for my buck there is not enough bang in our communities.

I'd like to ask the Minister, we know there are no fewer than 15 public institutions, territorial institutions, in the capital and the regional centers. I'd like to ask the Minister; what are we talking about in terms of numbers of employees and the staff benefits to our jobs and businesses that supply these institutions such as the hospitals and correctional centres. There are spin offs and opportunities for businesses in those communities so, if the Minister could give us an idea of how many people work in these institutions and the spin off benefits? I don't want an exact number, just a general number. Thank you Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of FMB. It sounds like a very complicated question that would probably be better as a written question but I will allow the Minister to respond to it if he wishes. Mr. Handley.

Return To Question 222-14(6): Benefits Generated From Government Activity

HON. JOE HANDLEY: No, Mr. Speaker, I don't have numbers, I don't even have a really good estimate of how many people work in the various institutions we have around the Northwest Territories. I told the Member that I would try to get the information for him; I know my people are working on it and we'll get it but, now that he's asked for it by institution, I'll add that to the mix as well. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 222-14(6): Benefits Generated From Government Activity

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these territorial institutions that provide services to everybody in the Northwest Territories do benefit the people of the Northwest Territories. They provide valuable services. Mr. Speaker, too often we stand up here in the House saying that we don't have enough in our communities and that we regionalize it. I'd like to ask the Minister if the government has ever considered the example of the mining companies, using the people of the communities to be employed in these regional or territorial institutions that provide services to all members of our population. Similar to what the mines do, these institutions work on rotation. Has the Minister ever considered hiring people from those communities so that we could spread the wealth around? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of FMB, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 222-14(6): Benefits Generated From Government Activity

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, definitely there is a lot of benefit to the communities each time we have another person who has a job in that community, both directly and indirectly in terms of the spending that person is able to do from the wages that they earn. Whenever possible, Mr. Speaker, we try to hire people locally, if we can. If there are people with the qualifications or even people who will take the training, then we try to fit that together so we do hire as many local people as possible in order to maximize the benefit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 222-14(6): Benefits Generated From Government Activity

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as a representative of a small community that doesn't see these territorial institutions being put in their communities, these benefits don't accrue to them. Only if you are sick are you sent to the hospital. Only if you get into legal trouble are you sent to institutions that will house you for awhile. So, I don't agree with that philosophy. I think that the Minister should try to break up some of these positions, farming them out to the communities so that everybody could benefit from it. Maybe service providers and product providers could be farmed out to the communities. Would the Minister consider breaking down the contracts so that small communities and small businesses could provide those services or products? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of FMB, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 222-14(6): Benefits Generated From Government Activity

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I think the suggestion is a good one. Wherever we can break down a contract and offer it

in the community, then we want to do that. We do have a lot of sole-source contracts that we do through negotiations with community organizations in order to give them the benefits. As a government, we have to keep our eye on the bottom line but, at the same time, we want to maximize the benefits to the community. If I take some communities, Yellowknife for example, Mr. Speaker, of all the government spending in Yellowknife, it works out to about \$6,000 per capita in Yellowknife. If I take another community, for example Fort Liard, it works out to be \$12,000 per capita that we spend. In Lutselk'e we are spending \$17,500 per capita. So there is a lot of benefit going into each of the communities from the system, and we are making our best effort to break it down so that maximum benefits stay in those communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 222-14(6): Benefits Generated From Government Activity

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the 3,500 or so employees in Yellowknife at \$6,000 per capita doesn't compare to one employee at \$17,000 per capita in Lutselk'e. That is not what I'm talking about. I'm talking about taking government positions and moving them to the communities so people in those communities don't have to live in a welfare state managed by regional centres or the capital of the Northwest Territories. If we expect the mines, force the mines to break up their contract and hire people from different communities, I expect the government should be able follow suit and follow their own example by breaking up the contracts for regional institutions or territorial institutions so that people in the communities can benefit. That is what I'm talking about, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he is not going to bring people in from those communities, would he consider putting these territorial institutions in the different communities so that those communities could benefit from our needs as well? Thank you. Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of FMB, Mr. Handley.

Further Return To Question 222-14(6): Benefits Generated From Government Activity

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as much as possible, we do try to break down contracts so that local companies and individuals can benefit. Second, we are always open, Mr. Speaker, to decentralizing or dispersing our services out to all communities, not just to Yellowknife and the regional centers, but all communities. Mr. Speaker, we're just in the process, as part of the transition document, of doing a review of the structure and organization of government. I look forward to the recommendations in that report to see what more we could be doing to help the small communities. That's very much on the agenda. I take very seriously the recommendations that the special committee on small communities makes but we are working on that Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Oral questions. The honourable member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 223-14(6): Improving Collection Of Mortgage Payments

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions this afternoon are for the honourable Roger Allen, Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation. It's about the corporation's work in mortgage collections and arrears procedures. In the course of the business plan and the budget we just went over, Mr. Speaker, the Minister was very forthcoming in allowing that the corporation needs to do a better job. Without going into detail, the budget for the corporation for this coming year is going to be about \$100 million, Mr. Speaker, but \$52 million of that is a contribution from the government. So can't we be doing a better job, at least in the area of collecting mortgage payments from clients? I wanted to ask the Minister what steps he is taking to improve the corporation's record in the area of payment and collection? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Return To Question 223-14(6): Improving Collection Of Mortgage Payments

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We currently are implementing some new procedures to address the issue of mortgage collections. There has been some emphasis by NWT Housing Corporation officials on how best to proceed. We recognize there are some political implications, as well as administrative implications and we wanted to make sure we were within the context of the auditor general's report at this point. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 223-14(6): Improving Collection Of Mortgage Payments

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, indeed, as we have just witnessed there are political considerations when it comes to housing, but these are also business arrangements. The corporation is a corporation and we have revenues that need to be collected against our expenditures. Can the Minister advise what kind of regular business arrangements are in place today that the corporation uses to govern its collections system? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 223-14(6): Improving Collection Of Mortgage Payments

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we currently are contemplating some new procedures. If I may make reference to some of them: ... (inaudible) ... mortgage clients will need to undergo a detailed credit assessment to determine if they are capable of meeting ongoing financial obligations. There are a number of others that we want to incorporate in the process. So, Mr. Speaker, we are undertaking a number of steps to eradicate some of the previous problems we had. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 223-14(6): Improving Collection Of Mortgage Payments

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing these implemented. Some of them, for some clients, and in some areas may be fairly onerous, Mr. Speaker. I wonder what steps the corporation is taking to help clients understand how to comply with these new and, what may be for some, harsher conditions of compliance.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 223-14(6): Improving Collection Of Mortgage Payments

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We are taking a proactive approach, Mr. Speaker, trying to provide financial counselling to clients who are in arrears on their mortgages. We certainly sympathize with some of the hardships that some clients may be encountering. Again, we deal also in the context of homelessness and the potential these impacts may have on individual families where they may be having some financial difficulty meeting their mortgage payments. In respect to that, we want to provide financial counselling to those who are encountering those difficult problems. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Braden.

Supplementary To Question 223-14(6): Improving Collection Of Mortgage Payments

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, could the Minister advise the Assembly when he anticipates that these new measures will be fully implemented, and are there any targets or goals that they want to set in terms of improving their collection record? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation, Mr. Allen.

Further Return To Question 223-14(6): Improving Collection Of Mortgage Payments

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, this work has been progressing for the past several months and hopefully we will be able to work through it. It's done on an individual basis, so hopefully we will be able to work through some of the numbers here fairly quickly.

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

Question 224-14(6): Seniors' Home Heating Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Education. It's with regard to something I raised in the House. I have written letters about the seniors' home heating subsidy program. Mr. Speaker, I made some recommendations to the Minister about the way the system works out now, based on calculations from last year's tax returns or tax assessments. Is there a possibility of changing the program so it would permit a seniors' income to be calculated in the year they are applying for the program? I

haven't heard anything from the Minister. I wrote him back in January. I have raised this question in the House. What has the department done to look at adjusting this program to make it more fair for our seniors?

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

Return To Question 224-14(6): Seniors' Home Heating Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am very glad the Member raised this question. I did indicate to him at the beginning of the session, that we would report back to him fairly shortly and hopefully during this session. I can report today, Mr. Speaker, that we will be offering an alternative to the present system of taking last year's income tax returns. We will be having a dual possibility, one of using last year's income tax or the previous month's earnings. That choice will be left to the individual to choose, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 224-14(6): Seniors' Home Heating Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to know from the Minister, how soon is this information going to be processed, so that the seniors in our communities will realize there has been a change, so that they will have the opportunity to maybe reapply or say under the new criteria, I am not eligible for the program. Right now, they may have been rejected because of last year's information. How soon can this information be available to our seniors?

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

Further Return To Question 224-14(6): Seniors' Home Heating Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have already told my senior officials in the department that I want this addressed quickly. I expect that within weeks, they will be contacting individuals who might be affected by this.

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

Supplementary To Question 224-14(6): Seniors' Home Heating Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a letter I got from the Minister, one of the questions I asked is will this program be retroactive from September 1, 2002 and he said it will be. Is that still the case? Will this program be retroactive to September 1, 2002?

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

Further Return To Question 224-14(6): Seniors' Home Heating Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we indicated that we would do that, Mr. Speaker. Unfortunately, it did take a bit of time to work out the kinks in

offering the program on a dual basis of choice. So we will be doing that.

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

Supplementary To Question 224-14(6): Seniors' Home Heating Subsidy Program

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the winter is almost over, but I know for a fact a lot of seniors have been hurt by the program the way it was previously worded. For those seniors who feel they have been vindicated, is there any possibility of an appeals process so that, under the changes to this program, they can appeal their case and now qualify?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes.

Further Return To Question 224-14(6): Seniors' Home Heating Subsidy Program

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We do have an appeal process at all times for those individuals out there who may feel that they wish to have this reassessed. Mr. Speaker, it's part of the social assistance appeal board. For the seniors' fuel subsidy, that particular appeal process is in place as well, so individuals can apply to the income support officers or local officials.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

Question 225-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are again for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Clearly, Mr. Speaker, there is a risk leaving the new Wildlife Act to the next Assembly. We never know how many of us are going to get re-elected this fall and maybe priorities will change in the 15th Assembly. This act or a new act has been on the table for so long, I worry it may get lost in transition to the 15th Assembly. I am wondering if the Minister could advise... the draft legislation isn't going to be tabled until June. Are there still major areas under discussion or negotiation or is it just a case of the drafting not being done? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Return To Question 225-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There is some consultation ongoing that hasn't been concluded. As well, there is a tremendous amount of drafting being done by people in legislation. So it is, as the Member is aware, a major piece of work and it does require some consultation before we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 225-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, given the concern I think Members will have about the transition of the 15th Assembly and whether or not the will will still be there to go forward with this, why, in this case, does the government not consider piecemealing it? Why not bring forward pieces of legislation that are acceptable and have been done and let's get that done and leave the balance for the 15th Assembly? Why does the government not take that approach in June?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 225-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I believe that the political direction from previous Assemblies as well as this Assembly was such that we cannot take a piecemeal approach to the Wildlife Act. We could not advance certain sections without giving comfort to all stakeholders, interest groups as well as the aboriginal governments, what the entire proposed legislation would look like. So we had some years ago discarded that particular consideration. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 225-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister provide to this House some indication in Hansard where the Assembly said this should not be approached on a piecemeal basis, in this Assembly?

