



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, June 4, 2003****Members Present**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. McLeod, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford

ITEM 1: PRAYER

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford): Bonjour, mes amis et bienvenue. Welcome back from your well-deserved break. I wish to inform the House that I have received the following message from Her Honour, the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

"Dear, Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise that I recommend to the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories the passage of Supplementary Appropriations Act Number 1, 2003-2004, during the Sixth Session of the 14th Legislative Assembly. Yours truly, Glenna F. Hansen, Commissioner."

Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS**Minister's Statement 42-14(6): Sessional Statement**

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, four years ago we, the 14th Legislative Assembly, promised the people of the Northwest Territories that we would be ambitious and we would challenge the status quo and that we would work together to realize the full potential of our new territory and its residents. In the coming months we will complete almost four years of our work to develop, establish and realize the social, economic and political agenda we are taking in our vision statement, Towards a Better Tomorrow. By the end of this summer, I believe the results and successes of our collective commitment will be much clearer, but still much work needs to be done.

Prior to the election in November, the Tlicho Agreement will need to be ratified by all three parties and signed at the Tlicho assembly planned for Fort Rae in August; that the recently completed Deline agreement-in-principle will need to be signed by all parties; that we will need to work hard to advance negotiations on all other lands and resources at the self-government tables; that the devolution framework agreement must be agreed to and signed by all parties, setting the stage for negotiations of an agreement-in-principle for the transfer of land and resources responsibilities to the Northwest Territories governments; that territorial and federal infrastructure agreements need to be finalized and completed; and that we must continue to work to ensure that northern governments and that communities and the people of the Northwest Territories will have access and can participate in a meaningful way in the pipeline regulatory and planning process; and that pilot projects encompassing the many goals and objectives of our social agenda still need to be initiated.

Mr. Speaker, as we return to the Assembly today, an extensive legislative agenda is ahead of us. We will have to be focussed,

united, serious and committed if we are to complete the agenda we have laid out. One issue in particular will set the context for the session and for the remainder of our mandate. I am referring to the government's financial situation updated by Minister Handley last month. The short and long term elements of these fiscal challenges must be considered in context.

These challenges are not new. In the past, downsizing and federal cuts have created immense challenges for the Government of the Northwest Territories. In fact, when we first took office with this legislature we were within months of hitting the debt wall. We have consistently addressed our fiscal situation positively and with confidence and always with the fundamental belief that investment now in our territory and its residents will pay dividends in the future. Together we have effectively delivered this message of investment to the federal government, the provincial governments, to industry and to our aboriginal partners who now fully support this approach. Today the Northwest Territories is one of the most attractive places in Canada to live, to work and to raise a family.

There is a growing recognition by industry that the Northwest Territories has a stable and attractive investment climate. More importantly, there is growing recognition in Ottawa that changes need to be made to the Northwest Territories formula financing agreement and that per capita funding arrangements are inadequate. It was a point made clear by candidates in the recent Liberal leadership debate in Whitehorse, who all stated repeatedly that financial arrangements for Canada's northern territories need to take into account the unique needs and circumstances of each territory. It was also apparent in February from Canada's First Ministers, who were unanimous in their call for an independent health care fund to make up for the shortfall in federal transfer payments to the territories.

The Prime Minister himself admitted in the House of Commons that current per capita funding arrangements are not satisfactory for territorial governments in that it makes no sense to treat territories exactly the same way as provinces because their populations are too small. Soon after, we were able to reach an agreement with the Prime Minister to increase federal health care funding to the three territories by an extra \$60 million over three years and, more importantly, to launch a process to explore long-term solutions to the inequity of federal per capita funding agreements.

A report, Mr. Speaker, will be provided to the Prime Minister this fall. In the meantime, we remain confident that the federal government, through Finance Minister Manley, will respond positively on tax effort and perversity issues as they relate to the formula. Meanwhile, we will continue to negotiate with our federal and aboriginal partners on the resource revenue sharing agreement that will provide long-term net fiscal benefit for all governments of the Northwest Territories.

This is going to be important during this time in the next few months to show Ottawa, industry and the people of the Northwest Territories that we are together, that we still have a

vision and a plan and that we are sticking to it. Our residents and their governments, both aboriginal and public, are determined to reduce their dependency on the federal government and to have the ability and resources to achieve this objective. Current and projected economic activity in the Northwest Territories will soon make us a net contributor to Canada, contributing more than we receive. Clearly we have outgrown our current funding agreement with Ottawa. We will continue to call upon federal cabinet Ministers and the federal government to move quickly to resolve this issue. With a strong and consistent message from all Members of this House I am confident we will be successful. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Minister's Statement 43-14(6): Seniors' Week

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the week of June 1st to 7th is Seniors' Week. I rise to recognize the seniors of the Northwest Territories and their contributions to our communities and society in the Northwest Territories. They truly are the touchstone to our past and the foundation of our future.

Mr. Speaker, early on in the 14th Legislative Assembly, the Members of this assembly recommended that the Government of the Northwest Territories take steps to improve programming for seniors. The government responded by creating an inter-agency working group to conduct a technical review of existing Government of the Northwest Territories programs and services and then consult with Northwest Territories seniors. This work culminated in the release on June 5, 2002, of the Seniors' Action Plan 2002-2003. The action plan, which was released jointly with the President of the Northwest Territories Seniors' Society at last year's seniors' social tea outlined activities that would be undertaken to strengthen seniors' programs and services in the following year.

Earlier today, on the first anniversary of the release of the Seniors' Action Plan it was my great pleasure to announce the release of the Seniors' Action Plan Status Report and a profile of Northwest Territories seniors in the company of Ms. Patricia Rainmaker, chairperson of the National Advisory Council on Aging, Ms. Beatrice Campbell, the president of the Northwest Territories Seniors' Society, and seniors attending a seniors' social luncheon. A profile of Northwest Territories seniors fulfilled a commitment made in the action plan to research issues facing seniors. It builds on work done previously by the Northwest Territories Health Status Report 1999 and the Northwest Territories Health Services Report 2000.

The profile provides information on indicators related to the health and well-being of seniors, including demographics; social economics; social and cultural characteristics; personal health practices; health status; illness; mortality and use of health services; the extended health benefits; drug plan; home care; and long-term care. It also makes a comparison between seniors in the Northwest Territories, nationally and with other jurisdictions with similar socio-economic characteristics.

The status report details progress made and work completed up to the end of April 2003 on the Seniors' Action Plan. With the release of the profile today, 12 of 28 recommendations from the action plan have been completed. Mr. Speaker, work is on-going on the remaining recommendations. During the

March 2003 Seniors' Forum, seniors identified action plan priorities for the 2003-2004 year and provided valuable feedback on work underway. We can expect over the coming year to see many of the remaining recommendations completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Merci, Monsieur Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Minister Miltenberger.

Minister's Statement 44-14(6): Specialist Negotiations

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I would like to provide an update to Members on the status of the specialist negotiations. As Members know, the Government of the Northwest Territories has been advised that physician specialists declined the Government of the Northwest Territories' final offer to conclude negotiations through a process of binding arbitration. This decision has signalled an unsuccessful conclusion on negotiations with specialists as a group.

Mr. Speaker, this outcome is very disappointing to me. These negotiations have been a top priority for this government because we recognize the valued role that Northwest Territories specialists have within our health care system. We believe that the proposal offered to specialists was fair and competitive and we were prepared to submit a proposal to an independent and impartial arbitrator.

Members of this House are aware of the considerable difference between the Government of the Northwest Territories and the specialists' proposals. The Government of the Northwest Territories has offered a 27 percent increase in total compensation over a two-year period while the specialists' proposal requested a 57 percent increase. Added to this is the announced resignation of 12 of Stanton Territorial Health Authority's specialists on July 1st unless a settlement is reached. It is important to note that all specialist physicians signed individual employment contracts and these specialists must now decide whether or not they wish to remain in the Northwest Territories. While the Government of the Northwest Territories' proposal may not have been satisfactory to the specialists as a group, it is my hope that most specialists will still choose to continue practising their specialty in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to emphasize to this House and the Northwest Territories public that the Government of the Northwest Territories takes this matter very seriously. Access to quality health care remains a priority to this government and a significant shortage of health professionals in any area, including specialized services, presents real pressures on our health care system. The resignation of 12 specialists will have an impact on service delivery in the Northwest Territories; however, Stanton Territorial Health Authority is working to ensure that urgent medical care is in place on July 1st and thereafter while vacancies are filled. While I am hopeful that on July 1st specialized services will continue to be delivered by current Northwest Territories specialists, some services may be provided by temporary locum specialists and others may be available through referral to southern facilities.

I wish to reassure members of the Northwest Territories public that primary health care, that is care provided by general practitioners, nurses and other front line staff in our communities, will continue to be provided to Northwest

Territories residents. People are referred to specialists only if their medical requirements cannot be met by front line health care professionals. I would also like to take this opportunity to let specialists know that they are an important part of our health care system. Although there may be questions about what constitutes appropriate compensation, I can assure you that there is no question about our respect for their contributions to the Northwest Territories health care system and the health of Northwest Territories residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Minister's Statement 45-14(6): Air Quality In The Northwest Territories

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, air is one of the world's most shared resources and clean air is one of its most valuable. Air knows no political or geographical boundaries. Pollutants we put in the air today will affect us tomorrow and in years to come. Today is a good time to contemplate the quality of our air. It is Clean Air Day in Canada. Clean Air Day is about all of us as individuals and as members of our communities making choices that help to create a cleaner and safer world for our families, future generations and ourselves.

The 2001-2002 annual report on the state of air quality in the Northwest Territories will be released today and posted on the department's Web site. This report summarizes information collected on air quality since monitoring first began in 1989.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that air quality in Yellowknife continues to improve since the closure of Giant Mine's roaster in 1999, concentration of sulphur dioxide and arsenic in the air have decreased significantly and are now barely detectable. The dust levels in Yellowknife continued to decline during 2002, and were the lowest recorded in the last decade.

I'm also pleased report that air quality in Fort Liard appears unaffected by ongoing natural gas exploration in the area. Despite this good news, it is critical that we remain vigilant. The increase in development of our natural resources, together with the growth of our communities, has the potential to affect the quality of our air. Thanks to the new partnership with the Government of Canada, the municipalities, the Northwest Territories has been able to establish a network of state-of-the-art air quality monitoring stations. The data gathered through this network will continue to be analyzed and reported to the public through reports such as that being released today.

In the future we anticipate making air quality information accessible through the Internet. We have recently upgraded our existing air quality monitoring stations in Yellowknife and Fort Liard, and are opening new stations in both Norman Wells and Inuvik. We will also be monitoring levels of dust this summer in Fort Simpson.

Mr. Speaker, today being Clean Air Day in Canada, I encourage all Members to breathe deeply and remember the importance and value of our clean air. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfwi.

Minister's Statement 46-14(6): Minister Absent From The House

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members of the House that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment will be absent from the House for the remainder of the week to attend the Ministers of education and labour market meeting that is taking place in Halifax. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Motion To Move Minister's Statement 44-14(6) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that Minister's Statement 44-14(6) be moved into Committee of the Whole for discussion at the appropriate time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order and not debatable. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

The Minister's statement is now moved into Committee of the Whole. Colleagues, before we proceed to the next item, I would like to, with your concurrence, direct your attention to the presence of the Speaker's Gallery of Mr. Yoshikazu Takeuchi, Consul General of Japan, and Mrs. Takeuchi.

