



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**14<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, June 10, 2003**

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**The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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### Mr. Leon Lafferty

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(Deh Cho)

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(Tu Nedhe)

### Mr. Floyd Roland

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PRAYER</b> .....	<b>899</b>
<b>MINISTERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>899</b>
56-14(6) - WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM FUNDING FOR TAX-BASED MUNICIPALITIES .....	899
57-15(6) - PLACEMENT OF NUNAVUT OFFENDERS .....	899
58-14(6) - EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS - A NETWORK OF SUPPORT .....	899
<b>MEMBERS' STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>900</b>
MR. ROLAND ON INCREASED COST OF POWER IN INUVIK.....	900
MRS. GROENEWEGEN ON BENEFITS OF DEH CHO BRIDGE AT FORT PROVIDENCE.....	900
MR. MCLEOD ON THE BENEFITS OF NEGOTIATED CONTRACTS .....	901
MR. KRUTKO ON NWT BUSINESS INCENTIVE POLICY .....	901
MR. NITAH ON QUALITY OF LIFE IN SMALL COMMUNITIES .....	902
MR. LAFFERTY ON INCONSISTENCY IN THE APPLICATION OF CONTRACTING AND PROCUREMENT POLICIES .....	902
MR. BRADEN ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPECIALIST PHYSICIANS.....	903
MS. LEE ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPECIALIST PHYSICIANS.....	903
MR. DENT ON ISSUES RAISED AT FRAME LAKE CONSTITUENCY MEETING .....	904
MR. BELL ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH SPECIALIST PHYSICIANS.....	904
MR. ANTOINE ON TRIBUTE TO MILLENNIUM LAUREATE, CHRISTOPHER STIPDONK OF FORT SIMPSON.....	905
<b>RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY</b> .....	<b>905</b>
<b>ORAL QUESTIONS</b> .....	<b>906, 915</b>
<b>REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>927</b>
<b>TABLING OF DOCUMENTS</b> .....	<b>926</b>
<b>FIRST READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>926</b>
BILL 21 - FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT .....	926
BILL 22 - WASTE REDUCTION AND RECOVERY ACT .....	926
BILL 23 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE SAFETY ACT .....	926
BILL 24 - MIDWIFERY PROFESSION ACT .....	926
BILL 25 - MUNICIPAL STATUTES REPLACEMENT ACT .....	926
BILL 26 - YOUTH JUSTICE ACT.....	926
BILL 27 - AN ACT TO AMEND THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT .....	927
<b>CONSIDERATION IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE OF BILLS AND OTHER MATTERS</b> .....	<b>927</b>
<b>REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE</b> .....	<b>927</b>
<b>THIRD READING OF BILLS</b> .....	<b>927</b>
BILL 15, AN ACT TO AMEND THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT .....	927
<b>ORDERS OF THE DAY</b> .....	<b>927</b>



**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**

Tuesday, June 10, 2003

**Members Present**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Lafferty, Ms. Lee, Mr. McLeod, Honourable Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Nitah, Honourable Jake Ootes, Mr. Roland, Honourable Vince Steen, Honourable Tony Whitford

**ITEM 1: PRAYER**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Tony Whitford):** Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

**ITEM 2: MINISTERS' STATEMENTS****Minister's Statement 56-14(6): Water And Sewer System Funding For Tax-Based Municipalities**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, municipal governments across Canada are increasingly challenged to keep pace with their infrastructure needs. A pressure shared by many municipalities is the need to maintain and replace aging water and sewage systems.

Tax-based communities in the Northwest Territories are no exception to this rule. The cost of replacing aging water and sewer infrastructure in the North is considerable. We've heard concerns raised by Members of this House about the lack of infrastructure support for tax-based municipalities.

I am pleased that in spite of fiscal constraints, my department has been successful in maintaining a cost-shared water and sewer infrastructure program. Under this program, tax-based communities are eligible to receive up to 50 percent of the total cost for replacing water and sewer infrastructure, depending on the number of applications received and their fit with program priorities which are identified annually.

I am also pleased to advise this Assembly that the tax-based communities of Inuvik, Norman Wells, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Hay River and Fort Smith will all receive some funding support towards water and sewer infrastructure this year, for a total of \$2.5 million in funding.

In the 2002-2003 fiscal year we were able to enhance the funding available to these communities by accessing the Canada/NWT infrastructure program. Additional funding of \$1.86 million was provided towards water and sewer system replacement, for a total of \$4.26 million in repairs and replacement last summer.

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year in his Budget Address, the federal Minister of Finance announced that new funding would be available through the Canada strategic infrastructure funding for municipal governments. We will strive to ensure that an appropriate portion of this funding is made available to provide further support for our tax-based municipalities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

**Minister's Statement 57-14(6): Placement Of Nunavut Offenders**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to have this opportunity to report on an agreement signed between the governments of Northwest Territories and Nunavut. This agreement will generate a guaranteed revenue of close to \$1 million a year until at least March 31, 2006.

This agreement means that the Government of Nunavut will place a minimum of 15 offenders in NWT Department of Justice correction facilities. This will result in a guaranteed annual revenue to the Government of the Northwest Territories of at least \$926,000 a year.

Mr. Speaker, based on past history, the Department of Justice expects more than the minimum guarantee of 15 offenders to be placed in our facilities. Over the past four years, the average number of inmates from Nunavut has ranged between 18 and 44. For 2002-2003, the department received \$1,697,347 in revenue from the Government of Nunavut for placement of offenders.

The Department of Justice also receives revenue from the federal government for the placement of federal offenders in our correctional facilities. This means that Northerners serving federal sentences in the south can return to the North and serve their sentences close to their families and community.

In 2003, the repatriation of federal offenders generated \$1,132,288 in revenue for the Government of the Northwest Territories. This number is expected to increase substantially with the opening of the North Slave Correctional Facility.

These revenues are mainly for adult male Nunavut and federal offenders. The construction of the North Slave Correctional Facility increases our ability to accept offenders. The revenue we receive will help pay the cost of providing these facilities and programs to NWT residents.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, this agreement speaks to the quality of supervision and programming provided by the Department of Justice. Establishing a safe and secure corrections system focused on rehabilitation, has resulted in a regular source of revenue from other jurisdictions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Minister's statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**Minister's Statement 58-14(6): Educational Success – A Network Of Support**

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Mr. Speaker, I would like us all to take time to congratulate all our college and high school graduates who worked so very hard to get to where they are today. Every step towards education is a step well taken.

We all know that a graduate does not do it alone. There are many factors that support our students. Many people share in their success. We need to congratulate and recognize those who work with such dedication to ensure our graduates' success.

Let me especially thank and congratulate the families who give their support to make sure that their children have a supportive and stable home life. They are a key element of any student's success.

There are the teachers, adult educators and college instructors who work with such dedication because they believe in what they do to enrich our next generation. We have the principals, the administrative professionals and the college staff who provide the students with the structure and the necessary tools for learning.

As well, there are those that may not immediately come to mind when we think of the success of our graduates: the volunteers who give so freely of their time to help in so many ways throughout all our schools, colleges and learning centres; the board members and college staff who work throughout the year to assist our citizens in higher education; our superintendents, chairs and members of the educational councils and authorities.

Mr. Speaker, behind each and every one of our graduates there is a network and a system of support of dedicated Northerners. I ask you to join me today to show our appreciation not only for the graduates of the North, but to each and every one who assisted them as they reached their goals. Congratulations.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

### ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

#### Member's Statement On Increased Cost Of Power In Inuvik

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to raise the issue of the cost of living in our communities, and I refer to the community I represent, Inuvik. I've heard on a number of occasions, through constituents, about the cost of living and the cost of power, specifically, in Inuvik. We heard a lot and asked about the rate rider that was placed on customers across the NWT. But, Mr. Speaker, that issue alone has only stirred it up amongst constituents about what we're getting for our dollars and why the continued increases. I've approached the Minister to try to address some of my constituents' concerns about the rising cost of power.

Mr. Speaker, I've been informed that there are a number of different things happening, but questions need to be answered, at least for my residents in our community, about what opportunities they have and how they can address their concerns through the Power Corporation if it's a complaint about their bills, or if it's about the increases they face in their community.

It's not good enough just to say that your power bill has doubled because you've used the power, when residents are questioning the fact that they seem to have startling increases not just because of rate riders, but for their consumption. Mr. Speaker, when you throw that on top of the potential for further

increases as the Power Corporation has gone forward for rate increases across the board, constituents are concerned about what this winter will bring. I will be asking the Minister questions about the Power Corporation and how residents can seek satisfaction regarding their billing inquiries. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### Member's Statement On Benefits Of Deh Cho Bridge At Fort Providence

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to talk about why a bridge across the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence is a good thing to the entire Northwest Territories and not just those residents north of Great Slave Lake.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Hear, hear.

---Applause

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Mr. Speaker, I went home for lunch yesterday and I was pondering out loud what I should make my Member's statement on, and my son was there -- Jordan -- and he said, Mom, talk about the bridge. So to the younger generation this is a very, very important thing.

We're kind of nostalgic about the ferry and that gravel that used to come as far as Manning, Alberta. We talk about the old days. But we can't stop progress. So the Deh Cho Bridge will provide an all-season link to Fort Providence, Fort Rae and Yellowknife, and this is long overdue. There will be increased tourist traffic once the bridge and the paving is completed, and the uncertainties of ferry and ice bridge openings and closings are removed.

Mr. Speaker, increased tourist traffic means more people stopping along the way and purchasing goods and services. This is good for business and will result in increased economic development to meet the demands for more goods and services.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, the mines serviced by the winter road going north of Yellowknife will benefit from an all-season link to the south. Marshalling activities related to transporting of materials can take place in Hay River, Enterprise and Yellowknife without having to worry about whether you can get your goods across the river when it's time to transport north. This could reduce the strain on our highways by spreading out the load over a longer period of time and also make it safer for members of the public travelling on our highways in the winter.

The Deh Cho Bridge is also good for the environment. Mr. Speaker, we all remember when the fuel tanker broke through the ice bridge a few years back, and how lucky we were that there were no serious environmental consequences. The bridge will make it safer to transport hazardous materials all year long. The people living downriver should be relieved that the potential for environmental damage will be reduced by the completion of this bridge.

I also believe, Mr. Speaker, that the construction of the Deh Cho Bridge will be good for consumers north of the lake by reducing the costs passed on to them during freeze-up and break-up cycles. Of course, that cost of living will never rival

the low cost of living in places like Hay River and Fort Smith, though.