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 225-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the suggestion was to proceed only when the agreement was with the Inuvialuit, as well as with the Gwich'in and Sahtu. Those claims have been settled. As to how they wanted the legislation to reflect the agreements that they have, specifically, Mr. Speaker, there was the suggestion some time ago that we look at proceeding with amendments to the Wildlife Act to address demands by some of our residents, particularly the armed forces, to reflect their desire to have the right to hunt in the NWT. I think politically that was a specific issue that addressed one segment without waiting for the entire legislation to be considered. As I recall, it was rejected by Members in this Legislature.

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

Supplementary To Question 225-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Premier's recollection and mine are somewhat different. I await him tabling that information.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Minister could advise us how much has been spent in the 14th Assembly on consultation so far on a new Wildlife Act, just in this Assembly?

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

Further Return To Question 225-14(6): Delay In Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, the Minister will consider that and, if it does not entail a significant amount of work, we would be prepared to provide that and table it in the House.

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

Question 226-14(6): Recognition Of Ndilo As A Separate Community

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of MACA. Mr. Speaker, the chief and council and people of the community of Ndilo have approached me on more than one occasion to ask me to ask some questions in the House concerning the community. Mr. Speaker, they do have their own leadership, an elected body, chief and council, but, Mr. Speaker, they are not recognized as a community by this government. I would like to ask the Minister why isn't the community of Ndilo recognized as a community where they get funding from this government as any other community would?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of MACA, Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will take that question as notice.

MR. SPEAKER: The question has been taken as notice. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Question 227-14(6): Gwich'in Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker I, too, have concerns similar to my colleague, Mr. Dent, about the Wildlife Act amendments. I find it ironic sitting here how time moves, but doesn't seem to change. Mr. Speaker, in 1994, when the Wildlife Act was amended to allow for the Inuvialuit final agreement to be enacted, at that time there was a question made by the committee that oversaw the amendment to the Wildlife Act. Why is it that the Gwich'in claim, that was settled in 1992 and the Sahtu claim, which was settled in 1994, was not considered in this review? Mr. Speaker, at the time the comment was, because they were going to do them in the previous years, not do them collectively, altogether at one time. Based on the comments from the Premier I'd like to ask, is that opportunity still available to the Gwich'in or Sahtu groups who have land claims obligations to enact their wildlife provisions to bring them into law?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 227-14(6): Gwich'in Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have been working with the Gwich'in and Sahtu Dene-Metis, people who are responsible for their wildlife

management regimes. They are fully engaged, along with the Inuvialuit, in the development of a new Wildlife Act. During our discussions, the way I am reading it now is that they are quite satisfied with the way they have been engaged. They haven't said anything about breaking off and doing something on their own. I have checked with my staff and we are looking to see if anything has come forward in that regard. At the present time, we are currently engaged and working together very well. They have legal counsel, which we have funded, who are engaged in the development of this legislation. I think they are quite satisfied with that to date. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

Supplementary To Question 227-14(6): Gwich'in Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, more than ever, this legislation is probably more crucial at this time period in the development of the NWT. We are talking about diamond potential in the Mackenzie Valley. We are talking about a pipeline development down the Mackenzie Valley. The animals and the wildlife species in the NWT threatened by the impacts of major developments. That's why it's crucial we have this type of legislation. I have heard from my constituency that harvesters are being impacted by development already. There is nothing in place for the wildlife boards to protect the harvesters. What is this government doing to ensure that our harvesters are protected from the development that's taking place knowing there is no legislation there to protect them?

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 227-14(6): Gwich'in Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we work very closely with the Gwich'in and Sahtu Dene-Metis people who are engaged in trying to implement and work with the different components in their claim regarding the existing Wildlife Act and we, in the Government of the Northwest Territories, are very concerned about that, as well. We will use the existing legislation along with the requirements in the claims to try to mitigate any kind of problems that may arise from these resource developments that the Member is very concerned about. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 227-14(6): Gwich'in Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what it is going to take, someone going to court on this issue or somebody being charged under this issue. Mr. Speaker, there have been petitions raised in the House about looking at the Wildlife Act because of the effect on harvesters of the rules and regulations we have in place. The only way that those will be dealt with is through amendments to the existing Wildlife Act. So again I would like to ask the Minister... There have been petitions in this House filed by my constituents asking him to review and amend the Wildlife Act and bring in changes so that our harvesters are not being impacted by bad regulations of this government. I would like to ask the Minister, what have you done about that matter and knowing it is a direct change is needed for the Wildlife Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 227-14(6): Gwich'in Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, what we've been doing is working with the Gwich'in and the Sahtu Dene-Metis and the Inuvialuit that have land claims and we have a very good working relationship. We have accommodated the different requests that they've made in trying to live within the existing Wildlife Act and, in the meantime, we are also going through the whole process of writing a whole new Wildlife Act that would incorporate the different provisions to the claims that the Member is very concerned about. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 227-14(6): Gwich'in Amendments To The Wildlife Act

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe the Gwich'in or anyone else can wait for another 10 years to see anything happen in this government. So I would like to ask the Minister, knowing that there are two Members on this side of the House who are willing to come forth with a private Member's bill, will his department work in conjunction with us to make the minor amendments needed to really put some teeth in the wildlife legislation that is there today? Will the Minister commit his staff and his resources to work with my colleague and me to come forth in the next sitting with a private Member's bill to make amendments to this Wildlife Act?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of RWED, Mr. Antoine.

Further Return To Question 227-14(6): Gwich'in Amendments To The Wildlife Act

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, we are all engaged in trying to develop a comprehensive new Wildlife Act and the direction from Cabinet is for me to pursue this initiative. Whatever the Member has in mind, in terms of making minor amendments that have teeth, I would like to see what it is and we will certainly take a very close look at it and make our comments known. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Time for question period has ended. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 8: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 4-14(6): Cost Of Wildlife Act And Species At Risk Act Consultations

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a written question to the Honourable Jim Antoine, Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, and it concerns the Wildlife Act and the Species at Risk Act.

1. How much money has been spent on the drafting of and consultation on the new Wildlife Act and Species at Risk Act legislation over the last 10 fiscal years, beginning with fiscal year 1992-93?

2. Please provide the breakdown of the above for each department and agency involved in the process, e.g. Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development; Justice; Aboriginal Affairs or any other.
3. Please provide the breakdown, by groups, organizations and individuals of those who received grants or contributions under Question 1 above, for the same time period.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, return to written questions. Item 9, replies to opening address. Item 10, petitions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

ITEM 10: PETITIONS

Petition 4-14(6): Rental Rates And Affordable Housing In The NWT

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I would like to present a petition dealing with the matter of affordable rental housing. Mr. Speaker, this petition contains 40 signatures from Yellowknife residents and Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the Government of the Northwest Territories take realistic steps to protect tenants from excess rent increases and further that the Government of the Northwest Territories work with developers to enable the construction of affordable rental housing units for the NWT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. 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 Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 47-14(6): List Of Interactivity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 – April 1, 2002 To January 31, 2003

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, as required by section 32.1, subsection 2 of the Financial Administration Act, I wish to table the following document entitled List of Interactivity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the period April 1, 2002, to January 31, 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for the first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 16, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 15: An Act To Amend The Workers' Compensation Act, Carried

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers Compensation Act be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion and the motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 15 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 14: An Act To Amend The Public Service Act, Carried

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre that Bill 14, an Act to Amend the Public Service Act be read for the second time. Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Public Service Act to provide that employees with an establishment in the public service must not, on the basis of sex, be paid at a less rate than other employees who perform work of equal value. An equal pay commissioner shall be appointed to investigate and assist in the resolution of all complaints. The equal pay commissioner will prepare an investigation report including recommendations with respect to the resolution of the complaint. Any party to the complaint may submit the complaint together with the investigation report to an arbitrator. The arbitrator may order the imposition of a number of remedies, including an order for cost. Any party may appeal a decision of an arbitrator to the Supreme Court. 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. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have to vote against this bill on the basis that the original bill that was presented had the context of aboriginality in it and I think that there is also discrimination, not only based on gender but also on the aboriginal content, where we know that there are aboriginal employees in this government who are making less...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krutko, I have to rule you out of order on that. Speak to the principle of the bill; that is not in the bill. Aboriginality is not in the bill. To the principle of the bill. To the principle of the bill, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regards to the way the bill is drafted, I believe that we have to look at more than gender. We have to expand it to include other concepts in the bill. If we are going to do something, let's do it right here but don't piecemeal something for the sake of piecemealing. I think that we have other inequities in the North that we have to consider. We've had an Affirmative Action Policy in place for years and what we are seeing is that it's not working and we also have policies ensuring that we have pay equity. Pay equity is one step in many steps we still have to take. There are still inequities in this government, especially when it comes to the way the people are paid to work for the government. We can't just look at gender.

We have pay equity. Pay equity is one step in many steps we still have to take. There are still inequities in this government, especially when it comes to the way people are paid to work for government. The problem also includes race and other aspects

of this government. I feel that I have been pounding myself against the wall for almost eight years in this House because of policies we have.

We have the Affirmative Action Policy. It has not done anything looking at the statistics of this government. How many people are we really seeing moving up the ranks in this government? A lot of people in this government, especially when you look at aboriginal people, their wages, because of their education levels and other levels that are there, are lower than those of people doing a similar job because of that component.

If we are going to look at gender, I suggest we also look at other aspects such as aboriginal contracts in this government. For the sake of timelines and trying to beat the clock because something might happen in Ottawa, as an aboriginal person, you are probably better off being protected under your rights in Ottawa than you are with this government. If this government is going to ram this legislation through for the sake of one aspect, I would suggest we take our time, do it right and look at how this change to the Public Service Act will include all aspects of the rights of employees of this government.