---Applause

Accompanying the consul general is Mr. Ai Shimeda, and he's the political/economic analyst for the consul. Please welcome him to our Assembly.

---Applause

My apologies, that's the kimona (sic), Mr. Ai Shimeda. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Gwich'in Memorandum Of Understanding On Government Contracts

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on an issue that's been slandered all over the newspapers, slandered in the communities I represent, and myself as the MLA for Mackenzie Delta, from the so-called boys club called the NWT Construction Association.

Mr. Speaker, the whole idea of negotiated contracts is to help communities build capacity. In our small communities, the unemployment rate goes from 30 percent to almost 40 percent; yet in the larger regional centres, it's six or seven percent unemployment.

Mr. Speaker, the land claim agreements that have been settled between the Gwich'in and the Inuvialuit clearly state the intent is to build capacity and have those people and those organizations be self-sufficient in the future. We talk about self-government agreements, we talk about NWT policies that

are in place. Those policies are there to be used. We have negotiated contracting policies, we have sole-source contracting policies, we have negotiating policies and also we have ways of maximizing benefits to the Northwest Territories such as the BIP, which gives a company 25 percent write-up.

Mr. Speaker, in the land claim agreements it clearly states the intent of the GNWT preferential contracting policies, procedures and approaches is to maximize local, regional and northern employment and business opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, recently you heard about an MOU being signed by the Gwich'in and the Government of the Northwest Territories where it looks at a five-year agreement of 50 percent negotiated contracts. That again flows through the land claim agreements.

Mr. Speaker, we talk about building capacity, we talk about getting our students to go off to post-secondary education, get their trades, go out there and really feel that you're part of the economic development of the Northwest Territories. But when we hear organizations such as the NWT Construction Association telling communities that you're incapable, you don't have the capacity and you cannot handle anything over constructing a house, that's pathetic. In this day and age when we have people in our communities who have gone out of their way to go get a trade, be a journeyman or be a mechanic or be an electrician or be a plumber coming from our communities and then being told sorry, you've gone out of your way, you've taken the program, you're now a journeyman, but you're not qualified to construct a curling rink...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krutko, your time for Member's statement is up. Mr. Krutko.

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

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

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, as I stated, we always encourage the people of the Northwest Territories and especially our First Nations people to get an education, to go out of your way to succeed in developing your career and make some meaningful input into developing capacity in our communities. The biggest challenge we have in the Northwest Territories right now is capacity dealing with people in the trades area. We have the same problem in our communities to attract people that will establish their businesses, raise their families and stay in our communities, and not to see them migrating outwards because those opportunities are not there.

I have always stated I support negotiated contracts and I will continue to do so, because I see the advantages that these things have done in my riding for a lot of people who are now working in the mining industry and the oil and gas industry and other sectors of our economy, started out because of those opportunities. With that, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister some questions on this matter with regard to the Minister responsible for the policies of this government. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Action On Elder Abuse

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. On May 26th of this year at the invitation of the NWT Seniors' Society and Weledeh MLA Joe Handley, I had an opportunity to attend a workshop in Ndilo. It was a workshop about elder abuse, Mr. Speaker. It's a sad and, until now, silent reality for many seniors in the NWT. A similar workshop was held in Hay River a few weeks ago, and more will happen in other communities. The theme, Mr. Speaker, is "Respect Our Elders - They Deserve It." Perhaps the issue is most clearly and plainly stated in a resolution from that Hay River workshop, Mr. Speaker, and that resolution said make it against the law to abuse our elders.

There are no available statistics in the NWT on elder abuse but, Mr. Speaker, it's an issue that's being raised more and more when seniors are getting together. Elder abuse is any action or lack of action that is harmful to health or wellbeing of an elder. It may take the form of physical, emotional, financial or even sexual abuse. In the past when elders have been victimized, they've been hesitant to speak out for fear of the consequences, and especially, Mr. Speaker, it's a difficult thing to talk about when they're suffering abuse at the hands too often of their own families.

The NWT Seniors' Society, supported by this government's seniors' action plan, as the Minister referred to in his statement earlier today, is working to promote zero tolerance for elder abuse in the NWT. They are to be commended for their efforts. Mr. Speaker, we're shining some light on what's been a very dark corner for some of our people, and it's encouraging to see elders speaking out and identifying their own issues and concerns. As the moderator at that workshop said, this is something new and it's about time it happened.

I urge this government to look at the root causes of elder abuse such as over-crowded housing and substance abuse, and later in this session to address that resolution from Hay River which called on us to make elder abuse illegal, when we look at passing the family violence legislation that will enable law enforcement and community officials to act more quickly in family violence and elder abuse situations. Mr. Speaker, the elders of the NWT do deserve this action. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On National Seniors' Week

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Minister Miltenberger indicated in his statement, this is National Seniors' Week. The motto, "Respect Our Elders - They Deserve It," was very fitting. The community which I represent has a very active, vocal and vibrant seniors' society. Their meeting agendas and activities encompass many issues of importance to seniors, from recreation and social activities to housing needs. Through their president, Mr. Lloyd Brunen, they also have a voice on matters of relevance to all seniors in our territory, through the Northwest Territories Seniors' Society.

The Northwest Territories Seniors' Society has also been very active through their toll-free support and information number for seniors, public service announcements and recently workshops convened on the important topic of seniors' abuse, just to name a few of their activities.

With this being National Seniors' Week we are very honoured to have the members of the National Advisory Council on Aging holding their meeting here with representatives from across our country. This council has been in existence for 23 years and this is the first time that they have convened one of their meetings in the Northwest Territories. I would like to thank our Northwest Territories representative publicly, Mr. Lloyd Brunet, for inviting this distinguished group to our territory. I hope they felt welcomed by the Premier's attendance at their gathering this morning and by the reception here in the Great Hall at noon. We hope that they will have productive meetings, and when they return home they will feel that they better know and understand the seniors and the people of the Northwest Territories.

Finally, I would like to recognize and thank all the volunteers, including the seniors themselves in the Northwest Territories who have contributed so much and who work tirelessly to enrich the lives of our seniors. I encourage everyone to especially take note of seniors around them this week and honour them in tangible ways and acknowledge them for who they are, and especially today I would like to send greetings and good wishes to all the seniors of my community in Hay River. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Increases To Power And Gas Rates

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since our last days of sitting in this House I've had an opportunity to speak to constituents of Inuvik. Mr. Speaker, many of the constituents raise issues around the cost of living in Inuvik, around the cost of power, for example, the rate rider that all residents are now paying, and the impact of that increase in their household bills. In a number of cases now, I thought this was rare but it seems to be more often now that I'm hearing from constituents saying that their power bill has jumped from \$200 to \$500, and feeling that they haven't had adequate responses when they've made enquiries.

As well, Mr. Speaker, the news that the natural gas price in Inuvik was going to jump 45 percent and has jumped as of May 1st, a 45 percent increase. I'm waiting to hear what the PUB is going to do about that as the Town of Inuvik has asked that the PUB have a look into it.

Mr. Speaker, as well, the Public Utilities Board held a meeting in Inuvik regarding the power situation and the rate increase they've applied for, and the Town of Inuvik as well as many other community leaders from the region spoke to the Public Utilities Board speaking against any further increases. Along with that, Mr. Speaker, is the uncertainty of what will happen in future years. As an example, Mr. Speaker, there is less seismic being done in the Delta this winter and people are wondering if there will be further work coming up this winter to ensure that they can earn more money to make sure that they can pay their bills that are continuing to climb.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that during this session I will be approaching different Ministers and asking Ministers questions as to what's happening as a result of some of the enquiries made by residents of Inuvik. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On National Seniors' Week

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too would like to recognize Seniors' Week in the Northwest Territories. As several colleagues, including Minister Miltenberger, have announced and noted earlier it is Senior Citizens' Week, a time to highlight the contributions that seniors and elders have made to our culture, heritage and northern society. We did so in part today with the luncheon recognizing seniors and the launching of the government's seniors' action plan status report.

Mr. Speaker, there are many, many respected seniors in the NWT who truly deserve our gratitude, admiration and thanks for bringing us to where we are today. We also need to thank those organizations and groups who work on behalf of seniors, including the NWT Seniors' Society. They provide information and act as a resource for seniors across the Northwest Territories. The Yellowknife Seniors' Society run the Baker's Centre and offer social, recreation and educational programs for seniors.

Mr. Speaker, at the luncheon today I was reminded that my membership was due, so I'm pleased to advise that I am now, once again, a paid-up member in good standing.

Another organization that deserves a lot of credit in Yellowknife is YACCS, the Yellowknife Association of Concerned Citizens for Seniors, who have been working tirelessly towards a new facility for Alzheimer and dementia patients.

Mr. Speaker, most of those active in these organizations are volunteers. Our volunteer seniors compared to seniors nationally, spend more of their time helping. They are a remarkable group here in the North. Despite, Mr. Speaker, all they have given and continue to give, however, NWT seniors live on less income on average than seniors do nationally. In 1999, more than half of all seniors here in the Northwest Territories had an income of less than \$15,000 a year. Mr. Speaker, we must do something about looking at that issue, particularly, Mr. Speaker, because our numbers of seniors are increasing quickly.

As the Minister has indicated in his status report, numbers are expected to double by the year 2020, so we need to be prepared, we need to plan for this and be ready to support the needs of seniors. We need Alzheimer and dementia care facilities in place soon. We already know, for instance, that one in three of us can expect to need special care in our old age.

Mr. Speaker, let's show our elders the respect they deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On NWT Track And Field Championships

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my pleasure to be back here in this chamber with you and the rest of my esteemed colleagues. Mr. Speaker, while this may be the first day of our session, I'm going to be flying home to Hay River tonight so that I can attend the opening ceremonies of the 2003 NWT Track and Field Championships. The championships will be held tomorrow and Friday, June 5th and 6th, and promises it to be a fantastic event.

Mr. Speaker, this is the 13th year that Hay River has hosted this event that showcases athletes from all around the Northwest Territories. Right from the start of the opening ceremonies, Mr. Speaker, to the moment that the flame is extinguished to signify the end of the championships, it is wonderful to see the look of pride on the athletes' faces as they represent their respective school and communities. Mr. Speaker, the spirit and enthusiasm, camaraderie and sportsmanship shown by these kids is truly something to behold.

I continue, Mr. Speaker, to be in awe of the logistics involved in organizing such a large event. Last year there were approximately 1200 athletes and coaches involved. Mr. Speaker, an event of this magnitude would not be possible without a tremendous amount of volunteers. Volunteers are the engine that drive events such as this. Every year at this time, Hay River showcases its volunteer drive engine by hosting such events as the NWT Track and Field Championships and the Knights of Columbus Lobster Fest. Combined, these two events require the dedicated, hard work of some 350 volunteers. Mr. Speaker, time does not permit me today to list all of the volunteers from Hay River who help to make the NWT Track and Field Championships such a success year after year. I would like to collectively thank all of our volunteers and the business community of Hay River who always step up to the plate to ensure this event is an overwhelming success.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank the coordinators, Gordon Miller and Tim Borchuk, all the success possible in this year's track and field championships. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Community Consultations On The GNWT Capital Planning Process

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome everybody back to the House and take the opportunity today to talk about the capital planning process which this government uses.