Mr. Speaker, the construction of the Deh Cho Bridge is an example of what can be accomplished by a small community when they are willing to work together to find a solution to a common challenge and to achieve a net benefit for their people. The Fort Providence Combined Council Alliance, along with the Government of the Northwest Territories, is to be commended for working together on developing an economically viable bridge across the Deh Cho that will ultimately benefit all residents of the Northwest Territories. I wish the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation every success and look forward to driving across this bridge in 2005. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I will just bring to the attention of the Members that when they make Member's statements they should be cautious that they don't make statements of items that may be on the Order Paper already. The chair took this under advisement, and it felt close to but not quite on. Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

#### **Member's Statement On The Benefits Of Negotiated Contracts**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue of negotiated contracts is one that has caused much discussion, mostly negative, in the construction industry. However, Mr. Speaker, negotiated contracts are a beneficial option to those communities outside the larger centres, in that they provide an opportunity for capacity building.

Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that a draft negotiated contracts policy is currently under consideration and, until a decision is made, those guidelines established during the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly by this government give us authority to enter into negotiated contracts. Mr. Speaker, those guidelines clearly state that a proposed negotiated contract is to provide opportunities and to improve the skills and experience of residents and northern businesses, or to realize economic benefits for residents.

To enter into a negotiated contract, the parties are required to have the support of not only this government, but that of the community as well. This requirement ensures effective community consultation.

Mr. Speaker, upon review and reflection of those guidelines, I only have to look at those communities in the Deh Cho to understand the reasons why such guidelines are in place. It is the smaller communities, such as those in the Deh Cho, that have limited capacity and resources, but when combined do have the qualified people and businesses for many of the capital projects this government undertakes.

It is these communities, people and businesses that have the best interest of the whole community at heart. These people and businesses employ local people, they train local people and they use local goods and services.

Mr. Speaker, we can continue to have contractors from outside the smaller communities undertake many of these projects, but what is the real benefit to the people and the community? Who

is monitoring these outside contractors to ensure that they are following the BIP guidelines?

Mr. Speaker, this government should consider the positive impact that negotiated contracts have on the communities' ability to build capacity over time. This government should consider the benefits of having community people and businesses undertake such capital projects over a number of years, to provide consistency and stability in employment, training and growth. Every project taking place in the smaller communities should be considered for negotiation first, and tendering second. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

#### **Member's Statement On NWT Business Incentive Policy**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the Northwest Territories business incentive policy, better known as BIP. The BIP is a policy which greatly extends opportunities in the Northwest Territories. The Government of the Northwest Territories supports the creation, growth and improvement of northern business as a foundation of the Northwest Territories' economy and provides opportunities to northern business with incentives to operate in the North. The BIP allows northern businesses to compete with southern-based businesses and also provides employment to those northern businesses, securing employment opportunities, ensuring that revenues from the northern businesses remain in the North where it is circulated throughout our economy and creates other initiatives.

Mr. Speaker, sorry to burst the bubble; however, it must be revealed that the perfect world of the BIP is often just an illusion. The BIP begins with the criteria that grant northern business status. In order to qualify as a northern business, a business must be majority owned by northern residents and must employ a manager in a storefront in the Northwest Territories. But, Mr. Speaker, the criteria to becoming a northern business are certainly not perfect.

The problem with the BIP is that there are loopholes so that any southern or multinational business with an interest in the North, with deep pockets and a nose to find loopholes, is able to worm itself through the BIP process, to disguise itself as a true northern business and gain preferential treatment from the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, to give an example, Diavik uses services from an electric company based in Yellowknife. The company is classified as a northern firm and involved in many important projects in the mining industry in the areas of design, construction, supplying generation of boiler houses and heating systems, just to name a few. It is approved as a northern business.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. 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 your statement.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this may not seem remarkable, but for the fact that on paper this business just has one employee based in a small office here in Yellowknife. It's beginning to affect the industry by having an individual to carry out an operation out of a storefront. That's truly remarkable, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, digging a little deeper, one learns that this one-employee company that so generously accepts the incentives from the Government of the Northwest Territories through the BIP, is itself a subsidiary of a larger company based in southern Canada. But the tale doesn't end there, Mr. Speaker. This larger partner company turns out to be part of an even larger company which has interests in California, New Jersey and the Grand Camen Islands. Indeed, a northern company, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, sometimes we must look deeply to see what it is the business incentive policy's intentions were, and how to fill the loopholes. In order to protect the original intent of the business incentive policy, government must come up with a more appropriate set of criteria that truly are there to benefit northern businesses which are built in the North, generate jobs in the North and keep their profits in the North.

Mr. Speaker, southern corporations, such as the one I mentioned, should not be receiving BIP under the existing policy. So with that, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister responsible for this program questions later. Thank you.

---Applause

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

#### **Member's Statement On Quality Of Life In Small Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak about the quality of life in our communities today. In the March session, we spent a lot of time in this House with the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs discussing the very important issue of the quality of life in our communities, specifically dealing with dust control. I know the department has a plan that the communities do not know about. I will be asking the Minister some questions relating to my statement so that I can give him a chance for public announcements in the House.

Mr. Speaker, when we finished the last session we talked about dust monitoring stations throughout the Northwest Territories to determine where dust is at the highest levels, so we could appropriately direct our resources to address those that need it the most first and move our way down, knowing our fiscal restraints. However, the government came back after the fact, saying that it's too costly and administratively too cumbersome to put these dust monitoring stations in every community, therefore, we're going to continue with what we planned.

If Members and colleagues remember correctly, they're going to start the dust control in Tuktoyaktuk. My argument at that time was why are we starting way up north when they have the earliest snow fall and the snow melts the latest? Dust control in the south should be a priority because we have summer here a little bit longer. But that seems to have gone by the wayside. So I'm going to ask the Minister where are we starting first, how are we going to get dust controls in every community, and how long will it take? This is a very important issue for all our

communities that don't have paved streets or chipsealed streets.

The consumption of water is regulated by a national standard. We consume less than that. People are having more and more problems with their respiratory systems because of the dust. People with allergies have to leave work a little earlier. These are all the issues that are felt, and the government has not responded to them as of yet. So I'll be asking the Minister responsible for the communities some questions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for the North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

#### **Member's Statement On Inconsistency In The Application Of Contracting And Procurement Policies**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, last Wednesday's Yellowknifer had an article about the NWT Construction Association and their opposition to the negotiated contracts for government projects. Mr. Speaker, I was surprised to see my name included in a list of seven MLAs opposed to negotiated contracts.

When I was approached by the Construction Association about where I stood on the issue of negotiated contracts, I responded that there have been a lot of issues with the way DPW does their contracts, and it is time that this government really looks at whether the process is benefiting the North or not. One suggestion I had made for the Construction Association was that perhaps they could be given notice of impending contracts before negotiations start. I would like to make it clear that my issue is not with negotiated contracts. In fact, I have supported negotiated contracts in my own riding since I was elected. I can name three of them. One was the Bay Island Bridge, the other one was the Edzo fire hall and the other one is the winter road construction between the smaller communities. Mr. Speaker, by supporting them, I feel I am encouraging local employment.

My issue is with the inconsistent process this government uses to award contracts. It seems as though each department follows its own regulations as to how to hand out contracts. Mr. Speaker, there has been a lot of controversy over how the government selects and how it runs projects. For example, how the government handled the cost overruns for the new correctional facility in Yellowknife. That made a lot of people question the government's ability to plan and follow a budget. Many ridings lost out on opportunities for services because so much money was eaten up by the cost overruns for this facility. The multi-million dollar government contract that was recently awarded to Buffalo Airways angered Northerners who felt that they did not have the opportunity to be considered for this contract. These are just two of them.

Mr. Speaker, one part of being an open and accountable government is to have regulations which are consistent across departments and which are clear to the companies bidding on the contracts. Mr. Speaker, I think the way contracts are awarded needs to be a fair process for all Northerners and that they benefit all communities and also the aboriginal governments that we have agreements with. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause



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

#### **Member's Statement On Negotiations With Specialist Physicians**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Remaining silent on the issue of negotiations with healthcare specialists has not been easy. Now that we have the procedural problem we ran into behind us, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak today on behalf of my constituents on this issue which impacts not just the people of Yellowknife, but all of the citizens of the NWT and of the Kitikmeot region, Mr. Speaker. No matter how big or how small our interest is or concern is in this issue, we all have an opinion on the present medical specialist contract and healthcare situation.

Mr. Speaker, I am not involved in the negotiations. I don't have all the facts concerning all sides. I will not judge or get into a finger pointing exercise in this Assembly about who I think might be right or might be wrong. That, Mr. Speaker, is the job of the negotiators to weigh all sides of the deal. Really, the only issue that should be before this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, is why aren't those parties negotiating today.

I have read the press releases, the letters and I have the e-mails. I have the briefings. I have talked with medical practitioners and constituents, not only about this situation, but about the health care system as a whole. It is the system as a whole which we must be working to maintain. From my constituents I have received a lot of thoughtful and urgent and sometimes conflicting opinions. But there are two consistent and fundamental points which come through. Mr. Speaker, healthcare services is an integrated system and the whole system must be maintained. All the parts need to work together.

Both sides need to be communicating and must immediately get back to the negotiating table. It is untenable, it is unacceptable and deeply disappointing that the negotiations are not proceeding at this time. Both sides must know that they can't wait until the 11<sup>th</sup> hour for an agreement. My message is to the doctors and this government to direct their negotiators to get back to the table now and find a solution acceptable to both parties. There won't be any winners if an agreement is not reached quickly. The consequences of a stalemate, if it is not broken, will be enormously costly to us in dollars and in human terms. We have 20 days, Mr. Speaker. A lot can be done if the will is there. Thank you.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Braden. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

#### **Member's Statement On Negotiations With Specialist Physicians**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as reported in the Yellowknifer last Friday and CBC Northbeat last night for the second time, a young, healthy mother in my constituency is about to follow up with a very difficult decision to induce her otherwise healthy, unborn baby in her 37<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy. This is because she and her family doctor do not have faith in the contingent of locums the Minister of Health has in place for July 1<sup>st</sup> in the event it becomes necessary to rely on them. Mr. Speaker, this is a totally unnecessary medical intervention and a real glaring example of how what we do and not do in this

House translates directly into the real life of real people in our communities.

I have been hearing a lot of other compelling medical stories, as well, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is my strong belief that all of us as leaders inside and outside of this House have a role to play in bringing a resolution to this crisis. I also understand and accept the age-old principle that politicians should not get involved in labour negotiations. The important fact to keep in mind here is that there is no negotiating going on for us to be interfering with. It is the government that has been negotiating, and this legislature is not the government.

Mr. Speaker, in fact, the Minister's press statement last Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, was entitled Specialist Negotiations End Without Contract. The Minister has also stated that the doctors have rejected a final offer, and an offer of arbitration from the government was rejected and that there was no other offer being worked on by the government. The Minister has also presented his contingency plan on this premise.