So, for the record, I will not be supporting this motion on the basis that there was an original motion that had an aboriginality clause which was presented by this government and is no longer there. I feel that this government is letting the aboriginal people down for the 99th time in the 99th year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the principle of the bill. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah. I caution you to restrict your comments to the principle of the bill.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I also feel the same way as Mr. Krutko. There was an aboriginality clause. It's not there anymore.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Nitah, you are out of order. I will caution you again. If you wish to speak to the principle of the bill, that is not in the bill. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I feel that this bill does not go far enough to address all the issues. Mr. Speaker, this amendment was brought to us very recently. The government sat on it for awhile. We just saw what happens when the government is not prepared to introduce a government document. Harmonization is a good example. Mr. Speaker, I can't support this because it's assuming that something is going to come down the road and we have to act now to avoid it. The Polson (sic) report is something we are reacting to. We don't know what is in the Polson (sic) report. It might have some great stuff in there that's going to make that bill that much stronger, but if we are going to get a human rights bill to avoid what might happen in the Polson (sic) bill, that's just not a good enough reason for me. I believe that we should wait until June, think it through, see what the entire bill would look like and then introduce it for consideration. I think we are jumping the gun and I can't support the motion at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 14 has had second reading and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 4, Bill 9, Bill 11, committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6), 5-14(6), 6-14(6), 8-14(6), and 9-14(6); Motion 10-14(6); Minister's Statement 28-14(6); Tabled Document 26-14(6), Tabled Document 31-14(6) and Tabled Document 41-14(6), with Mr. Krutko in the chair. By the authority given the Speaker by Motion 4-14(6), the House has dissolved into Committee of the Whole to sit beyond the time of adjournment until the committee is prepared to report, just in case.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to call the Committee of the Whole to order. We have several things to deal with: Bill 4, Bill 9, Bill 11, committee reports 3-14(6), 4-14(6), 5-14(6), 6-14(6), 8-14(6), and 9-14(6); Motion 10-14(6); Minister's Statement 28-14(6); Tabled Document 26-14(6), Tabled Document 31-14(6) and Tabled Document 41-14(6). What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to recommend that we, first of all, consider Committee Report 9-14(6), followed by Bill 4, Bill 9 and Bill 11 in that order.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With that, we will begin with a short recess.

---SHORT RECESS

Committee Report 9-14(6): "One Land, Many Voices": The Final Report Of The Special Committee On The Review Of The Official Languages Act

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): I'll call the committee back to order. We're dealing with Committee Report 9-14(6): "One Land, Many Voices." I would like to ask the committee chair if he has comments to make.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, as we all know, the Special Committee on the Review of the Official Languages Act for mandatory review was established two years ago. The committee did extensive work, research and consultation. As a result, we've published a report called, "One Land, Many Voices."

Madam Chair, the committee is very pleased with the work. The people of the Northwest Territories have received the report and are quite pleased with it. We've developed 65 recommendations as part of a roadmap to revitalize the Official Languages Act of the Northwest Territories, to help government manage its responsibilities under the Official Languages Act. Accountability of the millions of dollars that we spent in this area is very important. The Prime Minister today

announced over \$750,000 for the French language as its obligation under the Official Languages Act of Canada. This is for the next five years. A few weeks ago, over \$71 million was put in the Canadian budget for aboriginal languages. Our committee report is consistent and the timing is great.

To achieve the roadmap we've come up with 65 recommendations. As a committee we have to introduce a motion for every recommendation. Madam Chair, to clarify and strengthen official languages legislation and policy, we recommend the following:

Committee Motion 13-14(6) To Accept Recommendation No. 1 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the current version of the Official Languages Act be updated to remove repealed sections and correct spelling, terminology and translation errors.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): We have a motion in front of us and the motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 14-14(6) To Accept Recommendation No. 2 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, colleagues. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that Dene terms be used in the Official Languages Act for North Slavey, South Slavey, Dogrib and Chipewyan, with the advice and consent of the affected language communities.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the question.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 15-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 3 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair and colleagues. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that North and South Slavey (as such, or using Dene terms) and Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun be listed as separate languages in Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, and removed from the interpretation section, with the consent of the affected language communities. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We have another motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 16-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 4 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, colleagues. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that Michif research be funded with the intent of determining an appropriate designation for this language. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Committee Motion 17-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 5 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, colleagues. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the preamble of the Official Languages Act be amended to recognize the important role of language communities in preserving and developing their own languages and to acknowledge shared responsibility for language enhancement. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 18-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 6 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that Section 14 of the Official Languages Act be clarified and defined through a combination of regulation and policy; and

Further that regulations be established for service delivery relating to occupational health and safety, health and social services; and

Furthermore those other services be defined through policy rather than guidelines. Thank you, Mr. Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 19-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 7 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, colleagues. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that all government departments and agencies required to comply with the Official Languages Act be listed in regulations, along with provisions for compliance, where these services are being provided by other agencies. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We have another motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): All those in favour to the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 20-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 8 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Thank you, colleagues. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Official Languages Act designate a Minister responsible for official languages, with the authority to implement the act; and

Further that the Minister responsible submit an annual official languages report to the Legislative Assembly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): All those in favour of the motion? All those against? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 21-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 9 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that an aboriginal languages board be legislated through the Official Languages Act to advise the Minister responsible for the official languages regarding planning, promotion, coordination and resource allocation; and

Further that the terms of reference for this board, along with its structure, appointment process, consultation functions and other necessary matters, be established through regulation. Mahsi cho, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 22-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 10 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that aboriginal languages board members be nominated by their respective language communities, recommended by the Minister responsible for official languages, and appointed by the Legislative Assembly. Mahsi cho, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 23-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 11 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair and colleagues. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that, concurrent with the establishment of the aboriginal languages board, the broad promotional mandate of the Languages Commissioner be reduced through the repeal of the last phrase in Section 20(1) and Section 20(3) of the Official Languages Act;

Further that the Languages Commissioner's promotional role be transferred to the Minister responsible for official languages and the aboriginal languages board; and

Furthermore that the Languages Commissioner continue to ensure compliance with the strengthened Official Languages Act. Merci, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We have a motion. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through the series of motions that we're looking at, the committee has taken some very aggressive and some very bold and I think necessary recommendations here to help sustain official languages. Part of this, I guess by necessity, means that we need to set up more process and more bureaucracy to administer all of these additional desirabilities; the things that we want to achieve here. In looking at the motions that we've been through so far, we are creating a Minister with a portfolio for languages, we are creating what I think would be an advisory board to the Minister, and I believe -- perhaps it's coming a little bit further -- we're setting up a secretariat to administer all of these things.

I just want to put on record, Madam Chair, that I will be supporting the motion. But through this we seem to be loading up quite a bit on the bureaucratic, the government side of things. I'm not arguing that it's unnecessary. But along with the recommendations that committee is making to government in implementing this, I would like to add a note from my point of view that the leaner and the more efficient and the more results-oriented we can make this added bureaucracy, I think the better the job we will achieve. I'm getting a lot of signals of late, Madam Chair, from constituents and industry and the community at large that a number of the governance systems and structures that we have in place are not really delivering or seen to be delivering a lot of value. I do not want to see something like languages end up with that same kind of criticism. So I'll conclude my remarks here, Madam Chair. Again, I will be supporting the motion, but it is with a qualifier that these moves will be appreciated when they're done with a very lean and a very results-oriented approach. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion. Any other comments to the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 24-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 12 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that Section 19(2) and Section 19(3) of the Official Languages Act be repealed, allowing the Office of the Languages Commissioner to be independent of the public service; and

Further that the Legislative Assembly review the Office of the Languages Commissioner to clarify its management systems

and administrative support relationships. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 25-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 13 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that a provision be added to the Official Languages Act to allow for the appointment of an Acting Languages Commissioner between appointments or where the commissioner is otherwise unable to perform his or her functions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 26-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 14 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that a provision be added to the Official Languages Act requiring the Legislative Assembly to respond to the commissioner's annual report within 180 days of the tabling of that report. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 27-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 15 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair and colleagues. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Official Languages Act provide for the recognition of the collective language rights of aboriginal peoples within their

homelands, consistent with current and pending land claims and self-government agreements. Mahsi cho, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 28-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 16 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that Section 29(1) of the Official Languages Act be amended to require smaller-scale evaluations every five years, beginning in 2008, to be concurrent with the release of the 2006 Census Canada language data, and to ensure the provisions and implementation of the Official Languages Act and other official language initiatives are effective. Mahsi cho, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, at this point I'd like to ask my colleague, committee member, the Honourable Roger T. Allen, to read out a few of the motions. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The Chair recognizes Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 29-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 17 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. To approve official languages and accountability we recommend the following: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages consider establishing a small official languages secretariat by reprofiling existing resources, to provide a single point of access regarding official language matters and a focus for accountability within the Government of the Northwest Territories; and

Further that the official languages secretariat report directly to the Minister and carry out the following management and policy functions:

- Liaison with the French and aboriginal language communities;

- preparation, monitoring and evaluation of the official languages implementation plan and evaluation framework;
- liaison with the Bureau of Statistics;
- negotiation and management of the Canada-NWT cooperation agreement;
- management of contribution agreements with the official language communities;
- operational support for the aboriginal languages board;
- operational and leadership support for the establishment of one-window service centres;
- support the development of official languages regulations and policies; and
- intergovernmental relations regarding languages.

Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 30-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 18 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages develop a GNWT-wide official languages implementation plan and evaluation/accountability framework, based on the Treasury Board model, that provides for the identification, gathering and ongoing analysis of input and outcome-based data. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 31-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 19 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you again, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages ensure that language communities are fully consulted on the Canada-NWT

cooperation agreement action plan and evaluation framework. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 32-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 20 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics be tasked to gather and analyze data from Census Canada, a modified labour force survey, and current sociolinguistic studies; and

Further that the bureau incorporate this data into a language report every five years, beginning in 2003 with the release of the 2001 Census Canada language data. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 33-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 21 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, to ensure effective and adequate financing we recommend the following: I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages ensure that all funding allocated for official languages be used for that purpose. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 34-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 22 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that funding for official languages initiatives be increased as required to implement the recommendations contained in this report. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 35-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 23 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages take steps to ensure that the Canada-NWT cooperation agreement is maintained and maximizes federal participation. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 36-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 24 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories enter into multi-year, flexible-funding agreements with the language communities to provide more certainty and program stability, with appropriate accountability mechanisms. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 37-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 25 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories support language community initiatives to generate other sources of language revenue, including endowment funds and business activities that support language enhancement. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 38-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 26 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, to enhance official languages service delivery, we recommend the following: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the term "active offer" with respect to occupational health and safety and health and social services be defined through regulations; and

Further, through policy for all other services. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 39-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 27 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages ensure that all departments and agencies properly implement "active offer", along with procedures and measures for tracking demand and service delivery. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 40-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 28 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories evaluate the bilingual bonus directive, with the intent of prioritizing and increasing the number of bilingual positions for front-line service delivery. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 41-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 29 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages work with stakeholders to provide communities with cost-effective access to basic translation equipment for government, industry and public information meetings and gatherings. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 42-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 30 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages work with the federal government and the francophone community to support the establishment of a pilot French language service centre for Yellowknife;

Further that this centre would provide one-window access to government services in French; and

Furthermore that it include a 1-800 line for outlying communities. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 43-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 31 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages consult with the aboriginal language communities and the aboriginal languages board regarding the possible establishment of a pilot aboriginal languages service centre. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 44-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 31 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages evaluate the pilot service centres after two years to determine their viability and make recommendations accordingly. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 45-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 33 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the official languages secretariat publish an updated public registry of French and aboriginal language interpreter/translators. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 46-13(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 33 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, to build human resource capacity in the official languages, we recommend the following: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages work with the aboriginal language communities to expand the development of regional and/or territorial certification standards for interpreter/translators and provide training for interpreter/translators in the regions;

Further that the initial focus be on health, social services, justice and other areas of regional priority; and

Furthermore that training be tied to forecasted employment and business opportunities arising from increased official language service delivery. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 47-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 35 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment consolidate and increase the regional delivery of aboriginal language instructor training according to standards set jointly by the language communities and Education, Culture and Employment; and

Further that training be tied to forecasted employment opportunities arising from a strengthening of aboriginal language provisions in the Education Act. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 48-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 36 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment develop an aboriginal second-language curriculum for adults and promote as well a support language training program for Government of the Northwest Territories employees, parents, and other interested adults. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 49-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 37 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment meet with Aurora College, aboriginal language communities and cultural institutes to review the development and delivery of interpreter/translator, language instructor, and adult language training, to improve cost-effectiveness and the overall success rate. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Allen.