Mr. Speaker, I was relieved when Cabinet made a commitment at the end of April to reinstate the practice of consulting with communities and MLAs to decide what projects go into which community. I think this is a positive step in ensuring the needs of all Northerners are being considered.

Mr. Speaker, in the past few weeks I have travelled with the government representatives to three of the four communities in my riding. Meetings were held in Rae-Edzo, Wha Ti and Gameti to discuss what capital planning is, what types of projects are funded and how much money is not available. As

we all know, this government is in serious financial difficulty. Mr. Speaker, people in my communities were very pleased to see the government officials and to be asked for their input into the projects. Mr. Speaker, I enjoyed these meetings myself and I am looking forward to travelling to Wekweti on June 16th with these same officials.

Mr. Speaker, as useful as these meetings are, I am concerned that false hopes are being raised. I say this because decisions about which projects are going to be funded in the Territories are made at the deputy minister level, but it is not the deputy ministers who are going to the communities and hearing the needs of the people. I'm also concerned that, as long as deputy ministers continue to select the projects based on the same five criteria that were already in place, these community meetings are merely a front. I am worried that they might be a look good-feel good exercise with no actual changes made to help projects be selected.

Mr. Speaker, during the February session I mentioned that the first criteria in selecting projects to fund is the protection of people, the second criteria is the protection of assets. Despite these guidelines, we see money allocated and priority given to a campground when there is not enough for a health centre in Wekweti which could save lives.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Cabinet to continue to seek input from the public and from Members when the actual decisions are made about which projects are funded. By doing this, the community consultations that have already occurred will be of benefit and the needs of all Northerners will be considered fairly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Canadian Forces Day

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we heard a number of good events recognized here today: Seniors' Week, Clean Air Day. I'd like to add another, Mr. Speaker, and I have a lapel pin commemorating that the first Sunday in June has now been proclaimed Canadian Forces Day, and it recognizes contributions of our navy, army, air force in Canada and the good work they do around the world, Mr. Speaker. These folks are involved in defense of Canada, NATO, humanitarian and disaster assistance, search and rescue and peacekeeping. On June 1st Canadians recognize members for their service, and these folks are present in every province and territory across Canada. Here in the North, Canadian Forces Northern Area 440 Squadron took part in an open house at the YK Airport as part of National Transportation Week.

There are over 100,000 members who form the National Defense family across the country, Mr. Speaker, made up of a regular force of about 60,000 men and women, 19,000 civilians, 400 rangers, 2000 junior rangers, 60,000 Cadets, and 130,000 military families. Canadian Forces Northern Area personnel have the task of protecting our northern sovereignty. The CFNA headquarters is located in Yellowknife and it does conduct operations for the entire Arctic, including Nunavut and the Yukon. In town there are 150 northern personnel who manage an area of almost four million square kilometres, Mr. Speaker. In the North, we have 23 Cadet Corps involving 400 youth, and I was fortunate enough, Mr. Speaker, last May 10th to attend the 30th annual inspection of the Royal Canadian Air

Cadets at the 440 hangar here in Yellowknife. There were a lot of proud families and parents there. It was a very nice event.

The Northern Canadian Rangers, Mr. Speaker, also do patrols of remote and isolated areas, and the Junior Canadian Rangers promote traditional cultures and lifestyles through youth activities. Something probably not very well known, Mr. Speaker, this northern presence that we have in the Northwest Territories puts more than \$29 million into the northern economy. So I'd like to ask my fellow Members, Mr. Speaker, to join me in acknowledging the contributions of the Canadian Forces in the North, in Canada and, indeed, internationally. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Member's Statement On Settlement Of Physician Specialist Negotiations

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as you and the Members of this House are aware, I have been working hard to encourage the government to settle the contract with the specialists. With the information he released to the public yesterday, the Minister and the government are now engaged in a full-scale public relations war with the specialist doctors. It is highly regrettable that it has come to this, Mr. Speaker, but it is still my fervent hope that the two parties will come to a negotiated settlement in the time still remaining.

The cost of not reaching a deal, in my view, will be deep and wide reaching with long-term consequences. As one of my constituents put it in one of her e-mails to me, the cost of replacing these fine physicians is going to be astronomical. The cost of sending patients south to simply have a baby or have a heart stress test is going to be astronomical.

Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious issue and one that everyone in this House and our communities should get involved in, in order to resolve this paralysis situation. I intend to pursue this vigorously during the session inside and outside of this House, and this is just day one, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I'm especially concerned about the contingency plan the Minister has put forward and, frankly speaking, Mr. Speaker, this is no plan at all. In fact, I believe it poses a real potential for risk and danger to the health of our residents. I feel strongly that not settling a contract with specialists is not an option. We would have been put 100 steps backward in the progression of medicine in the North, Mr. Speaker, and I believe we will continue to hear more from the people out there about this and they will make sure that the Minister and the government and this House do the right thing, and they do everything in their power to settle the contract with the specialists so that we maintain and improve our healthcare system we have now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Member's Statement On National Seniors' Week

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to also recognize this week as being Seniors' Week. Coming from my Dene background, as you know, our elders

play a key role in our society; not only in Dene, but society in general. So I'd like to recognize and say mahsi, thank you to all the elders for the work that you've done to prepare us here in the North. I'm speaking specifically about the Dene in the Deh Cho. The elders in the Deh Cho government play a big key role. As you know, publicly there's going to be a Deh Cho assembly coming up in Kakisa pretty soon, and the elders are going to be screening the different candidates that are going to be putting their names forward to see whether they're living a suitable lifestyle according to the elders. From that process the candidates will be selected to be Grand Chief of the Deh Cho. In this way, in our culture and in other cultures in the North as well, we place our elders, the seniors in a very important role. We continue to do that in the North and we should continue to do that, because for the elders we are very young here. Some of us are very, very young and some of aren't that young, but we are getting closer to being seniors as well. In fact, one Member here says he has his membership paid up. So we are in the age of getting closer as well. But the point here, Mr. Speaker, is that our elders are there. They are there for us and I would like to commend the Minister and the department and all the different agencies that help the elders to play a meaningful role here in the North and we will continue to do so. Mahsi to all the elders and seniors. Mahsi.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Antoine. 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 142-(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Lafferty on March 3, 2003, regarding the GNWT harmonization initiative.

Specifically Mr. Lafferty asked me whether the implementation of this program would continue even if the majority of the Members were against the program. Mr. Speaker, on March 11, 2003, the Members of the Assembly voted to defer the implementation of the harmonization initiative until no later than March 31, 2004. The harmonization initiative is currently under comprehensive review by a working group of regular Members and Ministers. I trust this working group will come to a consensus on this initiative. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 201-14(6): Status Of The Stanton Intensive Care Unit

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Bell on March 10, 2003 regarding the number and cost of medevacs resulting from closure of the intensive care unit at Stanton Territorial Hospital.

From June 14, 2002 to March 31, 2003 35 NWT patients were medevaced south as a result of the closure of the intensive care unit. The cost of these medevacs was \$514,500. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 4, returns to oral questions. the honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

Return To Question 239-14(6): Polar Bear Logo Agreement

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Oral Question asked by Mr. Bill Braden, MLA, Great Slave, on March 13, 2003, regarding the polar bear logo agreement between the Government of the Northwest Territories and Sirius Diamonds Limited.

As the Member had indicated in the House, the settlement agreement between the GNWT and Sirius Diamonds Limited is a business arrangement. As with many such business arrangements, there are some confidential elements, which need to be respected. Whether or not there was a payment made by Sirius Diamonds Limited for the exclusive right to use a polar bear on the girdle of a polished diamond is one such element of the agreement that is confidential.

I can assure you that, through this agreement, the interests and trademark assets of the GNWT have been protected and we have ensured the ability of the GNWT to manage and control the polar bear trademarks globally. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize one of the most respected orthopedic surgeons at Stanton, a fine man and, most importantly, one of my constituents, Dr. Jim Corkal.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to recognize the house leader at home, my wife Theresa, and Barb Saunders at the Status of Women and the others ladies with the council. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to say welcome to all those people who have come to see their government and the Assembly. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to recognize Theresa Handley, the house leader from Prelude Lake and thank her for opening her home last night to Members of the Assembly for a lovely evening. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Any further recognitions? Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 240-14(6): Benefits Of Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Premier. It's with regard to my statement looking at the negotiated contracts and the policies of this government. I fully support negotiated contracts on the basis that it does build capacity and it also deals with a crucial problem in a lot of our communities dealing with having 30 percent unemployment and also improving the social aspects of our communities by offering people an alternative to income support. So I would like to ask the Premier where this government stands when we look at dealing with the problems with regard to reducing poverty in our communities and also looking at improving employment opportunities for Inuvialuit and Gwich'in people in our communities, so they can have meaningful employment. Is that still a priority of this government, to ensure that local and northern residents receive every opportunity to benefit from public dollars expended in our communities and those dollars remaining in our communities and not simply being given to southern contractors?

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

Return To Question 240-14(6): Benefits Of Negotiated Contracts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The government continues to hold those goals and objectives as its priorities. So we are still in support of trying to achieve and remove the inequities that are present in many of our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Supplementary To Question 240-14(6): Benefits Of Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to my question to the Premier, looking at the social statistics and knowing we have high unemployment rates, high quality of life issues of housing, quality of education, different levels of opportunities in our communities where a contract would come by once every five years, do you look at the social conditions in our communities when contracts are let, so that we can use negotiated contracts?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 240-14(6): Benefits Of Negotiated Contracts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, yes. We do look at the community capacity and the unemployment, the economic situation in communities when considering issues like this. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 240-14(6): Benefits Of Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, my question to the Premier is as the MLA for Mackenzie Delta, when the press releases that came out, it's simply that they came to me and I give them a contract and you go on your way. I would like to ask the

Premier to explain how the process of approval is done and what happens after the agreement, the contract is approved through Cabinet. Who makes the ultimate decision on how contracts are going to be let and who makes the final approval?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko.

Further Return To Question 240-14(6): Benefits Of Negotiated Contracts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as work required by the government is identified, there are sometimes communities or individuals in communities that request consideration for contracts to be negotiated with them, sole source contracts. I can't tell you specifically the process, but we receive these and we usually pass them on to the responsible Minister. That is assessed by the departments, the responsible department and the Minister checks with the MLA whose constituency that request comes and ensures that it is deemed in the best interest of the community and the public if we consider that and usually community support in some form is sought as well. When the Minister feels he has sufficient support, it would allow him to proceed to Cabinet to ask him for a mandate to negotiate such an arrangement, then it comes to Cabinet. Once that is done, the department, once it seeks approval to proceed, then tries to negotiate an acceptable arrangement within the mandate it receives. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 240-14(6): Benefits Of Negotiated Contracts

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Premier if the government has ever done a cost analysis with regard to the benefits of negotiated contracts or contracts in general, especially when we look at the social aspects of unemployment and opportunities in the NWT. We hear a lot of comments being made that we are actually importing people in from Newfoundland to do drywall in the communities and construction of buildings in the NWT. That could be done locally. Has the Minister done a cost-analysis of all contracts in the NWT to see what the benefit to the NWT is and ensuring that those resources and dollars expended on capital projects remain in the NWT?