Mr. Speaker, this stalemate cannot be allowed to continue. There is just too much at stake and I call upon both parties, the specialist doctors and the government, to go back to the negotiating table and restart the negotiations, not at the end of the month, not when they hear from the other side, but now.

I urge both parties to pick up the phone and set the dates for negotiation at the earliest possible opportunity and not at the end of the month. I urge them to keep talking until they hammer out their differences. Mr. Speaker, I have been hearing a lot from the constituents on my press release and other public statements in this regard. I can tell you that I am hearing a full spectrum of opinions. Believe it or not, I heard from someone who said...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your time is up, Ms. Lee. Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to conclude her statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Believe it or not, I heard from someone who said there is only one intelligent way to deal with the current specialist designation crisis: give them what they want. Another said let them all go, it's time to start a clean slate of specialists.

Mr. Speaker, I can also tell you that the majority of our constituents fall in the middle of this spectrum. The overwhelming majority wants to give the negotiation process one more chance. I am certain that both parties understand that people are not going to put up with anything less than professional, reasonable and justifiable positions. As long as the parties are not talking, we have no realistic chance of coming to a resolution in time, Mr. Speaker. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I, once again, urge the people and the leaders in and out of this House to urge both parties to start talking to each other and get reasonable and professional. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

### Member's Statement On Issues Raised At Frame Lake Constituency Meeting

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a constituency meeting I held last week. I had a very good turnout, one of the best ones since the last election. Mr. Speaker, a number of topics came up. People came to tell me of their concerns and they provided some advice. One of the first topics to come up was about our fiscal situation. There was concern expressed about the approaching debt wall and funding from Canada, the royalty revenues from non-renewable resources and devolution.

Mr. Speaker, my constituents recognize that it will take some time to make a deal on devolving the ownership of resources and, therefore, royalties won't flow to the North for some time. They are concerned about what will happen in the interim. They expressed considerable frustration that the federal government has so far not recognized that while our economy is booming, it is contributing to our fiscal problem as we get stuck with infrastructure costs like road repairs and the increased costs to our social programs. They all said we should keep up the pressure on Ottawa, and a couple said that they were going to take occasion to press the issue with our Member of Parliament to ensure that she continues to work on our behalf.

Related to the fiscal issue, Mr. Speaker, is the issue of government restructuring. Government employees are obviously concerned that the recommendations that we are going to be seeing this fall might lead to layoffs. I was able to advise those in attendance that the report would likely be a set of recommendations to the 15<sup>th</sup> Assembly, so there will be a fair opportunity for discussion. I also told them that in my experience we could not save much money by cutting jobs, so I thought the restructuring recommendations were not likely to result in wide-scale layoffs.

Mr. Speaker, a number of other issues came up, such as the Deh Cho Bridge, the cost of living in the North and the shortage of housing. These are all important issues with my constituents. But, Mr. Speaker, probably the biggest issue since the announcement was made that negotiations with the specialist doctors have broken off, is that of the specialists. All present wanted to see the issue resolved. They felt that specialists played an important role in the quality of healthcare that we enjoy in the North. Most expressed displeasure over the doctors' tactics of submitting the resignation letter, and noted that without any discussion going on the issue is not getting any closer to resolution.

Mr. Speaker, all of them wanted to see the parties back at the table, and soon. They were not impressed by the suggestion that negotiations could resume at the end of June. They do not want to wait or do not want to take a chance of waiting until the last minute. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to complete my statement.

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

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, honourable Members. Mr. Speaker, there was very strong support from the constituents of my riding for using binding arbitration if the parties could not come back to the table on their own. So, Mr. Speaker, I hope both the Minister and the doctors will hear

what the public I represent have to say, and that is, get back to the table now. If you cannot resolve the issue yourselves at the table, then use binding arbitration. Let us settle this dispute. Resolve it so that our healthcare concerns can also be resolved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Dent. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

### Member's Statement On Negotiations With Specialist Physicians

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like Mr. Dent, I had occasion to have a constituency meeting last night and it ended up going quite late. Quite a number of constituents attended. I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, the only issue that anybody wanted to talk about was the deal with the specialists or the lack of deal to date. There were many concerns about, specifically, the contingency plan and whether or not arrangements would be made for them to receive service safely. What would happen for pregnant moms? Would they be able to deliver babies here at Stanton Territorial Hospital or would they be forced to go to Edmonton for the service? If they were forced to go to Edmonton, would there be assurances that Edmonton was able to handle the extra workload? I was not able to give them enough detail on the contingency plan and I think that is because as regular Members we do not have enough of the detail that we probably need, and I think this is one of the problems that the public is really faced with and that is not enough information and the fear and rumour and concerns are really starting to swirl.

Before we talk about a contingency plan, Mr. Speaker -- and I think it is responsible to talk about that -- most of my constituents wanted to talk about the breakdown of negotiations. They wanted to see a reasonable offer made, a reasonable offer accepted and many acknowledged that they do not know exactly what that is. Mr. Speaker, that is certainly my position. I cannot and am not in a position to tell you who has made the fairer offer in this situation, but I am in a position to tell you that my constituents want to see the issues settled, they want to see the issues settled quickly, and they want to see an avenue for dialogue so that both parties can seek out common ground and agree to agree on these issues and move this forward. I do not think we are best served by agreeing to come back to discuss these things the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of this month if we know that July 1<sup>st</sup> has been the imposed drop-dead date. I think that it is certainly dangerous and irresponsible to leave things so close, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. SPEAKER:** Yes, thank you. The honourable Member seeks unanimous consent to conclude his Member's statement. Are there any nays? There are no nays. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Bell.

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. My constituents, both at the meeting, Mr. Speaker, and also the constituents who have taken the time to call me and phone me, were certainly in agreement on the model that we have for healthcare in the Northwest Territories, the fact that we have spent a number of years staffing up to gain a number of specialties here in Yellowknife. Not all jurisdictions are as fortunate. For instance, Nunavut I do not believe has any specialists. Whitehorse has far fewer specialists. These jurisdictions rely primarily on locums who

come up to provide the service and also on shipping residents out. We are fortunate for the most part not to have to do that for most specialties and I would like to keep it that way, my constituents would like to keep it that way.

So I guess the real question is where are we now, Mr. Speaker? My constituents, I think, all want to see the model. They want to see this model be sustainable. They want to see both parties seek out, as I said, the common ground and look for an avenue for dialogue and I do not think they are prepared to accept that, with 20 some days left to go before we know that there has been a certain failure, that we are not going to engage in an ongoing dialogue to try to solve this problem. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bell. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Minister Antoine.

#### **Member's Statement On Tribute To Millennium Laureate, Christopher Stipdonk Of Fort Simpson**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the MLA for Nahendeh, today I would like to take the opportunity to honour one of my young constituents, Christopher Stipdonk of Fort Simpson. On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation announced the winning laureates from across Canada, and among those honoured was Christopher. This Canadian Millennium Scholarship Foundation has honoured students from across Canada who have demonstrated that they care about the world around them by demonstrating community services, economic excellence, leadership and innovation.

Christopher is one of two laureates selected from the Northwest Territories and he is currently a Grade 12 student in Thomas Simpson School who, I mentioned the other day, was one of the graduates last Saturday in the ceremony. He also was very active as an athlete. He represented the Northwest Territories in badminton at the Arctic Winter Games in Greenland and also represented the Northwest Territories at soccer in the Canada Summer Games. When Christopher's coach and friend, Scott McAdam, died suddenly last year, Christopher organized a fundraiser run. This event captured the hearts of the community and raised substantial funds to help alleviate the immediate financial worries of the coach's family.

Christopher is very active in Fort Simpson, in sports and in the community. He is also interested in a lot of things: the personal pleasures of reading, music, travelling and a variety of sports. Christopher would like to eventually become a physical education teacher, and is looking forward to beginning his university education in the fall. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

#### **ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize from Kakisa Jillian Landry, who is the chair of the Deh Cho health board and also the education board and owner of Kakisa Contracting. My constituency assistant, Sherry Landry-Braun. Welcome.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasant surprise and I would like to recognize Grade 6, Mr. David Speakman's class from Range Lake North School. This class is very special to me because they invited me to talk to them about my experience in Nigeria observing elections. I did that and they sent me the most wonderful thank you cards that brought me a smile and sometimes tears. I would like to thank them for that as well, and thank them for coming. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize today my constituency assistant, Ms. Denise Yuhas and as well my summer student out of my office in Fort Smith, Thomas Hobart, who will be going off to study political science at the University of Calgary. Ms. Yuhas has been with me for the full term and I owe her a great debt of gratitude. Thomas is learning the ropes and has a very fine set of sideburns.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Mr. Julian Landry and Roy Desjarlais who are here with the Aboriginal Sports Circle, who are hearing a lot about sports and where the Minister is going with this offer. Also, I would like to recognize my assistant Sherry Landry-Braun.

---Applause

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

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's with great pleasure that I recognize a loyal constituent and a person who I think has reserved seating now in the gallery. She's here very often. It's Major Karen Hoeft of the Salvation Army. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Braden.

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, earlier today the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Ootes, acknowledged the hard work of students and other people in our education system, students who are returning for the year. My daughter, Carmen, is in the gallery today, Mr. Speaker. She is back from a two-year program at Lester B. Pearson College at the Pacific. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Ootes.

**HON. JAKE OOTES:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is the day for educators and students. I would like to recognize the chair of the Yellowknife District Education Authority Roy Desjarlais, and Julian Landry who has been introduced before. He's the chair of the district education council for the Deh Cho. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Any further recognitions? With that, I would like to say on behalf of all the Members, welcome to the Legislative Assembly. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

#### ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

##### Question 284-14(6): Avenue For Disputing Power Bills

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question will be directed to the Minister responsible for the NWT Power Corporation. Mr. Speaker, in line with my Member's statement, I would like to know from the Minister what avenue customers have when they are disputing their monthly power bills beyond just going to the local office and saying they disagree. If they feel the responses they've received are not adequate, what other routes do they have?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Handley.

##### Return To Question 284-14(6): Avenue For Disputing Power Bills

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, the avenue that customers have, their first option, if customers are dissatisfied with their power bill is to go to their customer services representatives and the community people to whom they would pay their bills. The information then is sent on through to the Power Corporation. If at all possible, then those situations will be looked into to find out what the problem may be to try to rectify the situation. If they are not satisfied with the response they are getting from the Power Corporation, then I would certainly be ready to refer any requests I get from MLAs to the board and to the president of the Power Corporation. I am sure the board Members and chairperson would also be ready to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

##### Supplementary To Question 284-14(6): Avenue For Disputing Power Bills

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, when customers feel they are being charged for usage they didn't incur, you are saying that they should bring that to the board or to ourselves and make it a political situation. Is that the only avenue that's available to them? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Handley.