Committee Motion 50-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 38 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that Aurora College and other public agencies providing language training submit an annual report of their activities to the Minister responsible for official languages and the aboriginal languages board. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Allen.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would now like to turn the balance of the recommendations over to my esteemed colleague from Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Allen. The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 51-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 39 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, to support research and development for official languages, we recommend the following: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages work closely with the aboriginal communities, the respective cultural institutes and elders councils to identify terminology needs, fund terminology development, and establish regionally-endorsed terminology approval processes.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 52-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 40 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages work closely with the aboriginal language communities and cultural institutes to establish a coordinated cataloguing and distribution process for aboriginal language resource materials.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 53-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 41 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the cultural projects and geographic place names programs be evaluated and considered for increased funding.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 54-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 42 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, to increase and improve aboriginal language education, we recommend the following: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment issue a ministerial directive requiring education authorities to use aboriginal language funding for the purposes intended so as to assist with improving aboriginal language programming in the schools.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 55-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 43 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment clarify interpretation and strengthen implementation of Section 73.3 of the Education Act, which directs education authorities to provide aboriginal language instruction.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 56-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 44 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment issue a ministerial directive regarding the

minimum number of instructional hours for aboriginal language to strengthen Section 73.3 of the Education Act; and

Further that the minimum number of hours of instruction subsequently be addressed through regulations, to be consistent with other subject areas.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 57-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 45 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment amend the Education Act to rebalance the authority of the Minister and education authorities with respect to aboriginal language programming to improve accountability.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 58-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 46 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment oversee the development of a comprehensive aboriginal language arts curriculum in consultation and cooperation with the language communities and education authorities.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 59-14(6): To Accept Recommendation 47 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment oversee the development of early childhood immersion programming in consultation and cooperation with language communities and education authorities.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 60-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 48 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment work closely with the aboriginal language communities, colleges, and other agencies to actively recruit, train, and certify aboriginal language instructors and teachers. This task would include a review of pay scales and training/recruitment incentives.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 61-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 49 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment prepare a strategic plan for aboriginal languages education, from early childhood through Grade 12, including the introduction of aboriginal language instruction in core subject areas; and

Further that this plan include partnerships with language communities and the need to link language development in the school and at home.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to make one correction. I'd just like to read the last paragraph of the motion. It reads, "further that this plan include partnerships with language communities and the need to link language

development in the school and at home." Mr. Krutko had used the word "aboriginal" communities, and I just wanted to ensure that the language communities includes other official languages other than aboriginal. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. Thank you for the clarification. That's how the motion reads, so the motion as read is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 62-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 50 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment amend the Education Act to grant aboriginal parents the right to petition for aboriginal immersion schooling, beginning at the primary level, within their language homelands and where numbers warrant.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 63-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 51 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment work with the education authorities to increase the role and capacity of teaching and learning centres to develop resource materials and to enhance partnerships with language communities.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 64-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 52 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment submit an annual report on the status of curriculum development and aboriginal language education to the Legislative Assembly and the aboriginal languages board.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 65-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 53 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, to promote official languages, we recommend the following: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages develop an aboriginal language social-marketing plan in consultation with the language communities;

Further that this plan be implemented jointly by the Minister and the language communities; and

Furthermore that the aboriginal languages board, once established, play a lead role in ongoing language promotion activities.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 66-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 54 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages provide support to the French language community to develop and implement a social-marketing plan.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 67-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 55 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories encourage community leaders and other prominent role models to take responsibility for using their traditional languages wherever possible.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 68-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 56 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages and language communities encourage that the federal government, industry and other agencies use and profile the aboriginal and French languages, particularly in regions and areas where the languages are commonly used.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 69-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 57 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages consider increasing funding for promotional activities targeting youth.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

Committee Motion 70-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 58 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories promote and offer cross-cultural and language training for staff as an orientation and professional development activity.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. We have a motion and the motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, at this time I'd like to allow the chair of the committee to conclude the presentation. Mr. Nitah.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Chair recognizes Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 71-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 59 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, to increase the use of official languages in media and technology, we recommend the following: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories expand its support for, and utilization of, aboriginal and French language media, along with support for other communication initiatives, including the use of the Internet, digital technology and emerging media technologies. Mahsi cho, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. This is a motion that I would like to give a special endorsement to. So much of the discussion that we've had here in the Assembly -- and I haven't had time to read the report but I'm sure it's reflected in there -- stresses the need for communities and our daily environment to see language applied, to see it surrounding us, to see us immersed in it in as many ways as possible if language is going to be enhanced, indeed, if it's going to survive. Government's ability to foster this kind of thing is there, it's somewhat limited especially in the areas of broadcast media, Madam Chair, especially radio and television which are ubiquitous in our society. They are ever present, they are 24-hours a day, they are easily accessible. With a good radio, Madam Chair, you can be in touch with the world virtually anywhere at all in the NWT. We already have existing infrastructure in organizations like the CKLB radio network and the Aboriginal Peoples' Television Network. Here in Yellowknife -- I don't know if it is elsewhere in the territory, Madam Chair -- the French community has a radio station; Radio Taiga. We have print. Here is where I think there's an especially accessible and I also believe an economical way of getting much, much more delivery and use of language across to our many different language communities. So as I say,

Madam Chair, I just wanted to add that comment to this recommendation -- recommendation 59 -- which I would encourage the government to look at with special attention because it is, I think, one that offers a real deliverability to this whole issue of language survival in the North. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour of the motion? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 72-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 60 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and other agencies support media and technology training for aboriginal language speakers through scholarships and other incentives. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 73-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 61 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages ensure current aboriginal language fonts are available to Government of the Northwest Territories staff and encourage their use. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 74-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 62 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages assist aboriginal language communities to incorporate aboriginal language fonts on specialized software applications and address other technical issues, as needed, to support the use of aboriginal languages in a wide range of technical applications. Mahsi cho, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 75-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 63 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, to ensure that the recommendations and implementation/costing schedule proposed in this report are advanced, we further recommend the following: Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Premier appoint a Minister responsible for official languages within 60 days of the acceptance of this report by the Legislative Assembly. Mahsi cho, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 76-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 64 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the government introduce a bill to amend the Official Languages Act during the term of the current Assembly. Mahsi cho, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair recognizes Mr. Nitah.

Committee Motion 77-14(6): To Accept Recommendation No. 65 Of Committee Report 9-14(6), SCOL Final Report, Carried

MR. NITAH: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for official languages report to the Legislative Assembly within one year of the acceptance of this report; and

Further that this report address:

- the status and progress of the implementation of the recommendations;
- the status of the Canada-NWT cooperation agreement; and
- business plans and budgetary provisions for 2004-2005 and beyond.

Mahsi cho, thank you very much, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you. Does the committee agree that Committee Report 9-14(6) is now concluded?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. What is the wish of the committee? We have on the agenda Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act. Is the committee ready for this item?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 4: An Act To Amend The Consumer Protection Act

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Minister Steen, do you wish to make an opening comment?

Minister's Opening Comments

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I have opening comments. Madam Chair, I am pleased today to introduce an amendment to the Consumer Protection Act. This sets out a framework for the government to make regulations on how collection agencies must conduct their collection activities in our communities.

A number of years ago, through the agreement on internal trade, the GNWT agreed to approach consumer-related issues cooperatively and work towards greater harmonization in these

fields. A number of commitments were made which included harmonized collection practices.

Madam Chair, we have licensed the operation of collection agencies for many years under the Consumer Protection Act. Over time, we have seen a steady increase in both the calls to northern residents and in complaints regarding high-pressure collection tactics being used on residents.

Madam Chair, this bill, along with the regulations that will be made under it will address that situation. Through the introduction of harmonized collection agency practices, we will move to harmonize with our provincial and territorial partners in this area. The suggested changes include provisions dealing with a wide range of collection practices, ranging from issues of harassment to when and where a deputy may be contacted.

Madam Chair, these changes also benefit the collection agencies we regulate now, by ensuring that the collection practices apply the same for each jurisdiction. In the past, agencies had to follow different rules in different jurisdictions. This initiative will ensure that there's a common set of rules in all jurisdictions.

Madam Chair, last summer the committee had the opportunity to review the proposed draft legislation and a list of prohibited practices agreed upon by the provinces and territories. The comments of the committee were taken into account in the proposed change so that an extended time period of northern mail service will be adopted in our regulations. One suggestion not incorporated will be the requirement for collection agencies to ensure the accuracy of information provided to a credit bureau.

Madam Chair, collection agencies are only a small part of the reporting structure of the credit bureau. To address that concern, the GNWT would have to prepare legislation dealing with credit reporting agencies. As this exceeded the scope of the original legislation proposal, we have not included those provisions at this time. I will ensure that my department monitors consumer activities and if the need for such legislation arises, we will initiate it and bring it to the Legislative Assembly for review. Thank you. Madam Chair, I am open to answering any questions the Members may have.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Minister Steen. Minister Steen, would you like to bring in witnesses at this time? My apologies, I jumped the gun there. At this time, I would like to invite the committee chair to make comments on the bill. Mr. Roland.

Standing Committee On Governance And Economic Development Comments

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. The committee reviewed this and went through hearings and there were no major issues with the bill. Technical amendments, by nature.

The Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development conducted a public review of Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act, on March 5, 2003. The committee would like to thank the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

Members are pleased that these amendments will bring the NWT legislation on collection agencies into line with other provinces and territories. This will help to ensure that collection

agencies are following the same rules across the country, and that debtors are treated fairly.

The committee has some continuing concerns with the practice of credit bureaus, but understands that this issue is beyond the scope of Bill 4. In particular, Members are concerned about protecting people from bad credit ratings based on incorrect information. Members would urge the Minister to have the department monitor this issue and consider whether it needs to be addressed in future amendments.

This concludes the Standing committee on Governance and Economic Development's review of Bill 4.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Roland. At this time, I would like to ask Minister Steen if he would like to invite in witnesses.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. With the permission of the committee, yes.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Does the committee agree the Minister can have witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you bring in the witnesses?

Minister Steen, for the record, would you introduce your witnesses.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Madam Chair, on my right is Deputy Minister of MACA, Debbie DeLancey; and on my left is legislative counsel from Justice, Janis Cooper.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Are there any general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Clause by clause.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Is the committee ready for clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Clause By Clause

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Okay. Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Page 3, clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Page 4, clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Does the committee agree that Bill 4 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Bill 4 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Minister Steen, and thank you to your witnesses.