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

Further Return To Question 240-14(6): Benefits Of Negotiated Contracts

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, we have not done such a study or review.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Question 241-14(6): Elder Abuse

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon will be for Mr. Miltenberger as the Minister of Health and Social Services. It is a follow-up to the issue of elders and elder abuse in the NWT. The question I would like to pose is as this issue is for the better, now it's starting to come out in the open, where can an elder go? What is the front line of response when an elder feels there is something wrong or

perhaps when a friend or family member of an elder recognizes that there may be some abuse going on, where can they go for help? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 241-14(6): Elder Abuse

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the community level is the starting point whether it be the RCMP, a social worker or a nurse, any of the frontline staff that are currently working in Health and Social Services or other helping agencies could assist. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 241-14(6): Elder Abuse

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the many causes of abuse and frustration within families is areas such as overcrowding and poverty. I wanted to ask the Minister to what extent is his department teaming up with or working with or perhaps trying to harmonize with other departments to get to the root causes of abuse, of physical, social and emotional tension among families. Is the Department of Health and Social Services, Mr. Speaker, working with other departments to address these causes of abuse?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 241-14(6): Elder Abuse

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a collaborative effort within government. For example, this year's action plan which will be tabled later today, which I referred to in my Minister's statement, is an interdepartmental cooperative effort including housing. Housing has a very aggressive and progressive initiative to put in seniors' housing units. We are working with the family violence coalition. We are, as well, working on family violence legislation as a cooperative government effort with Members of this Assembly. In very many areas there is that approach outlined by my colleague. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 241-14(6): Elder Abuse

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, we know that one of the things this Assembly is going to address in this area will be legislation to help authorities address areas of violence as we talk about the family violence legislation. What other definitive steps does the Minister and his department have in terms of addressing elder abuse? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 241-14(6): Elder Abuse

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there was a family violence action plan that was done and includes extensive references in all areas and outlines elders, capacity building, training that's required, prevention, as well as education awareness. Mr. Speaker,

these are all areas where there is a need to make people more aware of the issue that my colleague has raised in this House along with some of his colleagues and it is being addressed with NGOs, with government and the Department of Health and Social Services, as well as other departments in government. Thank you.

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

Question 242-14(6): Contingency Plan For Specialty Physician Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, further to my Member's statement today, my questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services and it's in regard to the contingency plan that he's announced in the media and elsewhere. Mr. Speaker, it appears to me that the two prongs of his plan are to rely on the locums to provide specialist services. As well, he's stated on many occasions that he expects the GPs, the general practitioners, otherwise known as family doctors, to fill in where the specialists may vacate.

Mr. Speaker, I can tell you that this plan is so weak that I could put a hole through it as big as Great Slave Lake. Mr. Speaker, I am aware that there are at least 12 sets of parents expecting babies this month and I know that at least one of them is being asked by the family doctor to induce labour, so that they don't have to travel and they don't have to rely on this locum that is unqualified.

MR. SPEAKER: Ms. Lee, may we have a question, please?

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In light of the fact that the family doctor and the expectant mother have no faith in the locum that he has in place for July and August, how can he ensure the health of mothers and babies? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 242-14(6): Contingency Plan For Specialty Physician Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we, as a health and social services system, working with professionals that run the system, are coming up with a contingency plan. We have coverage for July and August. We will hire qualified people and services will be there and, if necessary, if there is more extensive support required, an arrangement will be made with the capital health authority. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 242-14(6): Contingency Plan For Specialty Physician Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am going with the information the Minister provided and, no disrespect to this locum who I am sure is doing his best to serve, but my understanding is he is a 76-year-old man who is retired who doesn't specialize in obstetrics and gynecology and he's going to be asked to deliver babies for July and August and the mothers and family doctors have no faith in this doctor. I want the Minister to answer to these expectant mothers and these families how he is going to ensure the health and safety of these babies and mothers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 242-14(6): Contingency Plan For Specialty Physician Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand ready to answer to this House and to the people of the Northwest Territories. We are in a situation that is unfortunate, but we are taking steps to provide coverage that is required so that the health of Northerners is not jeopardized. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 242-14(6): Contingency Plan For Specialty Physician Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the only answer he is giving is empty words. We are going by the information that he has provided and there is no assurance there that the medical services required for something as simple and routine as delivering a baby will be provided. So can he be more precise about what he's planning on doing to take on the health of expectant mothers and babies? I need an answer to that question, Mr. Speaker. He hasn't answered it.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 242-14(6): Contingency Plan For Specialty Physician Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I have answered the question. Unfortunately, the Member does not like the answer. But I will restate that we will provide, we are going to have coverage, we have obstetrics coverage for July and August with qualified, trained personnel and they will see to the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories. We also have arrangements with the Capital Health Authority. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 242-14(6): Contingency Plan For Specialty Physician Services

MS. LEE: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe the issue is whether or not I like his answer. I do not believe the Minister is a medical doctor. I am going by what family doctors are saying. They have no faith in the locums that he has in place for July and August. They are advising mothers to either induce labour or travel to Edmonton. What is he doing about it? He is not answering my question. It is not about whether I like the question or not, he has an obligation to provide the services to the mothers to deliver their babies safely. What is his answer, Mr. Speaker?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Just for the information of the House, the Minister has a responsibility to answer the question or not to answer the question or to take it as notice and it is up to the Minister however he wishes to answer the question. It is not up to the chair to decide whether he has answered it or not, suffice it to say that he does get up and answer. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 242-14(6): Contingency Plan For Specialty Physician Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My job as Minister is to ensure to the maintenance of the health and social services system, to deal with issues in a careful, measured way, not to promote fear and concern and needless apprehension among the people. Mr. Speaker, the Member has raised and thrown out a number of third hand comments that I have no knowledge of, I have no context, I have no way to verify what she has said, so I am not in a position to address what may be considered hearsay at this point. Thank you.

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

Question 243-14(6): Supplementary Health Benefits Consent Form

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question as well would be directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services in the area of the advertisement that has been out in the media for quite some time on television and radio about the consent forms that the federal government is looking for aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories to sign. I would like to know from the Minister if they have looked into this form. There have been issues raised around the nature of the questions and information being provided. So, I would like to know if his department has had a chance to look at that form and respond. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Miltenberger.

Return To Question 243-14(6): Supplementary Health Benefits Consent Form

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in fact, yes, we are very clearly aware of this particular form that the federal government has put forward and is attempting to implement. We have looked at it, we have heard the concerns of the affected stakeholders and the aboriginal governments. We are also aware very clearly that the Government of Nunavut has taken a position in support of the concerns raised by their constituents, that this form, as it is constructed, is problematic. It has a lot of potential impact that has not been addressed. We share the same concerns and we are currently working on a response, a public response, that will be as supportive as we can to those concerns raised by the aboriginal people and the aboriginal governments and the Government of Nunavut. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 243-14(6): Supplementary Health Benefits Consent Form

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister stated they were supportive of the other government and the aboriginal governments, but what are we telling residents to do here? The deadline I believe is September. I do not know if it is the end of the month of September, but what happens if in fact residents decline to send in that consent form? What happens to their health card? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 243-14(6): Supplementary Health Benefits Consent Form

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, very fundamentally, the Government of the Northwest Territories will no way take part in any process that would jeopardize the health and well-being of any of our citizens. So, regardless of what happens with the consent form the services that people need will be there. We will sort through the administration issues that have arisen as a result of this consent form. I would just like to reassure my colleague that nobody is going to be denied any access to the Northwest Territories' health services because they have failed to fill out a federal consent form. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 243-14(6): Supplementary Health Benefits Consent Form

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister stating that if people in the Northwest Territories do not sign this form their health care will still be covered and we are okay there? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 243-14(6): Supplementary Health Benefits Consent Form

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the way the non-insured health benefits program works, our relationship with the federal government is that we administer the program, we pay the costs, send the bill to the federal government. So we will continue to do that, then we will engage in the process as we have done and continue to do, protracted as it may be, with the federal government trying to get payment for the invoices that we have submitted as we try to sort through the impact and fall out of the federal government's initiative. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 243-14(6): Supplementary Health Benefits Consent Form

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Is there the potential that the federal government will not pay for residents who have not signed the consent forms? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 243-14(6): Supplementary Health Benefits Consent Form

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we have years' worth of invoices with federal health, as well as federal Indian Affairs on health programs, totalling almost \$25 million. So, dealing with the federal government is a time consuming, often gruelling, process. This is yet another factor that we are going to have to deal with in terms of paying for the services that we provide on their behalf. We will not jeopardize the health and well-being of the citizens. We will work very vigorously to ensure that the federal government pays what they owe and not use some kind of, what may be seen as an

administrative shell game to avoid paying off-loading services. Thank you.

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

Question 244-14(6): Protecting Seniors From Family Violence

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are also for the Minister responsible for Seniors and they have to do with elder abuse. Mr. Speaker, a couple of years ago I attended a workshop on elder abuse offered here in Yellowknife and there were some resource people from Alberta who talked about how features of the Family Violence Prevention Act can help deal with this issue. With Justice working on a similar act for the Northwest Territories for introduction during this session, what has the Minister done to ensure protection for seniors is reflected in the act that is coming forward for our consideration?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Miltenberger.

Return To Question 244-14(6): Protecting Seniors From Family Violence

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that particular piece of legislation is moving on a significant fast track. We will all be looking at making sure that it meets the needs of all the people that are considered under family violence, of which elders are a key component. So that particular concern will be reflected in there. At this point it is in a very preliminary stage and I cannot speak definitively as to what that will be constituted as or how it will be constituted, but there will be that reference. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 244-14(6): Protecting Seniors From Family Violence

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in answer to Mr. Braden the Minister talked about a family violence prevention council or committee that was providing advice. Were there any specific representatives of seniors on that council?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services and seniors, Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 244-14(6): Protecting Seniors From Family Violence

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: As far as I know, Mr. Speaker, there was.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Supplementary, Mr. Dent. Okay. We will continue on with the honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 245-14(6): Community Consultations On The GNWT Capital Planning Process

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Deputy Premier, the Honourable Jim Antoine. During my Member's statement I raised concerns that, unless

departments change their actual method for selecting capital projects for funding, the community consultations that are occurring are a waste of time. I would like to ask the Deputy Premier, what direction has Cabinet given to the deputy ministers to ensure that their criteria for selecting projects includes the priorities of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Sorry. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, I have to take that question as notice. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The question has been taken as notice. Oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Question 246-14(6): Medical Travel Co-Payments

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since being elected over three years ago one topic that has constantly caused hardship for the constituents that I represent is the Government of the Northwest Territories medical travel co-payment. I have been bringing the same issue up for over three years and will continue to do so until a remedy is found. In response to a number of questions posed by MLAs including myself during the last session in March on the medical travel co-payment, the Minister of Health and Social Services indicated at the time, "...this is one item in the supplementary health benefits review. I am aware of its pressing nature, but we have to do this in a broader framework and we have to do this with a plan that is going to stand scrutiny and make sense and not cost us money that we do not have, but also recognize the need to close gaps that currently exist in our system." Here we are in June, Mr. Speaker, and I would like to ask the Minister exactly where his department is with this review and how much progress has been made to date? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Lost 10 seconds for station identification. We are back on the air. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Miltenberger.