##### Further Return To Question 284-14(6): Avenue For Disputing Power Bills

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, once they have exhausted all their avenues through the Power Corporation, that's mainly through the local office, the superintendent, all the

way up through the system in the Power Corporation, then they have their MLAs who represent them. They can bring it to me and I can take it on to the board chair or the board members or they could take it directly to the board members. All customers have the option when the Public Utilities Board meets on a fairly regular basis on rate applications, to make their concerns known then. But if it's about a specific power bill, a specific issue in their own house, then the best avenue is to work through the Power Corporation. I have to say, Mr. Speaker, the evidence I have is that they have been very thorough in looking into any of the complaints that are brought to them as a corporation.

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

##### Supplementary To Question 284-14(6): Avenue For Disputing Power Bills

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the Power Corporation have staff available for customers to go into their homes to inspect equipment and provide onsite inspection to see if there are faulty pieces of equipment in residents' homes? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Handley.

##### Further Return To Question 284-14(6): Avenue For Disputing Power Bills

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes. In addition to the customer services group, they do have technicians and professionals who will look into it and they have done that in the past. They have gone in where there have been complaints and put in test meters, for example, to check out the meter and see if there is a problem there. They have also in the past referred people to the energy efficiency program, for example, where there are staff, and they will, through the Energy Alliance, do an assessment of someone's house, their heating system, their efficiency and determine what measures they will be able to take to save on energy costs. Thank you.

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

##### Supplementary To Question 284-14(6): Avenue For Disputing Power Bills

**MR. ROLAND:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Did the Minister state that customers would have access through the Energy Alliance to have someone go in and do an inspection in their homes? If that's the case, would the Power Corporation pick up the tab for someone travelling outside of the capital? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Roland. The honourable Minister responsible for the Power Corporation, Mr. Handley.

##### Further Return To Question 284-14(6): Avenue For Disputing Power Bills

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, there is a program referred to as the energy efficiency program that is administered through the Energy Alliance. The Power Corporation has one member on it. A lot of their work though is coordinated by RWED. There is a small fee for them to come in and do an assessment of someone's home, but to my

understanding, that program is available to anybody in the Northwest Territories who is concerned that their house may not be as energy efficient as it should be. That's not just for large communities or just for Yellowknife, it's for everybody. I know for a fact that it is available to residents in Inuvik. Thank you.

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

**Question 285-14(6): Dust Control In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Steen. Mr. Speaker, last session, we spent a lot of time on the issue of dust control to improve the quality of lives in our communities. Right now, I know of people who are going home early from work suffering from allergies. We made recommendations to address how we could coordinate the delivery of dust control in our communities. That direction has gone by the wayside. I would like to ask the Minister, does the department have a plan at all to address every community's dust issues? If so, can he share with us this plan? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 285-14(6): Dust Control In NWT Communities**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The department's plan for dust control at this time...I believe the Member is referring to the chipsealing program that we are just undertaking this year. So far, the only funding we have obtained for this is spread over a five-year period. That is, \$1 million a year for the program. Not all communities are identified under that particular program. We have only a certain number of communities that are identified at this point in time.

The long-term plan of the department is to have chipsealing or some form of dust control in all communities. However, we have not identified future funding yet. Although the department would certainly like to speed up the program to allow for more communities to be done in the five-year period, that is all the funding we have at this point from Financial Management Board Secretariat. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 285-14(6): Dust Control In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it is obvious to me that this government does not put too much value in the health of the people of the Northwest Territories. We are arguing over the specialists, that is the treatment of the physical needs of people after they are affected. This is a preventive measure we are talking about, but we are only putting in \$1 million a year. So I am asking the Minister, how many communities does this five-year plan cover and which communities are those? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 285-14(6): Dust Control In NWT Communities**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at this time the five-year plan covers Kakisa, Hay River Reserve, Fort Providence, Enterprise, Tsiigehtchic, Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Wrigley, Fort Liard, Edzo, Tuktoyaktuk, Tulita, Fort Good Hope, Fort Resolution, Dettah and that is it. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 285-14(6): Dust Control In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, from the documents that I have seen, there are only five communities that are going to be addressed this year. There are other communities. How long will it take this government to put chipseal for dust control purposes to improve the quality of lives in our communities? How long will it take the department to do that, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 285-14(6): Dust Control In NWT Communities**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the rate of funding that we have available at this time it would take a lot longer than the five-year program that we have. However, we are looking into other options. We have been approached by two other communities with different forms of dust control very similar to chipsealing, but it is a different form of dust control. We are asking Transportation to work with us and see whether or not this process that has been identified for these other two communities is in fact feasible and whether or not it will be efficient or effective in the communities. So depending on the type of processes that are available to us and the amount of funding, we are looking at a lot longer than a five-year period to address all the communities. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 285-14(6): Dust Control In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, that is quite unfortunate that the department does not have the imagination or the fiscal resources or the imagination to obtain the fiscal resources to do this. We are talking about negotiated contracts. Why do we not throw something to the communities to see if they are willing to pay for the cost to do the work upfront and the department pays them back for their time, something of that nature? It is just to deal with this issue, Mr. Speaker. If that is not the case, I would like to ask the Minister, would his department be willing to compensate those people that cannot venture outside because of health reasons? They cannot work because of health reasons and dust reasons. Would they be willing to compensate people that are suffering, today, right now, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 285-14(6): Dust Control In NWT Communities**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Municipal and Community Affairs does not have a program of that nature, that is for sure. But my colleague advises me that Health and Social Services has been expending \$230 million a year towards their contribution towards the health problems in the communities. I think the Member has a good point, Mr. Speaker. I am not trying to work around his concern. Municipal and Community Affairs is making whatever effort we can make to work with the communities to address the dust problems in the communities. We are open to suggestions. Whether or not it would involve the communities taking on the program themselves and then asking Municipal and Community Affairs to contribute to the cost later, that has already happened in a couple of communities. So the option is there.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

**Question 286-14(6): Twin Falls Gorge Campground Contract**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pick up on my line of questioning to Mr. Antoine regarding the contracting of Twin Falls Gorge in the community of Enterprise. I got some response from the Minister last week regarding definition of innovative services. I am glad to see that it is more than just coloured toilet paper in the campgrounds. However, I have a concern when this method of awarding contracts is used, especially on campgrounds where it is straightforward operations and maintenance. When a request for proposal is used we lose the local content. In every other instance in a tender we have a business incentive policy that applies where there is preference given to the northern contractor or the local contractor. But when you go into a request for proposal it is broken down into 40 percent price, 30 percent personnel, 30 percent innovative services. It does not give any preferential treatment to the communities. In this case, Twin Falls Gorge is right within the community of Enterprise's boundaries. So I would like to know, why there is no allowance made for points to the communities?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Antoine.

**Return To Question 286-14(6): Twin Falls Gorge Campground Contract**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I checked this out with Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development in regards to the request for proposal for the Twin Falls campground operations and the department followed the business incentive policy. It calls for the five percent preference for community applicants. So it was included in the evaluation process of that 40 percent for price. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 286-14(6): Twin Falls Gorge Campground Contract**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I read that the request for proposal allows for a business incentive policy, but if the points awarded for 40 percent of the contract that is only based on price, then the five percent business incentive policy

becomes what? Two percent? A percent and a half? I would like to know if the Minister would review the policy for request for proposals and include the preferential awarding of points for when it comes to contracts that are within community boundaries. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 286-14(6): Twin Falls Gorge Campground Contract**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will check again with the department, but I was told by the department that they did apply the five percent in this instance. But I will double check again. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 286-14(6): Twin Falls Gorge Campground Contract**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In this instance with the Twin Falls Gorge contract, we had a number of people bid on the contract or submit proposals, three from the community. They were not considered and they claim that the business incentive policy in the request for proposal in this instance does not work. I would like to ask the Minister if he would go into the community or send a delegation or some other official into the community of Enterprise to explain how the points were awarded and how and why they were left out of the process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 286-14(6): Twin Falls Gorge Campground Contract**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Twin Falls campground request for proposal, I understand the senior administrative officer of Enterprise was a member of the evaluation team, and that the one person that did not get the contract had come into the office and the process was explained to this person. The other person that was not registered under the business incentive policy automatically lost out because he was not registered. But as you know, we have gone through every policy extensively in this House and through the committees and we all agreed that we were going to follow the business incentive policy process. That is the policy we follow. I will endeavour to send a Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development representative into the community and sit down with the council there and explain the process for the individuals that were not successful. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 286-14(6): Twin Falls Gorge Campground Contract**

**MR. MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out to the Minister again that in the instance of a request for proposal, only 40 percent is based on price. So, if you are using five percent of 40 percent, the business incentive policy incentive is such a small percentage point it becomes

meaningless. There has to be more in there. It has to be reviewed. I am hearing the Minister say that he will review it. There is more than one person that bid on this contract. I have three letters of people that submitted proposals. So, I would like to know when the Minister can send his officials in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 286-14(6): Twin Falls Gorge Campground Contract**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we will try to send the people in there as soon as possible. I will get back to the Member on that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Antoine. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

**Question 287-14(6): Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It is about his statement this morning about how the people in tax-based communities are pleased to hear that there will be some money put towards water and sewer infrastructure this year. However, \$2.5 million spread among the six communities is not going to go very far. He talked about Canada's strategic infrastructure fund for municipal governments. Can the Minister advise this House whether or not we are likely to see any of that money in this year's construction season?

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

**Return To Question 287-14(6): Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I have had any information indicating that we could be receiving any of that money this year.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 287-14(6): Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So that means that, in effect, the tax-based municipalities are going to see a reduction of almost \$2 million in what they have available to them for cost-shared sewer and water replacement this year. Is the Minister confident that we will be able to provide the municipalities with lots of warning as to what will be available by next year?

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

**Further Return To Question 287-14(6): Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Speaker, I think my statement refers to funding that we had from last year that we would be using for this year. That is the reference to the funding. The money that is going to the tax-based communities is in fact monies that we have from the federal government's previous infrastructure

program. I believe it was called the green program. That is what we are referring to in that statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

**Supplementary To Question 287-14(6): Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund**

**MR. DENT:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I read the Minister's statement, it says that the \$1.86 million was provided for repairs and replacement last summer. Mr. Speaker, will the Minister advise this House whether or not he has made contact with the federal government to ensure that Canada's strategic infrastructure fund is provided to the North in a manner which is not related to population? In other words, will we get a more reasonable share of the money this time?