Next on the agenda for the committee is Bill 9, Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act. Are we ready to deal with this bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Bill 9: Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Mr. Allen, would you like to make an opening statement?

Minister's Opening Comments

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, the purpose of this bill is to make changes in terminology used in the Young Offenders Act to provide consistency with the new federal Youth Criminal Justice Act, which will come into force on April 1, 2003. The proposed amendments also delete references to terms that exist under the federal Young Offenders Act, but won't exist under the new Youth Criminal Justice Act. The section referring to a review board established under the federal Young Offenders Act has also been deleted. The amendment deletes only this reference. It does not delete the board.

The bill also includes amendments correcting references to terminology in nine other territorial acts. Madam Chair, the bill currently in front of you contains only those amendments deemed necessary to avoid procedural confusion as the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act replaces the federal Young Offenders Act on April 1, 2003. The department is working on new legislation to bring all other aspects of the territorial Young Offenders Act in line with a new Youth Criminal Justice Act. The department plans to bring forward this legislation in June. I would be pleased to respond to any questions or comments that the Members may have. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Minister Allen. At this time, I would like to invite the committee responsible for the bill to make comments. Mr. Dent.

Standing Committee On Social Programs Comments

MR. DENT: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its review of Bill 9, the Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act on March 10, 2003. The committee would like to thank the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The bill makes a number of technical amendments to the Young Offenders Act and several other acts to avoid legal or procedural issues which might arise when the new federal Youth Criminal Justice Act comes into force on April 1, 2003. For example, the bill deletes references to terms that are authorized under the federal Young Offenders Act, which will not exist after April 1st. As well, references to the Young Offenders Act (Canada) are replaced with references to the new Youth Criminal Justice Act (Canada).

Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 9, Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Dent. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in witnesses.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Yes, I would, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Does the committee agree that the Minister bring in witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, please bring in the witnesses.

For the record, Minister Allen, please introduce your witnesses.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Madam Chair, I am very pleased this afternoon to introduce Patricia Gall to my left, legislative counsel with the Department of Justice; and, Cayley Thomas to my right with the Department of Justice. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Minister Steen. Welcome witnesses. Are there any general comments on the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Clause by clause.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause by clause is called. It's under tab 9 of your binder on page 2, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Page 4, Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Page 5, Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Page 7, Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Page 8, Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Bill as a whole?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Does the committee agree that Bill 9, Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act, is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Bill 9 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Minister Allen, and witnesses.

What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Madam Chair, I think we had agreed earlier that we would carry on with Bill 11 next.

Bill 11: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Dent. Does the committee agree that we will review Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): It's under tab 11 and I would like to invite the Minister of Finance to make opening comments on the bill.

Minister's Opening Comments

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Supplementary Appropriation No. 3, 2002-2003 requests authority for additional appropriations of \$9,212,600 for operations expenditures and \$1.492 million for capital investment expenditures. Major items included in this request for operations expenditures are as follows:

1. \$1.7 million to recognize the additional pension expense in 2002-2003 for the Legislative Assembly Supplementary Retiring Allowance Act;
2. \$4.2 million to clear the accumulated deficit in the petroleum product stabilization fund which is already accumulated in the government's accumulated surplus position;
3. \$900,000 for the additional expenses to be incurred as the result of a negotiated settlement between the GNWT and the NWT Medical Association for general practitioners and fee-for-service positions.

There is no additional reserve for the requests in this supplementary appropriation. This will result in a projected 2002-2003 operating deficit of \$116 million. The major request for capital investment expenditures include:

1. \$500,000 for the Department of Health and Social Services for additional expenditures required for the Inuvik hospital;
2. \$335,000 for the Department of Transportation for additional expenditures required for renovations at the Yellowknife Airport for new pre-boarding and screening equipment.

These expenditures will be totally funded by the Canadian Air Transport Security Agency. Madam Chair, I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Minister Handley. At this time, I would like to ask if you would like to bring in witnesses.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Yes, thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Handley. Does the committee agree that the Minister brings in witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please bring in the witnesses?

Minister Handley, could you introduce your witnesses, please?

HON. JOE HANDLEY: With me is Lew Voytilla, secretary to the Financial Management Board. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Welcome, Mr. Voytilla. Are there any general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

Detail

Legislative Assembly

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Detail has been called. It's under tab 11, page 5, Legislative Assembly, operations expenditures.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Office of the Clerk, not previously authorized, \$351,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Expenditures on behalf of Members, \$1.669 million. We are on page 5. We under tab 11, page 5, Legislative Assembly operations expenditures, expenditures on behalf of Members, \$1.669 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Total department, \$2.020 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Executive

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Page 6, Executive, operations expenditures, Executive offices, Minister's offices, not previously authorized, \$54,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Page 7, Financial Management Board Secretariat, directorate, not previously authorized, negative \$25,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Government accounting, negative \$23,000, not previously authorized.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Page 8, Aboriginal Affairs, not previously authorized, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: With regard to capital asset investment, they knew this was going to come into service in 2002-2003. Why was this not part of the capital planning process with regard to the main estimates?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Chair recognizes Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you. This is an adjustment that is made as the capital items come into service. It doesn't happen at the beginning of a year, so it's difficult to plan it into our capital. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Aboriginal affairs not previously authorized, \$20,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Total department, \$26,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

Department Of Municipal And Community Affairs

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Page 9, Municipal and Community Affairs operations expenditures, regional operations, not previously authorized, \$1.603 million.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. With regard to the infrastructure and the shoreline erosion project, this government has spent in excess of \$1.9 million, almost \$2 million on this project. Knowing this is a problem, why is it showing up through a supplementary appropriation? Why wasn't this part of the budget? You can't do any work with regard to the shoreline. There have been expenditures made almost back to 1970 on this. Why is there not better planning for this? Why wasn't this part of the capital planning process? It's not previously authorized, but this problem has been there for some time and there have been ongoing work and expenditures all the way back to 1991. Why was this not put into the main estimates, knowing this was an ongoing cost and it continues to show up and there have been previous expenditures in this area? I would like to know from the Minister.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Minister.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, the Member is right. This has been a continuing problem in Tuk for the last 30 years and we have spent close to \$2 million on it so far. MACA and the hamlet are working on a long-range plan for the issue, but because the erosion problem continues at a rate that varies from half a metre to over two metres a year and in some case up to 13 metres in the case of a storm, this happens inconsistently. There is a need to take some action immediately

to protect the graveyard area, as well as some other areas that have been built up. There is money that was identified originally for the solid waste site that isn't being used and instead of doing this at \$100,000 a year for the next four years, it was felt to be a better investment to spend the \$378,000 this year and then agree to not provide the community with the \$100,000 from the operating fund that they were given in the past. Get the work done earlier and stop as much of the erosion as possible. When the long-range plan is done, then it could

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, one of the comments I've heard is, are we simply throwing this money into the Arctic Ocean? We've spent almost \$2 million on this and we know that through global warming, there is going to be increased erosion and melting permafrost. They are talking about the ocean levels rising. Is this a trend where we are going to see major expenditures of having to continue this effort? I know the community of Aklavik, for instance, has had a similar program in the past and they still have the problem. Is that community going to see similar funding? We are seeing the coastlines slowly disappearing because of global warming and the melting of permafrost. As a government, do we have a grasp on this? Are we going to allow these expenditures to blow out proportion? Is this \$300,000 just a Band-aid that you are putting on a major wound, or is there going to be ongoing funding for the next number of years?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, we are getting into some of the technical details. I think the Minister of MACA will be in a better position to answer than I will, so I will ask Mr. Steen to respond.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Minister Handley. The chair recognizes Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you. Madam Chair, the Member is correct in that efforts of the community and the government in the past were not always successful in controlling the erosion. It has been more like a trial and error process. Over the past 10 or 15 years, in particular, the communities have tried sand bagging, cement blocks and all different remedies suggested by the engineers. However, the particular solution they've come up with right now and is proving to be successful is hauling rocks from Inuvik, and that idea originally came from the same process being used in Nome, Alaska. Some of the council members had an opportunity to go over there and see firsthand the effectiveness of solid rock on the shorelines. So they started using this over the last two or three years and it's very effective. It increases the build-up by the ocean on the rock and it protects the shoreline from further erosion, in particular due to exposure when global warming takes its effect.

However, this past summer, it was pretty evident to the community that, with the influence of global warming now, the erosion is proceeding faster than the community had experienced in the past. In the past, they had an arrangement with government that they would receive \$100,000 a year in O and M funding. They would keep using that to brace rock, however, the community is very concerned that they don't have

much time and they have the opportunity now that they have capital funding that was originally designed and earmarked for another project in town, a solid waste site. They have the opportunity now. They didn't do the work this year and they suggest the priority would be more to put that funding towards the shoreline, do it in one year, rather than four years and save the cost of further erosion. That is what is justifying the continuation of support in the erosion control program.

I note, Madam Chair, that we are not just throwing rocks into the ocean, as the Member suggests. I note that the community of Aklavik, even though it was predicted to disappear a long time ago, is still there too. People have a tendency to want to protect their communities, so government is trying to allow them the opportunity of making their own decisions. In this regard, MACA did support the suggestion that we take capital and use it for O and M.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you. There was an engineering study done. When was that study done and who did it? What was the cost of that study?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Madam Chair, I am not sure what the most recent study cost, but it was done about two or three years ago.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: It would be good to get a copy of that study to see how he came up with the \$378,000. The point I am trying to get at is, will there be ongoing costs associated with this and, if there are, would that be put into the main estimates so it will show up in the capital expenditures by community so we know this is an ongoing cost? As I mentioned in the past, there has been almost \$2 million spent on shoreline erosion and I think the problem is going to get worse before it gets better. This is not only affecting Tuk, it's affecting other communities in the Delta. We are seeing the effects of global warming. My concern is this could be a major expenditure of government and we have to be prepared and plan for it. It would be good to see what that engineering report says and where it came from. I would like to know, from that study, are we sure this is all the money that's going to be needed to do the shoreline erosion restoration program of \$378,000 or are we talking about ongoing funding?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Madam Chair, there are two points here. One is, the reason why it didn't show up in the budget is because this is a process that the department has the option of doing. This funding was originally earmarked from capital expenditures and it was through capital projects within the community. The community did not make the expenditure this year, so they are requesting that MACA take this from capital and put it into O and M. However, they originally had \$400,000. They spent some of that on an engineering study on the solid waste site, so that only left \$378,000. That is why we have the particular number of \$378,000.