Return To Question 246-14(6): Medical Travel Co-Payments

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are proceeding with the broad review of supplementary health benefits, but as I indicated previously, we have taken out the medical co-payment issue on an interim basis to come forward with what we hope will be a good remedy while we conclude the supplementary health benefits review. That document will be on my desk this week. Hopefully I will be in a position to bring this forward so that it can be reviewed by the Members before this House rises.

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

Supplementary To Question 246-14(6): Medical Travel Co-Payments

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am encouraged by the answer of the Minister and I am hoping that we indeed see that document before the end of the session. We have heard today and we all know about the situation at Stanton Territorial Health Authority and the possibility of Stanton Territorial Health Authority being short some

specialists in the future. I am wondering if the Minister has a contingency plan to deal with the medical benefits in the North. Will the residents of Yellowknife, or all non-insured residents of Yellowknife, have to deal with this co-payment should they have to go elsewhere for health treatment in the short-term period while being a shortage? Will everybody have to deal with this medical co-payment or are they setting up a different plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Delorey. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Minister Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 246-14(6): Medical Travel Co-Payments

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is our intention to have prior to July 1st a contingency plan that will speak to the issue of the co-payments and the services that are required by those people that do not have third party coverage so they are not needlessly disadvantaged as we carry forward and finalize the discussions with the specialists and the government. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 247-14(6): Proposed NWT Sport And Recreation Board

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs and I have had quite a few constituents contact me in the last couple of weeks with respect to the new proposed sport and recreation board. There is a report that was provided to the Governance and Economic Development committee and there are recommendations contained in that report which would see the formation and appointment of a new board. What is the status of this? Is it a done deal? Is it going to happen? I would like to ask the Minister that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Minister Steen.

Return To Question 247-14(6): Proposed NWT Sport And Recreation Board

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department up to May 25th of this past month was proceeding with plans to put in place the board. As a matter of fact, the interim coordinating team was identified and did have a first meeting on May 14th with a future meeting planned for June. It was that particular team that would put together the plans as to where the board would go from that point on and at what pace we would establish this particular board. An audit was in coordination and we had cooperation up to then from Sport North and all the members we were aware of at that time, anyway, were in favour of putting forward the board, although there was some dissatisfaction expressed over the past year by some territorial sports organizations with the formation of the board. The majority of the sports organizations and recreational groups in the territory did support the formation of the board and as far as we know still support the formation of the board. But as Members know, Mr. Speaker, on May 25th, Sport North came out with a motion indicating that they were not satisfied with the establishment of the board and they would like more

information before making a decision as to whether to continue to support the formation of this territorial sports board. The department has not received anything official from that particular meeting in regards to whether or not we would ask to meet with the Sport North officials. My department's officials are available to meet with Sport North officials, but we are waiting for them to contact us officially. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 247-14(6): Proposed NWT Sport And Recreation Board

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it does seem that there is quite a bit of unhappiness about the establishment of this new board within the Sport North organization and with some of the territorial sport organizations as well. One of their concerns is that this forms another level of administration which is going to eat up dollars that could go directly to supporting young people in recreation and sport activities. Could the Minister just kind of briefly outline for me what was the impetus behind the establishment of this board? It is quite a significant overhaul of how money is distributed and how sport and recreation is overseen. It is quite a change and I am just wondering, what was the driving force or the impetus for this change? Where did it come from? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Minister Steen.

Further Return To Question 247-14(6): Proposed NWT Sport And Recreation Board

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just a little bit of background on that. The driving force, the reason there is to form a territorial sports board was as a result of meetings that were held between all the sports organizations and recreation organizations in the territory over the last couple of years. It was as a result of some dissatisfaction expressed by community leaders, some Legislative Assembly Members, in particular from small communities as to the ability for people in the small communities to take advantage of the sports activities on a larger scale. In other words, smaller communities felt that they did not have the same opportunities as larger centres to take part in either territorial sports activities or national or international activities. Therefore, they were suggesting that there should be a different make-up of the Sport North board. They figured it was a little bit too heavy in favour of the larger centres. Those were some of the concerns expressed by local community leaders as well as Legislative Assembly Members. Now, as a result of this, the previous Minister set up this information gathering effort to see whether or not there were grounds to actually proceed with some form of new sport and recreation board. It was well recognized that in order to do this you would have to take some of the authority away from the Sport North, because they have the authority right now to distribute lottery funding, subject, of course, to the Minister's approval. It has been basically run this way for the last 25 years or so. Sport North has been basically the one that has been distributing the funding, based on guidelines.

This type of situation that is raising some concerns with Sport North members as to whether or not...

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, thank you, thank you, Mr. Minister. That answers the question. I just want to remind the

House that a long, long answer is probably best to send the whole policy over to the other side. Short supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 247-14(6): Proposed NWT Sport And Recreation Board

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the point that the Minister raised on the consultation that took place in the meetings over the past two years and also the information gathering, it's interesting because those are two of the points raised in a motion that was passed by Sport North on May 25th. They felt there was not enough consultation and that in fact information that would have articulated what people's concerns are would have been and could have been better addressed. So it seems like there's a miscommunication here. Is the Minister willing to take any initiative to contact them? I know part of their motion indicated that they would provide relevant data to MLAs, Minister and partners and the public in every forum possible. They obviously haven't found a forum yet to get this information to you. Would you take the initiative to have your people talk to their people and try to get this resolved? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen.

Further Return To Question 247-14(6): Proposed NWT Sport And Recreation Board

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department has already indicated to Sport North officials that we're willing to meet with them. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen. That was final. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

Question 248-14(6): Contingency Plan For Physician Specialist Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question again is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, and it's in regard to the contingency plan that he's laid out for us. The Minister has been assuring us that the level of services in the hospital will be maintained by the use of locums in the short-term, and in the long run he's hoping to be able to replace, if there are any vacancies because of the specialists' walkout, with new ones. But, Mr. Speaker, we are aware that there are at least seven vacant specialist positions at Stanton Hospital, and four of them have been vacant for up to two years. So I'd like to know on what basis the Minister thinks that if these specialists walk out on July 1st he'll be able to find new ones to replace them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 248-14(6): Contingency Plan For Physician Specialist Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's not hypothetical, it's a somewhat premature question. We've been working to try to conclude successful agreements with specialists. We have put together a contingency plan and that is being worked on daily as we

speak, to make sure that we provide as complete coverage as possible.

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

Supplementary To Question 248-14(6): Contingency Plan For Physician Specialist Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is speaking out of both sides of his mouth. On the one hand he says he's offered a final offer and the doctors have rejected it, and when he's asked hard questions about his dealing with the contingency plan he says there might not be a need for it. Mr. Speaker, he has not answered my question. It is general knowledge that locums often cost more money, and chances are he's not going to be able to find new specialists unless he offers more money than what he's offering now. So I'd like to know how does his cost and benefit analysis figure out here. Why is he willing to spend more money on locums, more money for new specialists but not willing to settle a contract with the existing specialists? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 248-14(6): Contingency Plan For Physician Specialist Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have put a very competitive offer of a 27 percent pay increase on the table, and I would like to point out in this House that over the past number of months we have also negotiated an agreement with the UNW staff for three years, three percent per year, and we've also successfully concluded negotiations with the general practitioners and fee for service. So now we have 18 specialists left that we are negotiating with, and that we have put an offer on the table for 27 percent, and we are more than willing to sign a deal that is reasonable and sustainable. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 248-14(6): Contingency Plan For Physician Specialist Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is still not answering my question. I'd like to know what are the details of his cost benefit analysis on comparing the cost of not settling this contract and letting the specialists go, and all the incurring costs to send patients south, to hire locums, to get extra money to hire new specialists. Where is his cost and benefit analysis? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 248-14(6): Contingency Plan For Physician Specialist Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, one of the key factors is the question of sustainability. There is an offer by us of a 27 percent increase. The specialists have asked for 57 percent. We have looked at those costs, we have looked at the other upward pressures that that would result in, we have come up with a contingency plan that is evolving as we speak that will get better as we approach July 1st. As well, we remain interested and willing to sign any

deals that are possible with the specialists, and we have a 27 percent increase that was our final cash offer. We've offered final and binding arbitration as a government. So we have made, I think, every reasonable effort at this point. The specialists are going to require some time to look at what was offered and we'll deal with that in the short term. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 248-14(6): Contingency Plan For Physician Specialist Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, his miserable offer is not getting us anywhere at all. He has doctors who have said no to his contract, he's facing the extra cost of locums, so I'd like to know, Mr. Speaker, what is he willing to put in a new proposal so that there is any possibility of bridging a gap between the two parties so that by any calculations, settling a contract with the existing specialists will cost him less money and less headache, I might add, than to start a new negotiation with new specialists. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 248-14(6): Contingency Plan For Physician Specialist Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a final offer of binding arbitration on the table at this point, and I think it's still a very satisfactory compromise to a significant gap between 27 percent and 57 percent. At this point, to do more right now would be, in effect, just bargaining with ourselves. There's an issue and there are offers there. There are factors to be considered. That will be done. We have three weeks left until July 1st. Thank you.

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

Question 249-14(6): Shortages Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services and it's in regard to the lack of professionals in our communities, especially when it comes to our frontline workers. I'm talking in particular about the alcohol and drug program which has been nil in existence for almost two years, where those dollars have been allocated it has been sitting in Inuvik at the Inuvik Regional Health Board, but there's a very high requirement to have someone in the community of Aklavik to help people with alcohol and drug problems and also deal with the day-to-day pressures that are within our small communities. I'd like to ask the Minister, knowing that we don't have a lot of these positions already filled in our communities and also what he's doing to ensure that that position is filled.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 249-14(6): Shortages Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government has made a commitment to invest its funds to raise the pay of alcohol and drug workers

who are going to be called prevention workers, to bring the majority of them in as board employees. There is a problem in Aklavik, as the Member has stated, and the Member has been very vigilant and persistent in raising that issue on behalf of the community of Aklavik. Mr. Speaker, the intention is to work with the Inuvik Health and Social Services Board to hire an individual to live in the community, to provide those services that would be a board employee but residing in Aklavik. They are working on the reclassifications of the various positions as we speak, and it is our hope within the next few months to be able to staff the position in Aklavik. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 249-14(6): Shortages Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't believe the community of Aklavik can wait a few months. People are being refused access to alcohol and drug programs because the services are not offered in the community. We have children who are being excused from the classroom because of behaviour problems, not being able to have counsellors in the community to assist these children. This is an essential service in a small community, and I think it's important as a government that we assist wherever we know that those pressures are in our communities, especially alcohol which has a high impact on our communities. It has to be dealt with and we have to look at alternatives. I'd like to ask the Minister can he move a lot faster than having to wait a few months?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 249-14(6): Shortages Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will continue to push the department to do the necessary reclassifications and all the other administrative steps we have to follow as soon as possible, and for them to speed up where possible. I'll also commit to the Member that we'll have contact made with Inuvik to see if there are ways, while that process is completing itself, to provide better support to Aklavik on a more regular basis, keeping in mind that the money for the program in Aklavik currently resides with the board in Inuvik. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 249-14(6): Shortages Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister to get directly involved in this one. I have a problem where dollars that are allocated to our communities are sitting in the hands of the regional health board. It's not being allocated to the communities that those dollars are directed to. So I'd like to ask the Minister could you enquire why these dollars have been sitting in the hands of the Inuvik Health Board for two years and that position has not been filled in Aklavik for two years?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 249-14(6): Shortages Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to first reassure the Member that if he or any other MLA comes to my office with a concern, I personally take note and follow up on those issues to try to resolve them. The Member has been in my office and knows that this is an issue that I'm paying attention to. I can check on the past, but more importantly I would like to continue to work with the Member to look at how we can improve things from here on in as we do that longer-term resolution in the next few months. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 249-14(6): Shortages Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my final question to the Minister is that we have all these so-called specialists at the regional level, but for some reason we don't seem to see them too often in our communities. So I'd like to ask the Minister in the interim could you have someone reallocated to the community of Aklavik to fill that position knowing that people are in the system who are presently being paid and who can do the job until a permanent position has been filled from outside? I'd like to ask the Minister can you make the attempt to put someone there so at least the service is being provided to the community of Aklavik?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 249-14(6): Shortages Of Alcohol And Drug Workers