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

**Further Return To Question 287-14(6): Canada Strategic Infrastructure Fund**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my department has been working and I think we are cooperating with the Minister of Finance on that. He has been basically working with the federal government as to whether or not we will be receiving any of that funding. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Question 288-14(6): Companies Registered Under The Business Incentive Policy**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for the business incentive policy in regards to my Member's statement. Mr. Speaker, I was amazed that in applying under the business incentive policy, all it takes to establish a northern business is to have a manager, set up a storefront and have one employee and you're qualified. Digging a little deeper, however, I find out that these companies are also subsidiaries of a bigger company based out of Alberta. So I would like to ask the Minister, Mr. Speaker, does the government have any idea of how many businesses receive benefit from the business incentive policy that are truly northern businesses, and also how many are actually fronts for southern companies or multi-national companies in southern Canada?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Antoine.

**Return To Question 288-14(6): Companies Registered Under The Business Incentive Policy**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have a business incentive policy that has been in place for a number of years and it has served northern businesses very well. I think right now we are still under the current business incentive policy. There are provisions in the policy itself to identify businesses that have applied to be under this policy, and the business has to comply with the legal requirements to carry out business in the Northwest Territories. So they have to be a legal business entity and registered as such.

Also, to be under this policy, there are a number of criteria that these businesses have to follow. There is quite an extensive

qualification list. There is the application and we have a committee that reviews all the different applications. There is a senior management preference committee that is like an advisory committee that reviews these different businesses that apply.

So there is a criteria that we follow and the main ingredient here is that if a limited company with at least 51 percent of a company's voting shares is owned by northern residents then they qualify. That is one of them. There are a number of other criteria, but we do have tools within the current business incentive policy to look at all these different businesses and to determine whether they are following the criteria.

Furthermore, the department has a list of all the different companies that have registered under the business incentive policy, and if they are registered under the business incentive policy then they follow the northern business qualifications according to the policy. So they are indeed northern businesses under this policy.

That percentage is owned by whom is something that we have to look at. There are some companies that have been grandfathered in, fairly large corporations have been grandfathered in in this policy as well. So we have a number of different companies that may be huge corporations that do other business in the south, but if they are under this policy then they are also a northern business. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Antoine. Mr. Krutko, supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question 288-14(6): Companies Registered Under The Business Incentive Policy**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the whole intention of the BIP is to ensure that northern businesses are able to compete with southern businesses, not for southern businesses to move north and take over the opportunities for northern businesses. I would like to ask the Minister does the government have any idea of the scale of the damage done to legitimate northern companies that have lost government contracts to southern companies who receive benefits under the BIP because of storefront?

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

**Further Return To Question 288-14(6): Companies Registered Under The Business Incentive Policy**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a fairly complicated and impossible task to determine. As I indicated earlier, there are businesses that are BIPed that have to follow this policy. If they follow it and you qualify, then you're BIPed. So once you're BIPed it's hard to analyze if you're southern and what kind of damage you've done. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 288-14(6): Companies Registered Under The Business Incentive Policy**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a copy of a BIP application here where it says it has one employee, it has a manager and it has an address. So basically this whole operation is run by one employee and it's

only benefiting one person, but realistically this is a front for a southern company which is based out of Alberta. I'd like to ask the Minister exactly what is this government doing to ensure that we close these loopholes so that legitimate northern businesses are really receiving a benefit through the BIP, not having a loophole that southern companies are able to get through? What are we doing to close that loophole?

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

**Further Return To Question 288-14(6): Companies Registered Under The Business Incentive Policy**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, the whole business incentive policy debate has been going on for quite a number of years now, and there has been a lot of work done by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development over the past three years. We looked at the business incentive policy, we did extensive and comprehensive consultation with government and industry over this period of three years, and we're trying to get support to make some changes to the business incentive policy. We've gone through the process that we have with the AOC, and I guess the last attempt was in March when I appeared before the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight and we had discussions on the proposed business incentive policy.

As a result of that, AOC recommended that we begin tracking the costs and benefits of BIP and re-evaluate the policy in one year. AOC would also like to extend the evaluation to agencies such as housing authorities and boards. So the review of BIP was initiated in response to concerns. It has been operating for 18 years and there were about six major changes that we proposed in the policy.

One of them was the definition of business incentive policy and businesses which will emphasize the contribution to the economy through Northwest Territories employment, allocation of payroll, personnel, and/or corporate taxes. So we wanted to make some changes in the definition of the business incentive policy. But in March, I was told by the MLAs on the other side and AOC that they didn't want to move forward with this at this point in time, so that's where we are. So we did our work and we just need support from MLAs to make the business incentive policy truly work for northern businesses. Thank you.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Does the government have any idea how much BIP funding has ended up fattening up the bottom lines of southern companies?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Can I ask the Member to just rephrase that question, perhaps, in a bit more diplomatic manner? Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary To Question 288-14(6): Companies Registered Under The Business Incentive Policy**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, does the government have any idea how much revenue has ended up in the profit margins of southern companies that are operating under the BIP?

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



**Further Return To Question 288-14(6): Companies Registered Under The Business Incentive Policy**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is another very complicated and kind of an impossible task to determine. Again, the existing BIP companies fall under the current policy so they are BIPed. To differentiate them from other businesses to see if they're fronts for large southern corporations is an impossible task to do at this point in time. Through the extensive review that we did on the business incentive policy, the best way to really get a handle on it is to change the business incentive policy the way we proposed. I think there are six major changes in the proposed policy that we wanted to proceed with, and that would also deal with the issues that you're talking about. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Colleagues, with your concurrence, I'd like to take this opportunity to direct your attention to the Visitors' Gallery and the presence of our youngest son Ian. Ian is a fireman with the Yellowknife Fire Department and he has his day off.

---Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**Question 289-14(6): Consistency In Contracting Policy Application**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Deputy Premier, the Honourable Jim Antoine. I would like to ask the Deputy Premier, since this government supports negotiated contracts and now that more self-government and aboriginal companies are being created, I would like to ask the Deputy Premier if he can look at the way the contracts are being done by all departments in this government and make sure that we have a consistent way of dealing with all the contracts that are out there in the North for private contractors, public contractors, regional or whatever. Would the Minister give me an answer to that? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 289-14(6): Consistency In Contracting Policy Application**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, on the negotiated contracts there is a policy that we've been developing in this government and we've shared it with Members on the other side, with AOC. We're currently finishing off the policy to try to fine tune it. Through this negotiated policy, once we finish it and refine it, we will also address how the departments will be consistent when dealing with negotiated contracts. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Antoine. Supplementary, Mr. Lafferty.

**Supplementary To Question 289-14(6): Consistency In Contracting Policy Application**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister if he is indicating that he will be dealing in a consistent way with all contracts or just negotiated contracts? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 289-14(6): Consistency In Contracting Policy Application**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm speaking specifically at this point about the negotiated contract policy which we intend to deal with in a consistent way. As for contracts, we are going to continue dealing with contracts in a consistent way, as with requests for proposal and other forms of contracting that we do. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 289-14(6): Consistency In Contracting Policy Application**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just listened to my colleague on the right talking about contracts. I'd like to ask the Minister if, during the time they're looking at the way they're doing things, there is some way that they're giving out contracts and they're not benefiting the North, then maybe they should look at changing those. As for the BIP being implemented, also I think that needs to be changed. I was actually one of the first Members to ever say that. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 289-14(6): Consistency In Contracting Policy Application**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, the Member is talking about contracts in general, and part of the contracting process is that we have the business incentive policy and we only contract out through companies that are BIPed. In this case, the current business incentive policy has the tools in place to look at the different companies that are there and they have to follow the legal business criteria as well as our criteria under this policy. Then there is a process on how to review those companies to see if they're actually following these criteria. We could do that. But if the Member is supporting us changing the business incentive policy, I really appreciate that. I think we could also consider going that direction as well. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 289-14(6): Consistency In Contracting Policy Application**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Deputy Premier if he can give direction to all departments so they can have a consistent way of dealing with contracts in the North. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 289-14(6): Consistency In Contracting Policy Application**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, yes, it has to be an ongoing directive of the government. Even though each department is totally different from the others and everybody is very busy doing their own thing, each department has to follow the process and be consistent when they're issuing contracts. Thank you.

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

**Question 290-14(6): Physician Contingency Plan**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Minister of Health and Social Services, and it's in regards to the constituents that I was talking about in my Member's statement. Mr. Speaker, I brought that up last week and the Minister had indicated that he didn't know enough about it. Since then there has been lots of coverage on that. So I'd like to know -- because I believe this speaks to the weakness in the contingency plan that he has in place -- if there has been any new development in terms of the locum contingency for obstetrics and gynecology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 290-14(6): Physician Contingency Plan**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first I'd like to speak to the issue of the locums and their qualifications. Every locum we hire who is qualified to practice in the Northwest Territories is registered as a medical doctor. There has been misinformation, deliberate or otherwise, unfortunately, it would appear, that leads people to believe that that is not the case. We've also had the unfortunate occurrence last week during Seniors' Week to have a locum's reputation and capability questioned because of his age. Mr. Speaker, we make every effort to bring in only the best locums we can find, and I would also like to point out that every locum that we have ready to work in the Northwest Territories has worked here before, except one. So they are not strangers here, and they are dedicated professionals, doctors, sworn to uphold their Hippocratic oath, and we're very happy to have them.

Mr. Speaker, I said last week, and I'll repeat, that we do have coverage for obstetrics. We, as well, today, have arranged coverage for pediatrics, we have coverage for general surgery and anesthesiology. So we have the coverage we need to ensure that babies can continue to be delivered here in the Northwest Territories and we're going to keep working on a contingency plan. I would just hope that people would put out the best facts they have, and not cause alarm and not make statements questioning the locums when we know in this House that we don't hire anybody but qualified doctors. We can't. Our rules are very clear. We should not be causing needless apprehension among patients and people, women and pregnant women. This is an issue that's very serious and we are working with the medical community to come up with a contingency plan. The medical directors are involved in the development of that plan and they're all doctors. They're all very qualified and specialists themselves who are involved in the development of this. A fundamental priority for everybody first and foremost, as we work through this labour issue, is to make sure that we have the safety of the patients first and foremost in everybody's minds and that they don't become bargaining chips in a process that does not affect them. Thank you.

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

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm not sure if I appreciated that speech, but I guess the Minister has the prerogative to say what he likes. Mr. Speaker, I could also say that I don't believe the couple that has been interviewed by the

media and bared their soul and revealed their private information about the medical decisions they face, appreciate the Minister's accusation that they're out there to mislead the public. I would ask the Minister to withdraw that comment.

Mr. Speaker, I also have stated in this House that none of us here are qualified to make medical decisions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** May I ask you to direct a question to the Minister. If you have a Point of Order, make your Point of Order. If you have a Point of Privilege, make your privilege, or ask your question. Your question, Ms. Lee.