The engineering study that was recently done on behalf of the hamlet had a number of options. One, which the community would probably never accept, is that they relocate. They did not accept that recommendation and there were other recommendations to try different options for shoreline erosion control. I think that one of the specifics the report suggested was that we either do \$500,000 quick and fast and see how that works or you do \$100,000 at a time. The hamlet at the time couldn't afford the \$500,000 option, so they requested the \$100,000 a year option. Now if they receive this funding this year, the \$378,000, they will be giving up the option of requesting extraordinary funding at \$100,000 a year for future. That's the deal they are making. They won't be back here looking for \$100,000 a year through MACA for the next four years. That's the option they preferred. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Minister Steen. I have on my list Mr. Lafferty next.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Is this the regular practice of Finance, to move money from capital to O and M when there are projects already identified and the project is not needed and transferring from one region from capital to O and M? Is that a regular practice?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. I believe the Member is directing the question to Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you. Yes, this is a regular practice. If there is a surplus in a fiscal year in an area, whether it's capital or O and M and there is no need for it, it would go back into general revenue, but if there is a surplus and we've identified a need that is considered to be an emergency, then that money could be used for this sort of situation. What we are doing here is consistent with practice and our rules.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Minister Handley. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. My next question is when they did that study. Was it before the budget or was it after the budget? The engineering study was done two or three years ago. You knew you didn't need the solid waste site, we are still putting the money in there, so we can access it at a later time. Is it like a bank? We can draw from it whenever we feel like it? Is that the case here? The study was done two or three years ago, but we still didn't take the money back. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: The solid waste site study was a recent study that was done, December 2002. That is the study on the solid waste site. The hamlet, to my knowledge, has not made a decision on the use of that solid waste site. They, I believe, are meeting March 19th to review that situation. So this money here is surplus for the fiscal year and we have an urgent need to use it for another purpose. The process we are following here is the correct process. Where we have that need, we bring it back to the Legislative Assembly through the supp process. This is a recent study. Don't mix it up with the other studies that have been done on the shoreline erosion project. That's a different matter. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you. So the study was completed in December. We did our business plans just before then or around the same time. Why wasn't this brought forward at the time? Usually the studies are done in the summer when there is no snow on the ground. Someone should have known that this study was completed already to be put in a business plan and brought to the GED committee. Why wasn't this done?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, the study was completed in December. By the time the government received the study and looked at it, the main estimates would have been printed. The committees met in January on it, but it was too late to build it into the business plans at that point. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you. Did DPW have anything to do with the studies, the engineering or whatever of the landfill site or the shoreline erosion?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, I will refer that to the Minister of Public Works and MACA. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you. The study was done by Public Works with a consulting firm on behalf of the hamlet and MACA.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works what was the charge to the hamlet by DPW for this study?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe it was \$23,000.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. The Minister did mention, when he was talking to Mr. Krutko, that there was a study done two or three years ago. Who did that study, the hamlet or the GNWT?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Madam Chair, I think the Member is referring to a study on the shoreline erosion. The one I just responded to was the study on the solid waste site and that was completed in December. The study the Member is referring to, I believe, was done on behalf of MACA, but it may have been directed to an engineering consulting firm. I am not 100 percent sure. I have to check that.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yesterday during questioning, when DPW was asked what did they do out there,

they said they did management and planning. What is involved in the management and planning? Every time we see some work being done, it's always a consultant out there or some other third party that is doing all the work. Why are we paying management and planning if we are just making phone calls for the hamlet or the different departments? How much does it cost to make a phone call? Was it \$23,000 to make a phone call to a consultant? Is that what it costs? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Madam Chair, I believe the study consisted of the engineering firm, consulting firm... I believe it's EBA, but I could be wrong... I think I recall EBA having done the study. It required them to go in and I think it was twice that they went in and spent time actually reviewing the solid waste site and what would be necessary to extend the life of that site. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. In responding to a question from Mr. Krutko, the Minister of Public Works said there were a number of engineering studies done for the shoreline erosion. I would like to find out how many engineering companies are out there and how many engineers who failed to fix the problem are still around?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Madam Chair, I don't have the exact number of engineering studies that were done on the Tuk shoreline. This thing goes back 30 years to when the federal government first did it through Public Works Canada. There were a number of different approaches used to control the shoreline erosion. They were not all successful, mostly because of a shortage of funding in the community or the government's inability to do a large enough project that it would stop the erosion completely. It was sort of a small scale operation where the hamlet was allowed, through the funding process, to have \$100,000 a year, extraordinary funding, included in their funding on an annual basis. This was what they used to try to control the erosion. I can't respond, Madam Chair, to exactly how many different studies that were done, but there were a number of them.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Minister Steen. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. How many years are we going to keep throwing money into the ocean? Isn't there a better plan out there somewhere? Couldn't we just save the graveyard and start moving the community one by one whenever a new house is going to come in and an older house has to go down, we don't replace it in the same spot? I know the seniors home is somewhere in that area too and that has a life expectancy of multiple years. So the plan for Tuktoyaktuk is to maybe relocate across the bay. I have been to Tuk and they have some nice views, nice area over there where some of the new buildings are going up. What is the hamlet's plan? Is the Minister working with the hamlet to start relocating in the Tuk area? Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I believe I mentioned earlier that the hamlet did consider that option and it's not the preferred option. As a matter of fact, it had a fairly high cost figure applied to it. I recall some estimates of relocating the graveyard, for instance in the nature of \$8 million. So it's not a cheap thing to do and it's not their preference to relocate the graveyard. As a matter of fact, just recently they were still putting people in there, so they don't have many plans to relocate. The Member may want to suggest it directly to the community, but right now it's not the preferred way to go. The engineers have told them that if they don't take certain steps, the whole community then becomes a place in jeopardy. If the outside shoreline does disappear, then it threatens the community and the historical aspects of the community. It threatens the government buildings and the whole community. I think the community is well aware of this, and they would prefer it if we could move faster on shoreline erosion funding to stop the erosion that is presently threatening more than just the graveyard. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I would just like to ask the Minister of Finance, what is the process that's used to determine when something falls within the criteria of emergency repairs. Today I made reference in the House to the study that was done on the Sittichinli recreation complex where they have been cited for violation of the fire code and the roof of the facility leaks. Yet, we also heard during the budget process from Ministers of ridings where they needed infrastructure because of building and fire code violations that they have to have these buildings replaced or they will be condemned. What is the process used to determine which projects go and which ones don't?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: First of all, we have the business planning process, both for capital projects and for programs and services, that normally will catch these if we have enough advance warning that there is an urgent situation developing. During the year, it may happen that a building will be condemned for some reason or some other issue arises. Then we have to look at each of those cases. If it's a matter of life being endangered or a major asset being endangered or inability to deliver programs, we have to look at it and assess whether it is something we want to deal with as an emergency. If it is, we make that decision and we bring it back here through a supp process. Other than that, anything we have enough warning on, we are able to put into business plans.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I believe we went through a supplementary, previously where there was extraordinary funding identified through a special warrant for work for \$800,000, and some for a strip of road in Tuktoyaktuk which came through again through a special warrant. The excuse was the road was bad. It was beaten up. We have other communities in the Territories that also have bad roads and they are rough also. Special warrants seem to be showing up consistently in certain areas, but when there is an emergency or crisis in other communities, you have to pull teeth to get anything into the capital budget. You are always told sorry, it has to go through the capital planning process and that's where you get it. How come some

communities are able to use avenues to access funding, yet other communities don't have access to it? We are told that a few years ago, we did a whole revamping of budgetary allocations to communities to ensure that we had a fair distribution of cooperation dollars and dollars to run our municipalities. There was about \$100,000 for these types of projects. You say there was a surplus in the budget for a particular community, so they can carry over that surplus to use for a different project. My understanding is there were other dollars being used through special warrants, through extraordinary funding, especially for this community time and time again. I am getting frustrated. I bring up issues that I feel are essential such as community infrastructure and public facilities that are not being taken into consideration or don't have the same weight because I am a regular Member and I am not a Minister. That's what it looks like to me. How much money has been spent through supplementary appropriations and extraordinary funding for the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, I don't have that information with me. If we want to look back over the last two or three years, we can get that information, but within a time frame, we can provide that information.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Does the Minister have any idea of how many special warrants, dollars not previously authorized, have been passed through supplementaries for the community of Tuktoyaktuk?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, as I said, I don't have that information with me. If Mr. Krutko gave me a time frame and said how much has been spent through supps or special warrants over the last three years or five years, I will get the information for him. I just don't have that with me today.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Does the Minister have any idea of what has been spent in the last year? You don't have to go back three years. Just use one year as an example? There was a special warrant that came forward just a couple of months ago.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, to my recollection, there was \$1.3 million that was allocated for the road project through a special project earlier this fiscal year and then this amount of money for \$378,000. I don't recall any other ones.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Can the Minister tell me why it is that the dollars that are set forth during the capital planning process... the argument was they needed a supplementary for a road repair because it's a service road, it goes out to the sewage lagoon or the garbage dump and that's why they needed \$800,000. Again, that could have been done through a main

estimate process. Now we see here again \$378,000 that is coming through that wasn't previously authorized. You are saying the money was already there. If the Minister can get the information... The way these special warrants are being abused. That's what it is, abuse. We have a system in place through the capital planning process that's there for a particular reason. This is an emergency. You can understand it when human life is being threatened, but at this point I don't believe it is. Under what criteria of the Financial Administration Act was this project managed to be classified under and put into the budget as not previously authorized?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, there is always opportunity for every community, not selected communities, to access money either through the supp or special warrant process if it is deemed that there is an emergency or an urgency or it's in the public interest to spend the money for that reason. I don't want to get into the road, we already went through that one, but in that case it was a situation where we would have lost the whole road bed. That was the advice brought to us by experts. In this case, it is our view that it is better to spend the money that we have here now rather than doing it at \$100,000 a year through a special operating fund in order to move ahead with the protection of the shoreline. Those are decisions we have to make. Some Members may disagree and feel that it isn't as urgent as we feel it is. We will present our best case here and that is the correct process for it. I want to emphasize, Madam Chair, this is available to every community. If there is an urgency or public interest, then the case should be brought to the attention of our government, to FMB in particular and we will assess it. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, on one hand he is saying it came through supp because it was an emergency. Then we heard from the Minister saying the money came from another pot of money that was put aside for a solid waste dump which was in the capital allocation and they agreed to redistribute it. Under the existing program criteria, there is also \$100,000 each community gets within their budget. Why didn't they use that \$100,000 and then come forward with additional money knowing they had made an investment in this project?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, I am not really familiar with the detail of the \$100,000 the Member is referring to, so I will refer it to Mr. Steen.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. The community has already issued tenders for the \$100,000 for rock haul from Inuvik. So they are using their \$100,000 that they were given specifically for the purpose they were given it for.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: There are millions of dollars that's gone into this one particular community in extraordinary funding, supplementary appropriations, special warrants. Everybody

can say it's an emergency, but in every community we talk about fairness, and that we have a capital planning process in place, and that you have to follow the allocation of how the funding is going to be given. Yet, in this case, there is always rerouting or new processes invented of finding ways of getting money into this particular community. I know it's an election year, but I think that it's pretty blatant that this is being abused. Realistically, knowing there are other funding sources out there, why was this money brought forward this way knowing they could have had access to other processes. There's an extraordinary funding pot in MACA for that type of purpose. Why didn't they apply through that process? There is a pot of money in MACA for that. Why didn't they go through that route?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. I believe the question is directed to the Minister of Finance, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, the decision was that it was better to do more work upfront than to do it with smaller amounts of money over a four-year period. So when this situation was brought to the attention of FMB, it was decided that because there had been the \$378,000 identified for the solid waste site, it would be better to take that money rather than putting it back into general revenue, use it for this other purpose that had come to our attention as an emergency. The process that was followed is well within our guidelines and our policies and the way we deal with any of these kinds of urgent situations. Could we have taken money from somewhere else? Possibly, I don't know. We could have taken money out of a project in some other community and used it there instead, but it doesn't really gain anything. We are still using GNWT money. I am not sure of the intention behind the Member's suggestion that we take it from another pot. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, the chair recognizes the Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. On the same line of questioning, I don't think I heard my colleague asking the question of taking it from somebody else, but there was an answer given. I am very confused here. Just a couple of years ago, there was a project done in Hay River where the bridge was under budget. There was some money left over and the Member for Hay River asked for that money to be put into the road continuing from the bridge to fix it up because there were some dangerous dips and curves. At that time, he was told, no they can't do that, they have to put it back into general revenue. I am just wondering when did the policies change?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, the policy hasn't changed, nor has the implementation of the policy changed. Each time one of these situations is brought to our attention, we have to do an assessment of the degree of urgency or emergency in dealing with the issue and make a decision. I don't recall the specific details of the Hay River one, but I assume at that point it was determined that this wasn't an urgent matter that couldn't be dealt with through the capital planning business planning process. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I guess it depends which community it is in and who is the Minister at the time. We know there must have been an urgency when you hear there have been rollovers and accidents on the road since that time. Even just in December, there was a rollover at the airport, which was one of the areas the Member for Hay River North was concerned about and it was never fixed. I know there were plans to get it fixed, but nothing has ever been done. It just depends on where you come from and who is the Minister at that time.