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I will make that commitment to attempt to complete that request. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 250-14(6): Capital Planning Process Ratings Criteria

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Premier, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi. My question is regarding the capital planning process. I would like to ask the Premier if he and Cabinet have given direction to the deputy ministers to change the criteria so that small communities can benefit and enjoy some of the facilities that the larger centres now enjoy. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 250-14(6): Capital Planning Process Ratings Criteria

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, no we have not. The capital planning process I thought was a process that the best effort was to get MLA input and support. We launched a new process. We've met with some criticism, but we are continuing to make the best efforts to meet the needs of the communities and the MLAs through that process. If there are suggestions

that Members have, then we'd be pleased to receive those. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 250-14(6): Capital Planning Process Ratings Criteria

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Premier if the second criteria, the protection of assets, is fair to the smaller communities that don't have any assets or capital in their communities. How can they protect something they don't have? I'd like to ask the Minister if he thinks that's fair. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 250-14(6): Capital Planning Process Ratings Criteria

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Mr. Speaker, I must admit I don't really understand the question. If there are communities that have no government assets, then where it is deemed that they qualify or are in need of certain assets, then our job is to make plans to provide those required assets through our budgetary planning process. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 250-14(6): Capital Planning Process Ratings Criteria

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Premier if he would agree with me that the health centre in Wekweti would have a higher priority than a campground north of Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 250-14(6): Capital Planning Process Ratings Criteria

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we provide funds and support to communities we try to follow certain criteria and priorities. Without being explicit, I believe that certain services and facilities such as health services would receive higher priority than others that are considered non-essential services and projects and facilities. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Premier. Your final supplementary, Mr. Lafferty. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 251-14(6): Negotiation For Physician Specialist Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, just in follow-up to questions about the negotiations that are taking place with the specialists, Mr. Miltenberger indicated in a previous answer that there are three weeks left to go and this gave him some confidence. This morning on the radio I heard the president of the NWT Medical Association say that the person who was mandated to negotiate on behalf of the specialists was out of town until June 28th and would not be

available. Is the Minister aware of that? Do we really have three weeks or is this discussion over? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, three questions there.

Return To Question 251-14(6): Negotiation For Physician Specialist Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, we were aware that those were the only days that their person would be available should there be negotiations. However, we have made a final offer of arbitration and a counter offer with a 27 percent increase. We're responding to the July 1st deadline that was put out back in March by the specialists where they insisted that we have an agreement that suits them or they'll all resign. So we're working to that deadline. The specialists all have individual contracts. While they bargain as a collective, at the end of the day they all have to individually sign contracts. So we have the arbitration offer, there's also the 27 percent increase that was put out there and rejected. A lot has happened since last Friday. The specialists are going to want to take a look at the work that was done and we will be working through this particular situation. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 251-14(6): Negotiation For Physician Specialist Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have to assume that a 57 percent increase over three years is not typical in terms of any negotiations that we have undertaken with anybody else who works for this government either as employees or by contract. Could the Minister briefly tell us, since this number is out there now, this 57 percent, what kinds of things are the background for that number? Is it wage parity? Is it the relative gap between what GPs are paid versus specialists? I think the public deserves to know how a number like that is arrived at when you consider it in comparison to what we have settled with other groups. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 251-14(6): Negotiation For Physician Specialist Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to engage in any kind of what could be seen as negotiations in the House. I will indicate to the Member that the average salary of the specialists right now is about \$314,000. Our offer would put it very near \$400,000, \$399,000 and some. The specialists are asking for approximately \$500,000, \$499,000 total compensation. There are a whole host of different areas within that, but the quantum figures are what are separating us and there is the substance of the issue at this present time.

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

Supplementary To Question 251-14(6): Negotiation For Physician Specialist Services

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister indicated previously that this is a supply issue, there just aren't enough specialists in Canada to meet the demand for them. So other jurisdictions, I have to assume, have the same pressure on them to look at what they pay their specialists. How does the 27 percent offer from this government to our specialists compare with the types of increases that are being seen in other jurisdictions in Canada? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 251-14(6): Negotiation For Physician Specialist Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we are of the opinion that we are competitive. We've checked with some other jurisdictions such as BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. What we are offering, \$399,000 for specialists, the range right now in British Columbia in Fort St. John, which was the comparative community is between \$301,000 and \$365,000. In Alberta, the range is \$190,000 to \$398,000 and Saskatchewan is \$109,000 to \$329,000. I must point out as well that those figures in those jurisdictions take off a significant administration fee and they work from 12 to 30 percent. So, Mr. Speaker, we think the package we have on the table for us is affordable and sustainable.

With regard to the deal with GPs, that deal on their medical web site was referred to as one of the best deals in Canada. "The Long End of the Stick" was the title of the article, so we think we've been very competitive in our efforts to meet the needs, recognizing that it is a supply issue and it is a very competitive market. Thank you.

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

Question 252-14(6): Contingency Plans For Ophthalmologist Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have another question on the contingency plan that the Minister has planned and I would like to pursue questions in the area of ophthalmology. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is aware that we have one ophthalmologist in town. He's someone who has been here for a very long time and it is also my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that all of the technicians that work under the ophthalmologist are required to work under the law. So, Mr. Speaker, I am assuming that this is one of the physicians who has submitted their resignations and I would like to know how he proposes to replace this physician. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Return To Question 252-14(6): Contingency Plans For Ophthalmologist Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At present, as the Member knows through the information that was shared with the Members and the press, we haven't gotten local coverage for ophthalmology yet. The interim arrangement is that technicians can be provided supervision by phone. As

well, we can periodically fly in an ophthalmologist to provide onsite supervision on a scheduled basis as we continue to look for the longer-term services should they be required. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 252-14(6): Contingency Plans For Ophthalmologist Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't sure if I heard the right thing when the Minister indicated to us that the supervision for these technicians will be provided by telephone, by someone in the South. Mr. Speaker, the Minister is aware that when this person went on an extended leave for a year, the department was not able to find a locum to replace this position and my information that the amount of fees that these locums charge are two or three times more than what they would be paying the existing specialists. So, Mr. Speaker... Sorry, I forgot to mention one point, which is the eye care program. I saw the advertisement last week recruiting the people. So how would the eye care program be provided without the ophthalmologist? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 252-14(6): Contingency Plans For Ophthalmologist Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. Woods indicated to the Members, the value was that when the current doctor was not there, we did have coverage for all the months except one that the doctor was away. So we are going to make efforts in the eventuality that it's required to provide these services. They are short-term. That's why they are called contingency plans. We will, as well, if necessary, recruit on a permanent basis. It's a scarce market. We are aware of that and we will make every effort necessary to provide these services. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 252-14(6): Contingency Plans For Ophthalmologist Services

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the same conversation, the question the Minister could not answer is how much we had to pay to maintain the locum services here. I guess, Mr. Speaker, we could find any locums or any temporary replacements for anything before we have to pay for it. So can the Minister verify whether or not it costs the government and the department more to have locums to fill those 11 months than what he pays to have a permanent ophthalmologist here? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Mr. Miltenberger.

Further Return To Question 252-14(6): Contingency Plans For Ophthalmologist Services

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My information is that it doesn't cost more. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The time for question period is over. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Mr. Clerk.

ITEM 8: RETURNS TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Return To Written Question 2-14(6): GNWT Harmonization Initiative

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, I have a return to written question asked by the Member for Great Slave and responded to by the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation concerning GNWT harmonization initiative.

Under the proposed harmonization initiative, revenue neutrality was achieved by ensuring that the total decrease in rent revenue was balanced by an equal amount in rent increases.

Some 96 households in Yellowknife would have received rent increases, while 163 households would have received rent decreases.

For Yellowknife public housing residents, the range of rent decreases and increases varies from a decrease of \$238 to an increase of \$497.

The harmonization initiative had proposed to grandfather current seniors in public housing at zero rent. Students would have had their first year's rent assessed to a maximum of \$200 with an increment of \$50 a year to a maximum of \$400.

Income support clients would have had to neither pay more nor less under harmonization.

Return To Written Question 3-14(6): Public Housing Data

Return to Written Question 3-14(6), asked by the Member for Tu Nedhe, to the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation on public housing data.

There are 2240 public housing units in the Northwest Territories. Not counting income support clients, there are 545 senior-led households. Some 82 families in public housing had students. Single parent households in public housing comprised 525 households. Later, at the appropriate time, I will table a breakdown of this information by community.

Rents are determined by the amount of assessable income a household makes. Assessable income is calculated by taking the gross income from all members, those 15 years and older. A number of incomes are considered to be exempt and are deducted from the gross income. The result of these deductions is the assessable income. Among the greatest income deductions are income earned by seniors, income earned by income support recipients and income earned by students. The assessable income is then applied to a sliding scale, which levies rent at a rate of 6.4 percent to 30 percent of income. Included in the scale is a household income deduction/exemption of \$400. This \$400 applies to all households in all communities. A cost of living deduction is then applied to the rent. The deduction is community and family size specific and is based on the northern cost index established by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs for communities in 1994. A unit condition rent adjustment may be applied to the rent where units lack basic facilities or the overall condition rating is less than 60 percent. Seniors 60 years and older have their rent 100 percent subsidized. Their rent is zero. Currently the monthly income of

seniors in public housing which is not being assessed is in excess of \$565,400, 2000 statistics. The minimum rent for families with assessable monthly income less than \$500 is \$32. This minimum rent also applies to tenants who receive income support. Due to the harmonization efforts started in 1997, the implementation of a four-year phase-in of the 1995 rent scale was delayed by Cabinet and remains at 60 percent.

A new rent scale would treat all income as assessable. Minimum rent would be reduced from \$32 to \$20. Rent calculations would be based on a scale starting at four percent to a maximum of 30 percent of gross income. A new rent scale would retain the household deduction of \$400. A revised cost of living adjustment would be implemented as well as an income rent reduction.