**Supplementary To Question 290-14(6): Physician Contingency Plan**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question to the Minister is that we know, and I know, that he's been getting e-mail and correspondence that I have, that says that the family doctors in Yellowknife and the parents who are expecting babies have no faith in the locum contingent. I'd like to know what he has done, since this has been revealed, to accommodate their lack of faith in the locum contingent.

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

**Further Return To Question 290-14(6): Physician Contingency Plan**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first let me be very clear. I do not know these people Ms. Lee refers to. My comments were directed specifically at the Members here who have been making comments, who have been making these comments in this forum, in this House. Mr. Speaker, we are working with the doctors to arrange locum care. The GPs are involved. There's a meeting tonight with GPs, we had a meeting today with the GPs and the Medical Association is meeting, I understand, on Thursday. We have nothing but qualified, registered locums coming here, all of who have worked here before.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of forces at play here, and to come into this House and call into question the credibility of all the locums is, I think, unfortunate. The reality is they are very qualified doctors and we are very happy to have them here and in other communities. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 290-14(6): Physician Contingency Plan**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As the same constituent of mine would say, the Minister is continuing to snowball me into distraction. Mr. Speaker, the fact is -- and I don't think for one second that the Minister is not reading the papers or watching the reporters on this -- we have mothers who are being told to go Edmonton to deliver their babies or induce labour here. There are a lot of extra costs associated with that. The lights are on at Stanton Hospital and nurses are on staff, but no customers. Has the Minister done the calculation of what this overall cost is in hiring locums, leaving the hospital empty and having all our mothers deliver babies in Edmonton and making the Alberta coffers richer by the day? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 290-14(6): Physician Contingency Plan**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, clearly the Member has access to information that I don't have. Mr. Speaker, I just told this House that we have pediatrics coverage, we have obstetrics coverage, we have anesthesiology covered, we have general surgery covered, we have GPs with obstetric training here that are going to work with the specialists that we have to bring in, should that need arise. The Member obviously dismisses that. Mr. Speaker, my information is very current. I met just before lunch, I'm monitoring this thing daily, hourly, and those are the facts as I have them. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 290-14(6): Physician Contingency Plan**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suppose I can't do anything about it if the Minister chooses to go by selective information. Mr. Speaker, we have GPs on salary who are not able to do their work because they have no backup service. Why is he insisting on paying these GPs on salary who cannot do their work, and doing nothing about getting into negotiations with the specialists?

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

**Further Return To Question 290-14(6): Physician Contingency Plan**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, once again let me state that we have specialists. It is now June 10<sup>th</sup>. We have a contingency plan where we have arranged coverage of qualified medical doctors, specialists, to work with the GPs. We have pediatrics covered, we have obstetrics covered, we have general surgery covered, we have anesthesiology covered. Mr. Speaker, we have all the capability we currently have to deliver babies. The doctors, specialists and GPs are working to ensure the best interests of their patients and it's unfortunate that the Member opposite refuses to acknowledge that fact. I am telling you, Mr. Speaker, the most current information that I have, and that is but hours old. Thank you.

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

**Question 291-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiation Process**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions this afternoon are also for the Minister of Health and Social Services following up on my statement today. I would like to stick to questions about the negotiation process itself, Mr. Speaker. The first question is what is the status of the negotiation process today? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 291-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiation Process**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the formal negotiation process ended about a week-and-a-half ago where the offer for arbitration was rejected after we put a 27 percent increase on the table. So that formal process has concluded, though the offer for arbitration has not been taken off the table. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 291-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiation Process**

**MR. BRADEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask what, if anything, is the GNWT waiting for in order to restart negotiations and I would like to stress the word "negotiation," not arbitration? What is it that we are waiting for to get negotiations restarted? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 291-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiation Process**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is a broad process at play here as we work towards a resolution of this issue. There was a formal negotiation process that ended a week-and-a-half ago. We have been working for several weeks now on a contingency plan based on the letters of resignation effective July 1<sup>st</sup> that were issued by the 12 specialists. We are working through that and dealing with all the other implications that followed that that process has brought to bear. We are in session at present. It is an issue and a forum that tends to bring political attention to issues. We are dealing with that as well and we are being very measured. We are taking all the steps we deem appropriate and we are hoping the specialists as well are looking at their options, all of whom signed individual contracts at the end of the day. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 291-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiation Process**

**MR. BRADEN:** So, Mr. Speaker, it seems that there is just no appreciation of the situation there or the timing on this. We have 20 days in which to do something, and all that I am hearing is that there is an offer to arbitrate and that the specialists might be ready to do something at the very last minute, the 11<sup>th</sup> hour. I hardly find this adequate. Does the Minister need to go back to Cabinet? What does the Minister have to do to get some kind of mandate to restart negotiations? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 291-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiation Process**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we ended the formal process with a significant difference. We offered what we think is a very reasonable, fair alternative given the significant 30 percent gap in the wage

demands. That is arbitration. That is a process that is there that is impartial with a third party that can bring a resolution to this issue. That offer has not been taken off the table even though formal negotiations are over. That was what we suggested as a very fair compromise. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 291-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiation Process**

**MR. BRADEN:** Mr. Speaker, I want to make sure I have this absolutely clear; that our government has abandoned, given up, shut the door completely on restarting formal negotiations. Is that correct?

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

**Further Return To Question 291-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiation Process**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have just indicated, we have an offer of arbitration on the table. All the specialists involved signed individual contracts and at the end of the day, they won't be having to look at those contracts, the offer we have made, the fact that we are going to be back into negotiations in about six months and make some decisions. Mr. Speaker, we think a 27 percent increase is very fair over two years. Most jurisdictions aren't that high in over three years. So, Mr. Speaker, we think this is a very fair offer. As I indicated to this House, I understand that there are meetings among the doctors taking place this week. So we stand with our offer out there for arbitration and a very fair package.

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

**Question 292-14(6): Support For Long-Term Northern Businesses**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions today are for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. We've heard a lot of talk in the Chamber today about negotiated contracts and the business incentive policy. We've also been talking about contingency plans. I am wondering when we talk about negotiated contracts, there are different reasons for doing them and I think most of them understand what most of those motivations and reasons are. We talk about storefronts, but not all businesses that are losing out on contracts are storefronts. Many of them are businesses that have been here 10, 20, 40 years in the North and who need government business in order to survive and to ensure the viability of their business. What is the contingency plan on the part of this government for those businesses who have been here, have employees, have tremendous investment in the North, when negotiated contracts take away their access and opportunity to bid on contracts? What is the contingency plan for those businesses? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 292-14(6): Support For Long-Term Northern Businesses**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the intention of negotiated contracts is to give corporations, companies, mainly aboriginal companies from small communities, opportunities to get their foot in the door of the business world and also develop their capacity to pursue the type of work and contracts in that area. This negotiated contract has been a policy of this government for a number of years. We are currently reviewing this policy, I think we shared with the MLAs through AOC, and we got feedback. We are fine-tuning this policy and we are hoping to shortly have that in place. It would change the way we are doing it. There will still be a negotiated contract policy, but it's going to have more mechanisms in place that would allow it to be a lot fairer than it is. As for a contingency for the companies that are currently working in this area that have... I don't know how many companies there are in the small communities where there are contracts, but I think the focus would be mainly towards the smaller communities where there are contracts that the different corporations, aboriginal corporations, are capable of taking on. We have to look at that. The idea there is that government money flowing to these communities should stay in the communities or the regions and not be taken out to another larger centre. That is also part of what we are looking at in this area. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 292-14(6): Support For Long-Term Northern Businesses**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, not every type of business can survive just by doing business right within their community. Many companies need to look at the availability of work on a larger scale in the region. Even small, aspiring companies will want to think about eventually offering their goods or services to a larger marketplace. I think we still have free trade in the Northwest Territories. I think it's okay to work in our communities. I want to know how we are going to balance, as a government, the aspirations of those businesses in the small communities -- as the Minister said primarily aboriginal -- how are we going to balance that without not disrupting completely the life's work and investment of other companies in the same region? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 292-14(6): Support For Long-Term Northern Businesses**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, the intention here is to try to accommodate some of the corporations that are in the regions and small communities to get them involved in the business world. I think there are aspirations out there. Looking at the economy in the Northwest Territories, it has changed quite drastically in the last few years and we are out there in the world saying the GDP has grown 18 to 20 percent and I don't see it slowing down. It's increasing. With the amount of resource development that's going to happen, especially the pipeline, I think the future down the line is that there is going to be a lot of work in the North and we need to have the different companies that currently exist to continue to exist, so we could maybe benefit from it, as well as smaller communities that are

aspiring to get into the business world. We need to do that. In the policy which, unfortunately, we haven't concluded, the discussion is that there has to be a certain period of life in a negotiated contract. I don't think the debate and discussion that we've had is that negotiated contracts can go on forever. There has to be a period of time during which the different companies should have reached a point to where they could have equal footing with other companies that have to compete. I think there will be a life to this negotiated contract. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 292-14(6): Support For Long-Term Northern Businesses**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Has the government given any consideration to how they can accommodate the aspirations of new fledgling communities from smaller communities and, at the same time, protect the viability and the investment of larger companies? Has the government given any consideration to how that can be accomplished?

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

**Further Return To Question 292-14(6): Support For Long-Term Northern Businesses**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the policy that I am talking about is in development. We need to discuss more than balancing the existing companies that are there and have been for a number of years and the fledgling companies. We need to still discuss that matter. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 292-14(6): Support For Long-Term Northern Businesses**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be interested in participating in that because it is an issue and it can become a problem. I would like to suggest that where there is a desire for new companies to start, that the government seriously consider how they might make a transition in terms of ownership rather than just straight out market disruption and killing off some of these long-established companies by a slow death through negotiated contracts or by other means. Would the Minister consider it worthwhile to look at how aboriginal companies could become involved in some of these companies, perhaps in a way that could allow them to take them over, as opposed to just seeing them go out of business? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 292-14(6): Support For Long-Term Northern Businesses**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with the North and the business world that is unfolding before us, there will be plenty of opportunities in the future for innovative business arrangements. I think there are possibilities of joint venturing, as well as taking over other companies. I think that is the possibility out there. I think there is room to explore those possibilities. How do we do it? We still need to talk about it and perhaps it is a subject for a good discussion

and exchange on how we can work together and look for answers for those kinds of questions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. The time for question period has ended. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to item 6, oral questions.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to return to item 6, oral questions. Are there any nays? There are no nays. We shall return to item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

**REVERT TO ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS**

**Question 293-14(6): Recruitment And Retention Of Healthcare Professionals**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Health. I have a number of questions about the sustainability of our healthcare system. Mr. Speaker, a recent scan of job boards indicates at the beginning of June something like 39 vacancies for positions such as RNs, doctors and other healthcare professionals. Many of my constituents are concerned about whether or not we are making any progress in recruitment and retention. We know we have to be competitive in order to attract and keep these folks. Are we doing better today than we were a year ago? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 293-14(6): Recruitment And Retention Of Healthcare Professionals**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe we are doing better for a number of reasons. There are still problems to be sure. We have added \$8.3 million to the system for new doctors, three specialists, 10 GPs and a great number of nurses, midwives and nurse practitioners. We are also starting to see graduating classes come out of the Aurora College nursing program. We are still competing down south for the doctors and specialists, which is a very competitive market, but we are putting the pieces in place as a system and we are starting to see the fruits of that, especially with the nursing side. We also have work done with social workers and we are also in a very competitive market with other allied health professionals. So, Mr. Speaker, we've been working to try to address those issues.