The other thing is when we do these studies like Tuktoyaktuk. I asked the Minister why they couldn't just protect the graveyard and starting moving a community whenever a new building had to go up. He came back with an answer saying they can't move the graveyard. I never asked to move the graveyard. I just wanted to clarify that. It wasn't my question to move the graveyard. He said to save the historical areas, well those can all be saved too. Maybe right now it's better to start protecting the graveyard and moving the historical areas or buildings, as he put it, buildings, and save yourself a lot of money right now. You said yourself you plan to use all the money right now. Is that going to fix the problem, the \$400,000? Is that going to fix the problem for good now or are you looking at more money for next year?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Minister Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, in terms of urgency, we have to make assessments whether or not a particular project that's brought to our attention is urgent. I don't know if there've been rollovers on the piece of road that Mr. Lafferty refers to or if that would be justification for jumping in and widening the road. There was a rollover on Monday morning, a B-train upside down on Ingraham Trail. I am not going to go and put a bunch of money into the road because one truck drove off the road. We have to assess these situations and decide which ones we are going to deal with. The second part of Mr. Lafferty's question...I am sorry, I have to ask him to repeat the final question he had. I think it was protecting the graveyard and why don't we do that and would this complete the project, I believe. If that's the case, this isn't going to complete the whole project. This is going to help save another piece of it or parts of it, but there is a long-term plan being prepared and this will fill that intervening space until we have the long-term plan in place. Mr. Steen may be able to provide more detail to the extent to which this is going to save that shoreline. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. Minister Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. In relation to the Member's question as to whether or not this particular funding will resolve the problem for good, no doubt the community would like to believe that but it's only going to be a matter of the community having the engineering firm continue to monitor the shoreline erosion problem and evaluate the effects of whatever prevention measures are taken. I think the community's overall engineering plan calls for this type of monitoring process over an extended period of time and is going to be only after they place the rip-rap for this year that they will see how much is going to be required. For one thing, they've almost reached both ends of the shoreline that they are trying to protect, so there isn't much left. It's going to depend on what effects this actually has and there's not going to be a

decision made on the effects of it in one year. It's going to take a couple of summers to see how effective the measures are that they are using now. The community definitely feels the faster they put the rip-rap in the better in the long run, so that we don't have that shoreline erosion while we are waiting for funding. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Minister. The chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I would like to move a motion.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Please, proceed.

MR. KRUTKO: I move that \$378,000 not previously authorized under Municipal and Community Affairs in Supplementary Appropriation, No. 3, 2002-2003, be removed from regional operations.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Mr. Krutko, we will have to get a copy of the motion and we will take a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): We'll call the committee back to order. We have a motion. Mr. Krutko, for the record, can I get you to read the motion again, please?

Committee Motion 78-14(6): To Delete \$378,000 From Bill 11: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2003-2003, Under MACA, Operations Expenditures, Regional Operations, Defeated

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, I move that \$378,000 be deleted from Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003, under the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, operations expenditures, regional operations.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The motion is in order. To the motion. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Madam Chair, we talk about fairness and that communities have a certain budget and we told municipalities a number of years ago that we are going to adjust their budgets and allow them to have \$100,000 to do certain things with. They, at the time, had to manage within that. Now we find out there's a new system in place that you can exceed your budget, but also find more money to carry out your activities.

I, for one, don't favour that we have a system that's really fair to communities who we told we are going to adjust their budget. Among the communities I represent, in the case of Aklavik, their budget went down. McPherson went up because they were under utilized with regard to their budget for years and now we find out that there is a new system in place that you can get that \$100,000 which is part of your budget in one lump sum for a period of time. I don't think that's fair to other communities. If that's the case, why don't we just tell the other communities, if you need a project, go to the FMBS, request that you get a \$400,000 project to classify as "not previously authorized," and get these increases put away through a supplementary appropriation. You don't have to go through the planning process.

We just went through the budgetary process. Again, there are certain projects in our communities that have to follow certain

criteria being used by this government. Here we find a system that's been reincarnated and reinvented, so that a community can figure out a way to get more money into their communities for a special project which exceeds the \$100,000 that you get in your budget estimates for municipalities for a particular year. I feel that this process is not treating all communities fairly. Yes, I take offence where we have certain processes in mind where communities have to wait. I mentioned earlier today there's a project in my riding and it's stated if it's \$100,000, you have to spend the \$100,000 out of your budget, but if it's over \$100,000, MACA and Public Works will look after it.

Too many times we've seen supplementary appropriations come forward for special pet projects in certain areas. I don't think that's fair to all communities. This is a perfect example of how to get three years of funding in one year. That does not cut it. I ask my other colleagues to support the motion and at the appropriate time, I will ask for a recorded vote.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I would just like to confirm a couple of things here. One is that this is already funding that the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk had already been...the appropriation had already been approved. What we are doing here in a wordy and complex way is to give authorization to move it from what had been previously authorized as capital into O and M. Do I have that right? This is just a long complex round-about way of authorizing a change from a capital to an O and M expenditure. Is that accurate? Can someone help me there, Madam Chair?

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Braden. There can be no questions. This is only to speak to the motion. If the Minister speaks to the motion, perhaps the Minister will answer some of the questions that might be raised in the debate. Mr. Braden, continue.

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am looking at the explanation in the information attached to the supp which says the net effect to the government operations is nil because there is an offsetting reduction to the department's capital investment funding. I guess I don't see where there is a way that a community has been able to scoop some extraordinary funding. I hope I have the interpretation correct here. If my understanding of this request is right then, I will be voting against the motion. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Braden. Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Madam Chair. While we can't have a question and answer session on motions, I have some questions as well. At this point, I am inclined to support the motion based on the letter that was sent by Minister Handley to the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development. I believe that letter said the capital project from which this money is being transferred was for the relocation of the solid waste site in Tuk. So this Legislative Assembly approved money for the relocation of the solid waste site in Tuk. I believe that it was presented as something that was important to see...I have just been corrected. The letter came from the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. In the letter, we were told that the capital project was done because of a proposed development of an Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highway which would have made it feasible for a new site. We've since found out that there was no urgency to this. This project

appears to have been planned simply because it was feasible. It sounds like the community wanted the landfill site to be moved farther away from the community than what it currently is, but there wasn't a safety reason, there doesn't appear to be a capacity reason. Apparently the capacity is such that they have more than 10 years left in the current site. So if it's not safety or protection of asset, how does that project in the first place fit into the corporate capital planning process?

We've been told that all the capital projects that this government approves will be ranked according to certain specific criteria. Many of us have wondered whether or not that is the case and whether or not there isn't some politics still being played in allocations. The fact that this is now seen as no longer urgent, it doesn't have to be done and we are told it doesn't have to be done because there is no need to relocate the landfill site. The letter says the reason for doing it was simply because it was feasible. Now that it's not needed, we are in a situation where we have capital dollars, money that's been approved for the capital project, that's no longer necessary.

If we are following the corporate capital planning process, then my understanding is that those capital dollars should go back into the pot to be reallocated according to the existing criteria that we use in the corporate capital planning process. If the project in Tuk ranks highest in the pot after that money has been put back in there, then we should be told that and that's where this money should go. Instead, we've been told that this is being done at the community's request. There has been no reference in any of the information that's been provided to regular Members about there being an assessment done on this project according to the established criteria for corporate capital planning. These are capital dollars and I don't think it makes sense to say we are moving money from capital into O and M so we don't have to go through that process. I think that if we started out in capital, if it's going back into the pot, it has to be looked at in terms of the process that we have established.

At this point, that's my concern and it has always been my concern about the way this project has been handled. Nobody in government has ever said the project has been ranked for importance. It's always been told to me that the reason for doing it is the community requested it. So based on what I know now, unless I hear some arguments from the other side to counter what we have been told so far in writing, I am inclined to support this motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Dent. The Chair recognizes the Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Madam Chair. I also support the motion. I feel that the process used was not fair to other communities. We identified capital projects, so we could throw the money to something else and I didn't think it's fair. I have had a project in my riding and for \$40,000 more I could have had a two-lane bridge. This Minister was involved and he wouldn't transfer \$40,000 from anywhere else or even use a supp so we could have a two-lane bridge. It's hard when you aren't a Minister, you can't get anything done but, if you are, you can transfer all the money you want.

This is not the only area I have seen this. I have seen it in other areas where money is being moved without going through corporate planning. If it was so high on the corporate planning

priorities, then it should have said so in the letter that was given to us and it wasn't. I think this department, Finance, is going to have to start fixing up how they do things and the Minister is going to have to tighten up on how they do things. Maybe by putting this motion forward, maybe it's the first step to fix up how we do things. Too many things are unclear, too many extraordinary dollars are going to some communities because of poor planning, poor management. We are going to have to change that. I am going to support this motion. I am not going to speak too long on it. We have things to do at quarter to seven. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. To the motion. Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Madam Chair, I would just like to provide some clarification. First of all, this is not a new or unusual way of dealing with these kind of issues at all. This is the standard way of doing it. It's the way every community would approach or be dealt with if they had a similar situation. Essentially what has happened is the money for the solid waste site over a number of years, that project was moved ahead a few years because of the amount of industrial use that's being made of the site and what's anticipated. It was moved ahead in the capital planning process. The money was identified as capital money. That was done through the process.

The community had a study done. That study reported back in December. The community has not yet decided whether they will follow the consultant's recommendations that they continue to use the site and try to find some fill to cover the waste in the site and deal with those problems or what route they will follow. In the meantime, the shoreline erosion situation was deemed to be an emergency and was brought forward to us to deal with as an urgency.