The rationale behind assessing all income the same way no matter what the source is that it will eliminate any disparities the current exemptions have created. The different treatment of the various types of income also creates a level of confusion with tenants.

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

Return to Written Question 4-14(6) asked by the Member for Range Lake to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development concerning the cost of the Wildlife Act and Species at Risk Act consultations.

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 the fiscal year 1992-93?

Formal development on these initiatives did not begin until 1999. Prior to that, during the late 1980s and 1990s, the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development (RWED) spent about \$150,000 on salaries to consolidate issues identified by staff about the current Wildlife Act. Information consultations, with respect to community concerns, were carried out on an ongoing basis by RWED staff during the course of their regular duties.

Beginning in 1999, a much more extensive consultation process was undertaken. That consultation used a three-pronged approach to ensure full and effective consultation with all residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT). This approach includes:

- Public consultation by RWED staff.
- The appointment of representatives of aboriginal governments to a Wildlife Aboriginal Advisory Group (WAAG) and consultation by aboriginal governments with their constituents.
- Consultation with land claims organizations with respect to integrating wildlife harvesting and management provisions of the land claims agreements.

Two full rounds of public consultation were undertaken, as well as two rounds of consultation by WAAG. This resulted in expenditures of approximately \$285,000 in 1999/2000, \$340,000 in 2000/2001, and \$420,000 in 2001/2002. These numbers include the cost of one dedicated staff person.

2. Please provide the breakdown of the above for each department and agency involved in the process.

The costs of the consultation to date have been borne solely by RWED. For drafting the legislation, the Department of Justice is providing the drafter. Drafting of the legislation has now begun.

In total, \$456,600 was provided as follows. Funding was provided to the following organizations as part of the consultation process with the Wildlife Aboriginal Advisory Group: North Slave Metis Alliance, \$35,400; South Slave Metis Tribal Council, NWT Metis Nation, \$60,400; Gwich'in Tribal Council, \$37,600; Inuvialuit Game Council, \$15,300; Sahtu Secretariat Inc., \$36,300; Salt River First Nation, \$14,600; Deh Cho First Nation, \$32,000.

A total of \$15,000 was provided to the NWT Wildlife Federation for the resident hunter consultations.

Funding was provided to the following organizations to support their requests to hire legal counsel: Sahtu Secretariat Inc., \$70,000; Inuvialuit Game Council, \$70,000; Gwich'in Tribal Council, \$70,000.

Return To Written Question 5-14(6): Child Protection Protocol

Return To Written Question 5-14(6) asked by the Member for Great Slave to the Minister of Health and Social Services on child protection protocol.

1. What is the status of the child protection protocol review?

The review of the 1996 Child Abuse Protocol, which began in 2000, was delayed while amendments to the new Child and Family Services Act were prepared. These amendments were assented to in October 2002.

A Child Abuse Protocol Review Committee, comprised of the signatories to the protocol, was established to understand the review. The signatories include the departments of Health and Social Services, Education, Culture and Employment and Justice, the RCMP and Justice Canada's NWT region office (Crown counsel).

The review committee has reached agreement on a revised declaration of commitment, overview and statement of principles. Work on the roles and responsibilities of the signatories in reporting, investigating, prosecuting and following up on any report of suspected child abuse has been completed. Revisions to the agreements section are currently underway. It is expected that the revision process will be completed by the end of August 2003. The signatories will then sign the revised protocol.

2. What is the consultation and communications process for involving and informing the public and social agencies?

Communications will involve, but not be limited to, the signatory departments and agencies, other government agencies that provide services to children and families and non-government organizations such as the Family Violence Coalition, the Child Sexual Abuse Coalition, the Native Women's Association and the Status of Women Council of the NWT. Training on the details and the use of the protocol will be offered to the staff of signatory agencies, such as members of the RCMP, school personnel and child protection workers who are responsible for reporting, investigating, prosecuting and following up on any report of suspected child abuse.

3. Will the Minister make public the revised child abuse handbook, protocol agreements and standards and procedures manual for child protection workers?

The revised Child Abuse Protocol and the Child Abuse Handbook will be available from any of the signatory agencies. The documents will also be available on the Department of Health and Social Services' public Web site, www.hlhss@gov.nt.ca.

The Standards and Procedures Manual for Child Protection Workers is also a public document. It is available on request from the Department of Health and Social Services.

Return To Written Question 6-16(4): Ndilo Community Status

Return to Written Question 6-14(6) asked by the Member for Tu Nedhe to the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs concerning the Ndilo community status.

1. There is no current arrangement between the City of Yellowknife, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and the Government of the Northwest Territories regarding the status of Ndilo. Each of these three governments have relationships with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and themselves, but there has been no discussion of the need to a formal arrangement among these agencies regarding the status of Ndilo.
2. Mr. Speaker, as there is no agreement amongst the three governments, there is no end date.
3. The City of Yellowknife received the following amounts from the Government of Canada for grants-in-lieu of taxes for Ndilo:
 - \$125,793.00 for 2002;
 - \$105,997.00 for 2001; and,
 - \$107,296.00 for 2000.

The City of Yellowknife received for each of the last three years \$9,688.00 annually from the Government of the NWT for grants-in-lieu of taxes for Ndilo.
4. The City of Yellowknife accounts for the grant-in-lieu of taxes in the same manner it accounts for all other funds, through the publication of its budget and financial statements. The City of Yellowknife is not required to report its expenditures specifically on behalf of Ndilo, therefore, I am unable to answer the remainder of this question.
5. Mr. Speaker, presently the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs does not treat Ndilo as a separate community for funding, however, on occasion MACA has provided some capital funding for projects within Ndilo on a case-by-case basis. In 1998, negotiations began between the Government of the Northwest Territories, the City of Yellowknife and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation for the creation of a single community from Detah, Enodah and Ndilo. In 1999, it was verbally agreed by all parties that these negotiations should be conducted through the land, resources and self-government negotiating process with the Akaitcho Dene First Nations, the Government of the Northwest Territories and Canada. Depending upon the outcome of these negotiations, there may be a change in status for Ndilo. However, Mr. Speaker, it would be premature to consider changing the

status for Ndilo before these negotiations are completed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS

Report On Review of Bill 5, An Act To Amend The Motor Vehicles Act

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development has reviewed Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act and wishes to report that Bill 5 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted and, Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) and the bill moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) and have Bill 5 moved forward today. Are there any nays? There are no nays. The bill is moved to Committee of the Whole for today. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

Report On Review Of Bill 10, Hospital Insurance And Health And Social Services Administration Act, And Bill 12, Nursing Profession Act

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to report that the Standing Committee on Social Programs has reviewed Bill 10, Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act, and Bill 12, Nursing Profession Act, and wishes to report that Bill 10 and Bill 12 are ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) and have Bill 10 and Bill 12 moved into Committee of the Whole for today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive Rule 70(5) and advance bills 10 and 12. Are there any nays? There are no nays, therefore, bills 10 and 12 are advanced to Committee of the Whole for today. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents.

ITEM 13: TABELING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 48-14(6): Financial Statement For The Retiring Allowance Fund, Year Ending March 31, 2003

In accordance with section 21 of the Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Act I wish to table in English and French the financial statement for the retiring allowance fund for the year ended March 31, 2003.

Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

Tabled Document 49-14(6): Seniors Action Plan Status Report, June 2003

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following documents entitled Seniors Action Plan Status Report, June 2003.

Tabled Document 50-14(6): Profile Of NWT Seniors, May 2003

I would also like to table a document entitled Profile of NWT Seniors, May 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 13, tabling of documents. Mr. Clerk.

Tabled Document 51-14(6): Responses To Petitions 2-14(6), 3-14(6), And 4-14(6)

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Rule 42(1) I wish to table responses to Petition 2-14(6), 3-14(6) and 4-14(6), presented by the Member for Great Slave and responded to by the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Are there any further tabling of documents? Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

ITEM 15: NOTICES OF MOTIONS FOR FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 16: Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act, 2003

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, June 6, 2003, I will move that Bill 16, Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act, 2003, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Labour Standards Act

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, June 6, 2003, I will move that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

Bill 18: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2003-2004

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have three notices of motions for first reading of bills. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, June 6, 2003, I will move that Bill 18, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 1, 2003-2004, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Bill 19: Write-Off Of Debts Act

Mr. Speaker, as well I give notice that on Friday, June 6, 2003, I will move that Bill 19, Write-off of Debts Act, 2003-2004, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Bill 20: Forgiveness Of Debts Act

And, Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Friday, June 6, 2003, I will move that Bill 20, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2003-2004, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 15, notices of motions for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 16, Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act, 2003.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 16. Are there any nays? There are no nays, Mr. Minister.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 16: Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act, 2003

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 16, Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act, 2003, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please signify. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 16 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 17. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, you can proceed.

Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Labour Standards Act

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in order please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

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

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 19, Write-off of Debts Act, 2003-2004.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill

19. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Proceed, Mr. Handley.

Bill 19: Write-Off Of Debts Act, 2003-2004

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 19, Write-off of Debts Act, 2003-2004, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. All those in favour of the motion please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 19 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 20, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2003-2004.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with first reading of Bill 20. Any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, you may proceed.

Bill 20: Forgiveness Of Debts Act, 2003-2004

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 20, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2003-2004, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. We have a motion. The motion is in order. All those in favour, please signify. All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 20 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 16, Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act, 2003.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 16. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, you may proceed with second reading.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 16: Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act, 2003

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 16, Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act, 2003, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes minor amendments to six acts that relate to the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories.

1. The Coroners Act - The act is amended to provide that the chief coroner will be paid in accordance with the

regulations made under the act. The act is also amended to allow service of summons for coroner's jury duty by mail and by leaving it at the household and to adjust reference to the Yukon territory so as to embrace Nunavut.

2. Corrections Act - The act is amended is extend from 15 to 60 days, the period that an inmate may be released to participate in a correctional extension program.
3. Judicature Act - The act is amended to clarify the powers of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court to make rules respecting practice and procedure before the court. The amendments also clarify that the rules may alter or conform to the substantive law as long as they are consistent with other legislation, that the existing rules of each court are valid even if they affect substantive rights.
4. Justice of the Peace Act - The act is amended to adjust the reference to a regional judge of the Territorial Court as this term does not appear elsewhere in legislation.
5. Legal Services Act - The act is amended to remove a limitation that prevents members of the Legal Services Board who are in the Public Service of Canada or the Northwest Territories from being paid the honoraria paid to board members and to provide that board members will receive honoraria and be reimbursed for expenses in accordance with the regulations.
6. Territorial Court Act - The act is amended to extend from 90 days to 120 days:

- the time for the Northwest Territories Judicial Remuneration Commission to deliver its triennial report after its formal commencement on January 1st of the relevant year;

- the time for the Commission to deliver its report where it has accepted a request from the Minister or the chief judge to inquire into matters pertaining to the salaries and benefits of territorial judges;

- and for the Commissioner to implement the recommendations of a report of the commission.

The act is also amended to increase the maximum monetary limit for the civil jurisdiction of Territorial Court judges from \$5,000 to \$10,000. 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.

AN HON. MEMBER: 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 16 has had second reading and is, therefore, referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 17. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, you may proceed with second reading of Bill 17.