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

**Supplementary To Question 293-14(6): Recruitment And Retention Of Healthcare Professionals**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another concern about the sustainability of our healthcare system from my meeting last night is there was a specialist in attendance who indicated that a number of GPs who do turns at obstetrics had expressed their dissatisfaction with the contingency plans that they had seen to date and, specifically, I know one of the concerns was the lack of a pediatrician on locum. I heard the Minister indicate he has made arrangements in that regard. I wonder if he has had feedback from the GPs as to whether or not they feel that satisfactory arrangements are now being moved forward. Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 293-14(6): Recruitment And Retention Of Healthcare Professionals**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there have been meetings with the CEO at Stanton on this issue, with the GPs and medical directors to go over the issue of obstetric services. The issue of pediatrics being signed is very, very recent. It happened sometime around lunchtime. So that information will be communicated to the GPs. It was an issue of concern to them, so we think we have addressed with that coverage that particular key gap. We now have obstetrics coverage, as well as pediatrics and anesthesiology. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 293-14(6): Recruitment And Retention Of Healthcare Professionals**

**MR. BELL:** Thank you. Of course, I don't know all the areas that would require coverage and would make or break areas at the hospital, but I know a number of my constituents are concerned about – and have been hearing rumours – the possibility of ward closures if we aren't able to resign these positions quickly. Can the Minister indicate or give us a status report on whether or not there are any anticipated ward closures? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 293-14(6): Recruitment And Retention Of Healthcare Professionals**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the event that there is a mass resignation of specialists on July 1<sup>st</sup> we have the locum coverage on a contingency basis, but it does mean, in some cases, emergency services will have the first consideration and the elective matters will be deferred. I am not aware of any plans that are not already on the books for ward closures. For example, there is a traditional closure for a couple of weeks in August of the surgery ward. That is there, but it is planned for. So not at this time, Mr. Speaker. We have the resources to keep open the intensive care unit and the other services. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Your final supplementary, Mr. Bell.

**Supplementary To Question 293-14(6): Recruitment And Retention Of Healthcare Professionals**

**MR. BELL:** Another of my constituents was very concerned in the event that she or anyone in her family need to be shipped to Edmonton. She had heard – and I don't know whether it was through an official source or not – that there were concerns in Edmonton about patient load and that things were already very taxed in Edmonton, and was concerned that Edmonton might not be able to take patients from the Northwest Territories because of their workload. Is that the case, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 293-14(6): Recruitment And Retention Of Healthcare Professionals**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, arrangements have been made with Capital Health Authority to take whatever patients we may be required to send their way. We are also still in the process, for the convenience of residents of the South Slave and the Deh Cho and Nahendeh constituencies, of possible arrangements as well with High Level and Grande Prairie, should that be required. So to reassure my colleague, the Capital Health Authority has indicated to us, especially on the obstetrics side, that they would be able to assist us in our time of need should it be required. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Nitah.

**Question 294-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is for Minister Steen in his role as Minister of Public Works and Services. Mr. Speaker, dust control is a problem in every community in the Northwest Territories that does not have paved roads. In Lutselk'e that is further compounded by the fact that the community is running out of fuel, diesel fuel. So the community is rationing the fuel for the water and sewage truck only. Therefore, their roads are deteriorating. They cannot water the roads for dust control. I would like to ask the Minister, how can his department allow a community to almost run out of fuel to the point where the fuel has to be rationed? Thank God, Mr. Speaker, it is warmer times. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 294-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department is aware of the situation and they were not expecting as much consumption. In particular there has been a lot of aircraft traffic into the community that has been using that type of fuel. It has put a strain on the capacity that was in the community for the year. The department did not fill the tanks to full capacity because in the past it never had to do that. They never had that much consumption. So the department is aware of the situation and right now we are evaluating the best way to bring the fuel in, whether we have to fly it in. We are also working with NTCL to see if we can get them to come in a little bit earlier. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 294-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, why was the tank not filled to capacity?

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

**Further Return To Question 294-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, in the past there was never that much

consumption that we had to use the full capacity of the tanks. Because of the price related to whether you buy last year or whether you buy this year, it makes quite a difference, particularly if the price drops, then you do not have to have so much in the fuel tank that is rated at last year's cost. Of course, it would reflect the overall price of fuel for the community. That is why Public Works and Services had not been filling the tanks to capacity.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, your next supplementary.

**Supplementary To Question 294-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if the Department of Public Works and Services has some way of determining the price of fuel in the future, maybe they should share it with investors in the North so that we can all benefit from it. Mr. Speaker, I am starting to question the ability of the Minister and his department to plan effectively for our communities. We have dust control problems, we have fuel problems now. I am going to ask the Minister now, will he commit to his department doing a study on the needs of the community? Not just fill up the tanks. Maybe there is more work that is done in the community that is going to require more fuel. Do we have enough capacity in that community to meet the needs of the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 294-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have already discussed this with the department. They have advised me that if the tanks were filled to capacity they expect that they would be able to service the community for the year. However, they are prepared to bring in an extra 10,000 gallon tank if that's necessary. A self-supporting tank with, I forget what it is called, but its own skirting. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 294-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, willing the department the plans, the department was scheduled to move the tanks to a different location this summer. Are they still planning to follow through with that commitment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 294-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, that is part of the plan. Public Works and Services is going to be reviewing whether we are going to relocate the tanks and where to. At the same time, there might be some plan in place that we are going to put towards expansion of the capacity in the community as well. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. Ms. Lee, you have a Point of Order.

**Point of Order**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise on a Point of Order under the rules of the debate in the House, 23(h), (i) and (j). Mr. Speaker, these rules speak to the Member's right to raise a Point of Order where a Member is making allegations against another Member or House officer or witness. That is Rule 23(h). Rule 23(i) reads, where a Member imputes false or hidden motives to another Member. Rule 23(j) states where a Member charges another Member with uttering a deliberate falsehood.

Mr. Speaker, I do not know where you might consider this issue, but I raise a Point of Order on what Minister Miltenberger stated. Mr. Speaker, Minister Miltenberger in answering my questions, stated that I was sending out misleading information or falsehood, or words to that effect, that I was unduly scaring the public out there when I was making a statement about what my constituent had said and she was interviewed in the paper. Yet when he was answering to the question to Mr. Bell -- I wrote it down and I don't know if I have the exact quote -- he said there was a concern raised by the general practitioners about the specialist locum and that he has just dealt with that issue at noon today. So the Minister just admitted that there was a concern expressed.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Ms. Lee, the Point of Order, you were on it there before, but it seems to have gone astray here. What exactly is your Point of Order?

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If you could give me, I mean, Mr. Speaker, I urge you to listen to my Point of Order. I am trying to explain my Point of Order and that is, in answering my questions about the concerns I had, the Minister said there was no problem and that I was somehow deliberately or unintentionally or intentionally misleading the public into thinking there was a problem with the general practitioners. Yet when he was answering this question, he said that there was a concern raised by the general practitioners and that he dealt with it at noon today. So how could he have dealt with it if there was no problem?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order in the House, please. The honourable Member has the floor. She has a Point of Order that she is trying to get across and the chair would like to hear that Point of Order. So I cannot hear it if Members across are interfering. Thank you, Ms. Lee, I have heard. Do you have anything more to say on it? Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do believe that one of these days what I say in this House will be heard by the Minister across or somewhere. Anyway, Mr. Speaker, I believe I raised the point. What I am raising is I have been told that I was misleading with wrongful information, third-hand information that the Minister was not aware of and that my constituent was misleading. Yet he admitted that there was a problem and he dealt with it at noon. So he is misleading, he is saying I am lying, that I am deliberately uttering falsehoods. So I would like you to look into this, what the Minister is saying. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. I do not mean to interrupt you, but I just do not want it to go any further there because you have mentioned the word lying and the chair never heard the word lie earlier on until you mentioned it. Thank you for your Point of Order, Ms. Lee. The chair will take this under advisement. There was just a lot that had been said during that particular exchange and, for the continuation of today and question period, the chair will take this under

advisement until I can review the unedited Hansard to see if in fact there is a Point of Order. Thank you, Ms. Lee. Your concern will be dealt with. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Question 295-14(6): Reorganizing Sport And Recreation Boards**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Minister Steen. It concerns the government's attempts to restructure the recreation boards we have in the Northwest Territories and streamline them so we can have a more compulsory process so that everybody is included so that we can see a better working relationship between the different organizations, from the Aboriginal Sports Circles to all the regional sporting bodies and also Sport North. I had an opportunity to meet with members of the Aboriginal Sports Circle to get their interpretation of this. They support the idea of restructuring the recreation board to include not only communities, but regional and territorial boards so we can have a better system in place. So I would like to ask the Minister, exactly what are you doing to ensure that you include all agencies that are presently involved to date with this process, not just Sport North?

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

**Return To Question 295-14(6): Reorganizing Sport And Recreation Boards**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to meet with the Aboriginal Sports Circle representatives, especially if it can be done within the next three or four days while session is still on. In regards to meeting with all the representatives from Sport North, and recreation groups, that would take quite a while, especially since the most effective way would have been to call some kind of assembly to bring them all in. However, I did have a meeting with Sport North this morning, and Sport North is willing to take part in the June 25<sup>th</sup> meetings with the rest of the interim committee that was established to put together a plan for the operation of the new board. Sport North would not do that before. It appears after discussions with Sport North this morning, that this whole thing will come to a conclusion whereby everybody is back on track again. I am not saying it is going to be exactly the way it has been suggested up to now, but there may be some changes made or whatever. Whatever changes are proposed will be coming from the partners, not from the department. So that is where we are planning to go right now. I am hoping that the Member is not suggesting that I have to have a meeting with all these people in order to get this thing back on track. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 295-14(6): Reorganizing Sport And Recreation Boards**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not insinuating that basically the Minister meets with every agency. Basically the point I am trying to get at is we have to have an open process here to ensure we include all the participants. We cannot have you meeting on one side with one group and then running off and meeting with someone else. You have to have room to meet in. So I am glad to hear that Sport North is willing

to sit down and talk with these other agencies. I would like to ask the Minister, exactly how soon can we see some sort of...