I want to remind Members, Mr. Dent in particular, we are not creating something new here. If you turn to page 19 in your book, you will see that we are giving back the \$378,000 as capital money, which is the correct procedure. Then on page 9, we are asking for the money back as O and M. So the way we deal with capital and O and M is not an issue. It's the proper way of doing it. Any community that has an urgency or something that should be done in the public interest could follow the same procedure, make their case before us and we would have to assess whether or not it should be dealt with urgently. Each time we have someone bring forward a matter of urgency, we don't go out and call for proposals of anybody else who might have something like that. That's done during the business planning process, but if it's urgent, we deal with it as a one-time issue. This was brought to us. We have to look at the merits of the case that's presented to FMB and make a decision. It's decided on, on its own. If Aklavik or somewhere else had brought an emergency like this to us we would use exactly the same process. So, Mr. Chairman, what we are doing here is giving back the capital, asking for it as O and M and, as Mr. Steen has said, we will then spend the \$378,000 this year and advise the community they are no longer eligible for the \$100,000 a year special operating fund that could contribute towards this project.

Procedurally, it's being done correctly. I would hope the decision on whether or not this should go ahead is based on your understanding of getting on with and protecting the shoreline before we have an even more expensive problem on our hands, not as a way of saying he didn't quite follow the

right procedure because we did follow the correct procedure. We need to look at this case as a matter of whether or not it's something we should do and makes good business sense to do right now. I believe it does, but we are better to spend \$400,000 now than we are to put \$100,000 a year for four years and meanwhile have the shoreline continuing to erode. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you. The Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I normally vote with my colleagues on these kinds of motions, but I am going to have to take the side of the community this time. I am from a small community and understand the importance of a community and the people who live there. I have been to Tuktoyaktuk. I have been told by community members about the erosion problem. I know that sometimes a one-time investment of a large amount has a bigger bang than a small investment over a period of time. I am concerned, however, that we may not be looking at that erosion problem in its entirety. I think we should take a lesson from Holland in this area where they've utilized their engineering skills in protecting the country. A dyke is something the community should consider for a long-term solution.

The other option is relocating the community. I know Tuktoyaktuk does not want to relocate. So I am going to have to vote against this motion and allow the community to address their emergency situation with the budget that's allocated in the supplementary. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The chair recognizes the Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Just for clarification, from the department's perspective, as we indicated in the letter to the standing committee, this was a request by the hamlet that they be allowed to use capital funding that they would have had the opportunity to spend on one project and direct it to another project under O and M. As I indicated earlier, they would have received the funding through O and M over the next four years anyway through extraordinary funding because of the planning process that was in place for that particular shoreline erosion. Really all we are doing is responding to a request from them to be able to spend the \$400,000 in one year rather than four years.

In relation to whether MACA treats some communities better than others, in this very same appropriation, supplementary, there is a request for \$265,000 for water haul for Fort McPherson. So we don't treat some communities better than others. We respond to community needs as they are identified to us. That same request for the water haul comes under my department and I don't feel that one community is being treated any better than the other. I treat them all the same and I take all their concerns to the management board and it's a joint decision. It's not a decision on the part of the Minister. It's a joint decision. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Steen. The chair recognizes the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Madam Chair. I am a bit torn on this one. The process was raised and the questions were raised as we first reviewed the supplementary and concerns about how this project came into being, and the Minister

responded to questions put to him with a letter, and it's been referenced. The intention initially was relocation because of a potential road and the Minister stated here, again for the record, that it was a request of the community. When the Minister of Finance spoke to it, he also spoke to the request. In here, it talks about emergency repairs. As well, I am familiar with Tuktoyaktuk and I know it's been a problem they've had to deal with. I must agree with my colleague from Tu Nedhe that instead of putting small amounts there, we need to deal with it as best we can.

At the same time, I have reservations, as a couple of other Members have put it, about the planning process and how things fall into place. I understand that in one part of this supplementary it's going back into the coffers so to speak, and then being asked for at another point, and I guess we should say that at least they didn't come in with a special warrant here as we have seen some other things just pop in here without time lines. So they've at least followed that process and heard some concerns from committees.

I guess the big thing is the community has made a request, substantiated it with the erosion problem that seems to have picked up in the last year. I guess they're waiting to hear if the government has accepted that it is an emergency and needs to be done. The letter from the Minister didn't state the emergency and we've been hearing so far on speaking to this motion, we haven't heard of the emergency situation. Knowing and being familiar with it, it is a situation that needs to be dealt with. I guess I would urge the government to start putting some long-term plans together as to what might actually happen. Is there a possibility that we can hold the ocean back and try to keep something going or, as Mr., Nitah, said, maybe look at some engineering to come up with something that might build up the land, and there are examples of that throughout the world? I am not suggesting the Minister and his staff start travelling to these other places to get that. I am sure that information can be easily had through the systems we have in place now. So hopefully we won't see something in the near future where there is a requirement for more funding to take some community members and staff to Holland or Japan or some place like that.

To be more realistic, initially my concern is on the planning, how it unfolded, being unclear as to whether it was a request or an emergency. I was initially leaning towards the motion and supporting it, but knowing the situation of that community and knowing it has come back to us and it is a request from us at this point, I am tending to go with not supporting the motion at this time because even if we say no to it or if we take the money away, there is going to have to be substantial money found to either relocate the community further inland or something like that, which is going to cost more than a few hundred thousand dollars. There is a commitment being made now that the community will not be able to get the \$100,000 a year that was committed to them, so based on those commitments made here in the House, then I cannot support the motion and I would suggest that we follow up in a proper way from this point on.

I think it should be noted that this has been an ongoing problem. Even in the letter it states the federal government was involved as far back as 1971. So Members have stated that we are throwing rocks in the ocean or rubber bags in the ocean. Well, there were a few trial-and-errors and hopefully it's getting

to the point where it's going to work and the rock will stay put and build up some of the shore around it.

There are a few communities around the NWT close to river systems and large water bodies that have been helped by some of these actions that have been taken. Based on that, although a part of me says I want to follow more closely the capital planning process which committee members have highlighted time and time again, at the same time I understand the urgency here and not wanting to cut our nose off to spite our face, sort of thing. Hopefully they will move forward in a respectful manner from this point on. Thank you, Madam Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the motion. The Chair recognizes the Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I will not be supporting the motion. I think there's enough valid reason for doing this, taking remedial action before the situation becomes much worse. I don't accept the arguments put forward by members with respect to Ministers' ridings. This is a small territory, we're all from someplace and work needs to be done everywhere. So I just want to put it on the record that I won't be supporting the motion. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The Chair recognizes Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Madam Chair. It's pretty clear from the Minister's letter that this thing has been going on for the last two years. There has been work with MACA and the community with regard to trying to look at the development of a management plan. Apparently from the letter the Minister wrote, it's not complete. Then you find out that the project has been identified through the regular capital planning process for several years, then all of a sudden it's no longer there. Also with regard to the hamlet operations assistance policy, they did carry out the shoreline erosion work. In 2001-2002 the department implemented the new approach for funding to communities. At that point, the whole idea was to allow the communities to have \$100,000 in their budget to carry out what they were going to do. But what we find out is that in the year 2002-2003 the hamlet was also accessing extraordinary funding to support this project from the department, so it was getting funding for this work through a process.

I think it's important to realize that the whole reason of the capital planning process is to have a system so that the public and we, as Members, know where these expenditures are taking place. But the way I see it, basically because there is no process in place to ensure fairness to all the other communities, this is a perfect example of how a community or a department can undermine the whole process of capital allocation and look at the community municipal policies that we have in place to keep the communities accountable. I feel that this process has been going on too long, that the Cabinet and the process of using supplementary appropriations has been abused. Again we're finding out that that's what is happening.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs knew two years ago that this was a problem and they were working on it. Why was this not continued through the capital planning process? Yet we find out that there's a new way of investing capital, through a process called supplementary appropriations.

That's not the intent of supplementary appropriations. The whole idea of a capital planning process is that's what it is. Some communities up and down the valley don't have capital projects in their riding because they're being told sorry, we have rules, you have to meet these criteria. But in this case, you reinvent the wheel, you find new ways of getting around the whole idea of accountability and also ensuring that there's fairness in the way money is distributed to municipalities and communities up and down the valley.

With that, I know that it's probably a losing battle. I don't know what it's going to take, maybe a motion of non-confidence against this government, because that's where I think we have to go with this one because it doesn't seem like anybody is listening on that side of the House and they can do whatever they want. So that's it.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Question is being called and a recorded vote has been requested. Are members ready to vote? All those in favour of the motion, please rise.

Recorded Vote

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): All those opposed to the motion, please rise.

DEPUTY CLERK (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Roland, Mr. Dent, Mr. Nitah, Mr. Braden, Mr. Steen, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Kakfwi, Mr. Handley, Mr. Allen, Mr. Ootes.

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): All those abstaining, please rise. The results of the vote on the motion: two in favour, 10 opposed, zero abstentions. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Mr. Braden.

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

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): The motion is in order and it is not debatable. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you very much and I will rise and report progress. I thank the Minister and the witness, and thank you for letting me sit here today. It's a beautiful view from here.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now come back to order. May I have the report of Committee of the Whole? The Chair recognizes the honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CHAIRPERSON (Ms. Lee): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Committee Report 9-14(6) and Bill 4, Bill 9 and Bill 11, and would like to report progress with 65 motions being adopted, that Committee

Report 9-14(6) is concluded, and that Bill 4 and Bill 9 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Do we have a seconder for the motion? The honourable Member for Nunakput. Thank you. We have a motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour? Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Chair was watching Committee of the Whole and must say that you look good in the chair; it suits you, Ms. Lee. Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS

Bill 3: Appropriation Act, 2003-2004

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 3, Appropriation Act, 2003-2004, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 3 has had third reading. Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, may we have the orders of the day.

ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Orders of the day for Thursday, March 13, 2003:

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

12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 11-14(6), Extended Adjournment of the House to June 4, 2003
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Bill 11, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 3, 2002-2003
 - Committee Report 3-14(6), Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight Report on the Review of the Draft 2003-2004 Main Estimates
 - Committee Report 4-14(6), Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development Report on the Review of the Draft 2003-2004 Main Estimates
 - Committee Report 5-14(6), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the Draft 2003-2004 Main Estimates
 - Committee Report 6-14(6), Report on the Review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Commissioner's 2001-2002 Annual Report
 - Committee Report 8-14(6), Report on the Review of the "Report of the Auditor General to the NWT Legislative Assembly for 2000 and 2001"
 - Motion 10-14(6), To Change the Strategy to Harmonize Income Support and Social Housing
 - Minister's Statement 28-14(6), Harmonization of Income Support and Public Housing
 - Tabled Document 26-14(6), Letter from Deh Gah Got'ie First Nations Chief Samuel Gargan Regarding the New Rent Scale
 - Tabled Document 31-14(6), Information for Public Housing Tenants: New Rent Scale
 - Tabled Document 41-14(6), List of Organizations Contacted Regarding Harmonization
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Consumer Protection Act

- Bill 9, Youth Justice Statutes Amendment Act

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Thursday, March 13, 2003, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:50 p.m.