Bill 17: An Act To Amend The Labour Standards Act

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 17, An Act to Amend the Labour Standards Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Labour Standards Act to increase the minimum wage to \$8.25 an hour and to remove distinctions in the minimum wage based on age and place of employment. 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.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 17 has had second reading and, therefore, stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 19, Write-off of Debts Act, 2003-2004.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Minister is seeking unanimous consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 19. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, you may proceed with second reading.

Bill 19: Write-Off Of Debts Act, 2003-2004

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nunakput, that Bill 19, Write-off of Debts Act, 2003-2004, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the write-off of debts in accordance with section 24 of the Financial Administration Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: 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 19 has had second reading, and accordingly the bill stands referred to a committee. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I seek consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 20, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2003-2004.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister is seeking consent to proceed with second reading of Bill 20. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, you may proceed.

Bill 20: Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2003-2004

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 20, Forgiveness of Debts Act, 2003-2004, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the forgiveness of debts in accordance with section 25 of the Financial Administration Act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 20 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: Minister's Statement 44-14(6), Specialist Negotiations; Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act; Bill 10, Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act; and, Bill 12, Nursing Profession Act, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We have several items to deal with: Minister's Statement 44-14(6), and bills 5, 10 and 12. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to recommend that committee consider Bill 10, followed by Bill 12.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): With that we will take a short break and come back and continue Bill 10.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 10, Hospital Insurance And Health And Social Services Administration Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Before we broke, we agreed to deal with Bill 10. At this time I'd like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he has any opening comments. Minister Miltenberger.

Minister's Opening Comments

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do. Mr. Chairman, I'm pleased to have the opportunity to speak with the Members of committee about Bill 10 which proposes changes to the Hospital Insurance and Health and

Social Services Administration Act. The amendment will continue the Hay River Community Health Board as a board of management called the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority, and exclude its employees from the public service.

The bill also consequently amends the Public Service Act to reflect the status of the employees. The amendment provides a legislative framework to bring the health and social services facilities in the Hay River area under a board of management that is appointed by the Minister without transferring Hay River employees into the public service.

This bill helps to fulfill the commitment made in the NWT health and social services system action plan to standardize a process of appointing, orienting and training of trustees and to standardize an accountability framework. It also fulfills a commitment to establish a Hay River board of management under the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act, to help implement the action plan objectives.

The amendment is necessary to complete the process of bringing all GNWT health and social services facilities under boards of management that are appointed by the Minister under HIHSSA.

I would like to thank the Members for their consideration and support of this bill. I would now be pleased to answer any questions committee Members may have.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time I would like to ask the committee responsible for reviewing the bill if they have any general comments. Mr. Lafferty.

Standing Committee On Social Programs Comments

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs met on Friday, May 16, 2003, to review Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act. The amendments will allow the Minister to appoint the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority and clarify that the employees of the authority are not members of the public service as defined by the Public Service Act.

Committee Members noted these amendments were developed in consultation with the town of Hay River and the employees as represented by the Public Service Alliance of Canada. No concerns were expressed by either party to the standing committee.

Individual Members of the committee may have questions or comments for the Minister as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. At this time I'd like to recognize people from the nursing professions from the NWT Registered Nurses' Association: Anna Tumchewics; Lorie Crawford, chairperson of the legislation committee; Elizabeth Cook, nurse practitioner educator; Karen Graham, nurse practitioner educator; Jodi Brennan, health programs instructor; and, Barb Bromley, former president of the NWT Registered Nurses' Association; and Sylvia Stard, president of the NWT Registered Nurses' Association. I'd like to welcome you to the House.

---Applause

General comments. Mr. Minister. Does the committee agree the Minister brings in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses in?

For the record, Mr. Minister, could you introduce your witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Chairman, I have with me Mr. Dave Murray, the deputy minister of Health and Social Services; Ms. Janis Cooper, legislative counsel, Department of Justice; Susan Ellis, senior policy advisor for Health and Social Services. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Welcome witnesses. General comments on Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Detail.

Detail

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 10 is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I would like to thank the Minister and the witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses out?

We agreed earlier that we will continue on now with Bill 12, Nursing Professions Act. I would like to ask the Minister if he has any opening comments.

Bill 12: Nursing Professions Act

Minister's Opening Comments

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to have an opportunity today to speak with Members of the committee about Bill 12 which proposes to create a new Nursing Professions Act.

The new act will provide for the continuation of the Northwest Territories Registered Nurses Association as the Registered Nursing Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, address many issues that have been identified by the department and the association in current legislation, and provide an up-to-date legislative framework for the regulation of the nursing profession. The act will also provide authority for the licensing and autonomous practice of nurse practitioners, key players in the primary health care model.

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

- Describing the scope of practice of registered nurses and nurse practitioners;
- Setting out the powers of the association to manage its affairs, including the powers to make bylaws, to elect and appoint members to its governing body, to register members and issue certificates;
- Authorizing the association to establish or adopt a continuing competence program for its members;
- Setting out the duty of the association to review the conduct of its members;
- Providing for the possible termination of the functions of the association with respect to nurses in Nunavut;
- Setting out rules respecting various aspects of the practice of the profession, including the use of the titles "registered nurse" and "nurse practitioner";
- Providing for the practice restrictions set out in the act; and,
- Providing for certain transitional issues, including the continuation of membership in the association.

In addition to the bill, the department is continuing work with the nurses association and other stakeholders on nurse

practitioner prescription-making authority. Amendments to the Pharmacy Act are planned to permit a prescription-making authority that is more responsive to evolving nurse practitioner practice. These amendments will be introduced in the next Legislative Assembly at the earliest reasonable opportunity.

The proposed Nursing Profession Act fulfils commitments which were made to the nursing community and in the NWT Health and Social Services system action plan 2002-2005 to revise the legislative framework for nursing regulation. This new legislation reflects and supports contemporary nursing practices and will accommodate emerging nursing issues.

I have recently been advised by the Department of Justice of the need for a technical amendment to the bill and accordingly I will be making a motion to amend the bill during the committee's clause-by-clause review. I would like to thank the Members of the standing committee for their consideration and support of this bill. I would now be pleased to answer any questions the committee Members may have. In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the strong support of the nursing association. Thank you.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Minister. At this time, I would like to ask the committee responsible to review the bill if they have any general comments. Mrs. Groenewegen.

Standing Committee On Social Programs Comments

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs met on Friday, May 16th, 2003, to review Bill 12, the Nursing Profession Act. The act provides a definition of nursing and in particular nurse practitioners. It establishes the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut and gives the association the ability to govern themselves through the setting of bylaws and establishing competencies.

Committee Members noted this act was developed in close cooperation with the NWT Registered Nursing Association and the government is to be commended for this proactive approach. The changes bring the regulation of nursing in the Northwest Territories in line with the practices in other Canadian jurisdictions. Individual members of the committee may have questions or comments for the Minister as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you. At this time, I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to bring in any witnesses. Mr. Minister.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree for the Minister to bring in his witnesses?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort in the witnesses, please.

Mr. Minister, for the record, could you introduce your witnesses?

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me, I have Mr. Dave Murray, the deputy minister of Health and Social Services; Mr. Blair Barbour, senior policy advisor for legislation for Health and Social Services; and, Ms. Janis Cooper, legislative counsel, Department of Justice. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Welcome, witnesses. General comments. Mr. Roland.

General Comments

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's good to see this bill come forward. It's been some time here in the Northwest Territories that we've had difficulty in fulfilling the obligations to ensure that health care is available to all those residents in the Northwest Territories. Making some of these changes will ensure that residents will have practitioners available to them, especially in the smaller communities, and help deal with our situation when it comes to doctors. Hopefully in the future, it will lower some of the cost that we end up fielding as a result of our remote communities and isolated situations. I think this was a good bill to come forward on and we hope that as we pass this bill, that implementation will be done in a way that is open and transparent to everybody and we can all move forward on an even scale. Thank you.

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

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to echo Mr. Roland's comments. It's been a long time coming. I know that for a number of years, I have been hoping to see legislation that would allow nurse practitioners to practice their profession in the Northwest Territories. So I am happy to see this here. I know I have had a number of constituents who have worked very closely with the department at getting the legislation through to the point we are looking at today. I know they are going to be extremely happy that we are moving forward with this bill as well. It's good and it's time we were getting it done. So I just wanted to say that I congratulate the Minister. I know the nurses association has told us they were quite pleased with the cooperation they received from the department and how this bill has been moved forward in full consultation with the people who will be impacted by it. I think it sets a good model for us to follow as we develop legislation in the North. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, am going to lend my support for this bill and congratulations to the department, the Minister and the nurses association for the collaborative tone that they've set in getting the bill to this stage. I would also reflect that the efforts that we are undertaking through Aurora College to grow our own generation of nurses is one that seems to be having some success. I had a great meeting with a constituent, a young woman, who is a graduate of this year's course; very proud and very grateful to have this opportunity. In fact, our challenge now seems to be capacity within the course of the medical system to bring these nurses into a stream where they're actually on the job and learning that way. So we're showing really good success in that avenue. I think it's the best thing we can do is to grow our own nurse and other professions. We seem to have some success in that, and this bill is a natural companion to it. So thank you, my compliments to everybody involved.

Detail

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): General comments to Bill 12, Nursing Profession Act. Detail? Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 19.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 20.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 21.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 22.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 23.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 24.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 25.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 26.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 27.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 28.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 29.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 30.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 31.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 32.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 33.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 34.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 35.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 36. Mr. Minister.

Committee Motion 87-14(6) To Amend Clause 36(7) Of Bill 12, Carried

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that clause 36(7) of Bill 12 be amended by striking out "affirm" in paragraph (a). Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 36 as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 37.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 38.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 39.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 40.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 41.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 42.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 43.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 44.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 45.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 46.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 47.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 48.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 49.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 50.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 51.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 52.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 53.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 54.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 55.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 56.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 57.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 58.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 59.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 60.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 61.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 62.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 63.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 64.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 65.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 66.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 67.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 68.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 69.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 70.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 71.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 72.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 73.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 74.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 75.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 76.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 77.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 78.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 79.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 80.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 81.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Clause 82.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill as a whole, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that Bill 12 is ready for third reading, as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Agreed

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Bill 12 is now ready for third reading, as amended.

---Applause

With that, I'd like to thank the Minister and his witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you escort the witnesses out? What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): There is a motion on the floor to report progress. The motion is non-debatable. All those in favour? All those against? The motion is carried.

---Carried

I will rise and report progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House will come back to order. May I have the report of Committee of the Whole? The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering bills 10 and 12 and would like to report progress with one motion being adopted, and that Bill 10 is ready for third reading, and that Bill 12 is ready for third reading, as amended. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. May I have a seconder to the motion? The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake. The motion is in order and is not debatable.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

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, meetings tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight and at 10:30 of the Governance and Economic Development committee, again at noon the same committee.

Orders of the day for Thursday, June 5, 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. Returns 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
17. First Reading of Bills
18. Second Reading of Bills
19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Minister's Statement 44-14(6), Specialist Negotiations
 - Bill 5, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act
20. Report of Committee of the Whole
21. Third Reading of Bills
 - Bill 10, An Act to Amend the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act
 - Bill 12, Nursing Profession Act
22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, the House stands adjourned until Thursday, June 5th at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:40 p.m.