**MR. SPEAKER:** Can we have some order in the House. There seems to be a number of conversations going on. The chair is trying to listen to the Member's question. Thank you. Mr. Krutko, your question. ...(inaudible)...to the honourable Member, sir, but, Mr. Krutko, finish the question.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I feel that we have to have a system in place that is inclusive, that includes everyone. So I would like to ask the Minister, will you ensure that you have an ongoing dialogue with the parties that are involved in restructuring this body, so that we can somehow try to come to a workable solution, that we do not play one group off the other? Could you give us that assurance?

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

**Further Return To Question 295-14(6): Reorganizing Sport And Recreation Boards**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I notice the representative here for the Aboriginal Sports Circle and I am willing to state again that I am open to a meeting with him, but I have no intention here to play one against the other. The intention is that they will all sit down together again on June 25<sup>th</sup> and come up with whether or not they will continue with this plan for a form of board that will address the concerns of the small communities and the participation by small communities, as well as the concerns of the existing sports organizations. I was told by the president of Sport North this morning that hopefully he and I can get together again sometime in early July and he will give me the results of this particular meeting. Meanwhile, of course, this department will be informing me as well. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 295-14(6): Reorganizing Sport And Recreation Boards**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Well, I would just like to also ask the Minister, if it is possible at that meeting, if he can also have members of the Aboriginal Sports Circle involved in that meeting. Again, you are going back to the scenario of meeting with one interest group and not meeting with the parties. I would like to ask, is it possible that the Aboriginal Sports Circle also be in attendance of that meeting you have in July?

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

**Further Return To Question 295-14(6): Reorganizing Sport And Recreation Boards**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, maybe I failed here a little bit, but the Aboriginal Sports Circle is part of the interim team that would be meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> with Sport North and the other recreation groups. Thank you.

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



**Supplementary To Question 295-14(6): Reorganizing Sport And Recreation Boards**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, can the Minister keep the House informed so that hopefully we have some resolution to this before we have our next sitting, so that we can move on this and get it resolved once and for all?

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

**Further Return To Question 295-14(6): Reorganizing Sport And Recreation Boards**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I believe the plan is that the interim team would be reporting to me as the Minister on the results of that particular meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>, and I would be happy to make that information available to the Members. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Steen. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**Question 296-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiations**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding the specialists' negotiations crisis. Mr. Speaker, one of the things that a lot of people have been writing me about is what has been in the media from the Minister as to the doctors' compensation package. I believe that a lot of people want to know, but they have no way of knowing what both sides of the story are. The frustrating thing about this is that the information is confidential. In fact, the Minister wrote to all the Members on April 25<sup>th</sup> advising us that there is a ban agreed to "by the parties on public communications regarding the detailed substance of the negotiating mandate or proposals." So I would like to know for what purpose and what was his intent in releasing a five-page press release with all of the details or what he chose to release as details of the compensation package? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 296-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiations**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, the formal negotiations have concluded and at that point it was deemed the most appropriate course of action to let the public know, given the timeframes and the letter of resignation that was put in by the 12 specialists back in March with a July 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 296-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiations**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister repeats many times in the House that he wants to do things carefully in a measured way. He doesn't want to alarm unduly and yet he chooses to provoke the public, it seems, when he wants to. Mr. Speaker, this is a very serious issue. How he does his job as a Minister is important. So if he is concerned about reaching a resolution to this issue in the interest of the public, how does he think revealing this information without the

other party being able to respond helps this process? How does he see that, Mr. Speaker?

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

**Further Return To Question 296-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiations**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the formal process has ended. The agreed-to ban on information ended with the conclusion of the negotiations, with the rejection of the offer of arbitration. Parties are free to do what they would feel in the best interest of their particular situation. As a Minister for this government, we thought it was appropriate to put some information out there given the fact that there was a deadline by the specialists of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 296-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiations**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the preference of all the people who are speaking to us is that the Minister and the government and the doctors not be talking in public, but that they talk to each other at a negotiations table to bring this very important issue to resolution. The Minister's answer earlier, it seems to me, is that there is no plan for him to get back into negotiation. Mr. Speaker, may I have a commitment from the Minister that he will take immediate steps to get the negotiations back on the table? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, a short, sharp answer.

**Further Return To Question 296-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiations**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my commitment is unwavering. We are committed to resolving this issue and we will work with the physicians and specialists through this process. There are steps along the way and we will get to where we have to go and we will ensure, in the meantime and afterwards, that the services to the people in the NWT are maintained. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Supplementary To Question 296-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiations**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect, he did not have an answer there. Will this Minister commit to this House to take immediate action to restart the negotiations? Will he do that, Mr. Speaker? I believe that's a yes or no question.

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

**Further Return To Question 296-14(6): Specialist Physician Negotiations**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there is an ongoing list of many actions underway dealing with this issue. We are committed to resolving this

issue with the specialists. They are the only remaining group that we have to negotiate a settlement with. We are confident we will be able to do that.

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

**Question 297-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Public Works and Services following up on my earlier question. If the department has to fly in fuel using a bladder, would that cost be transferred over to the community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

**Return To Question 297-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. No, it won't be.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**Supplementary To Question 297-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, regarding the tank farm, there was a commitment made by the department to move the tank farm as requested by the community. There were visits by department personnel with community members and they identified a point called Mary Lou's Point. Ironically, that's my grandmother. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister if he's still committed to moving those tanks and maybe commit to it in the House here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return To Question 297-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The relocation of the tank farm is still on as a department project. We have funding for this year of \$250,000, next year is \$650,000 and the following year of \$400,000 and in 2006-07, \$525,000, for a total of \$1.325 million. The only ongoing thing right now is the discussions with the community about the preferred site. They have chosen a preferred site and Public Works, petroleum products, was to go in there on May 30<sup>th</sup> with NTCL to see if the site was adequate, in other words if it could be accessed by the barge. Of course, there were concerns whether or not power lines could be run into there and if not, what would be the alternative. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 297-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in Lutselk'e there is a training committee that developed a training plan in conjunction with industry and this government. Those training plans are contingent on the removal of tank farms, the preparation of the site for the arena, training of the road upgrade to Austin Lake. Those are all components of this

training program. Those will all use excessive amounts of fuel that isn't normally used in the community. So I would like to ask the Minister if he would send his people to the community to determine how much fuel would be used and that they plan accordingly for the winter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Minister of Public Works and Services, Mr. Steen.

**Further Return To Question 297-14(6): Fuel Shortage In Lutselk'e**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I can commit to that and I when I get my report back from the department, I will pass it on to the Member.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Your final supplementary, Mr. Nitah.

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can I ask the Minister to send his staff from MACA in this summer as well and at that same time can they address the short-term needs of dust control in that community? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** That's a different question. I will overrule that. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**Question 298-14(6): Capacity To Deliver Health Programs And Services**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services in regard to community capacity to deliver healthcare programs. Right now, in the community of Aklavik they are on emergency warning where they will only see emergency cases because of the lack of nurses. On top of that, you have the problem that we don't even have the basic services such as mental health workers or alcohol and drug councillors in our community. What is the Minister doing to deal with these problems we have in our smaller communities to deliver programs and services? For our citizens or residents to leave our communities, they have to have someone there to assess them, such as an alcohol counsellor to send somebody to a program, or a medical health worker to deal with the problem, say, of a student who's got in trouble with the law who may need assistance during pre-sentencing. I'd like to ask the Minister exactly what are we doing to ensure that the basics are being delivered in our communities, which right now are experiencing a crisis?

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

**Return To Question 298-14(6): Capacity To Deliver Health Programs And Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I can appreciate the Member's concern. The reality is, yes, that in many communities that rely on nurses, we're going to rotating through emergency services only because there is a shortage of nurses. We are continuing to work with the nurses. We've done the legislation. We're trying to beef up nurse practitioners. We've put in money to upgrade the alcohol and drug workers -- they're called prevention workers -- and make them employees of the boards to give them benefits. We're adding some mental health workers. We're trying to, as well, improve and add to home care and supported living and continuing care in communities. We did have on the books last year, and they'll be back in the business

plan this year, an additional 10 PYs for social workers to honour the third year of the Child Welfare League report. So we're doing a number of things to work with the communities. We're trying, through our integrated service delivery model, to better integrate the services we do have at the community level to improve that quality of service. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 298-14(6): Capacity To Deliver Health Programs And Services**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister, since we only get to see a doctor once a month in most of our communities, and you have to basically sign up to see the doctors, exactly what are we going to do to improve that service in our communities where there is a lack of nurses? Where do those patients go who have to see a doctor right now in those communities that have a shortage of nurses?

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

**Further Return To Question 298-14(6): Capacity To Deliver Health Programs And Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, very clearly the process and routing of patients and people requiring medical attention is the same. Inuvik is the point of call for people in the Inuvik region. We are adding doctors to the Sahtu, another one to Inuvik, to the Dogrib, to Deh Cho, as well to Hay River and Smith to deal with the GP issue. So we are adding, and we have added, significant resources. Filling the positions is another issue, another challenge. But the resources are there, with the new contract dollars that we signed with the GPs not that long ago, to recruit. We recognize that there is a need for GPs, that's why we've added those 10 new GPs. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 298-14(6): Capacity To Deliver Health Programs And Services**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, these positions are essential in our communities to ensure that we have good, preventative programs to protect the health and security of our people. It has come to my attention that because there has not been an alcohol and drug worker in Aklavik for almost two years, that is having a direct effect on other agencies in our communities, such as the Community Justice Committee. People have to apply or fit the criteria to go to an alcohol and drug program in Hay River or wherever, and they have to have some preliminary care before they can do that. They can't even get that. So I'd like to ask the Minister exactly what are we doing to provide the basic services in our communities, knowing that these key people are not even there?

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

**Further Return To Question 298-14(6): Capacity To Deliver Health Programs And Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm aware of the issue in Aklavik with the alcohol

and drug worker. The Member has been very vigilant in bringing it to our attention. We have, I do believe, come up with a two-step approach. We have an agreement to hire an alcohol and drug worker who will work in the community of Aklavik, but will be a board employee and receive the benefits that come with being a board employee. In the meantime, as a result of our most recent conversations with the Member opposite, we are going to talk to the Inuvik Health and Social Services Authority about getting a regular presence on the alcohol and drug side into Aklavik as we work on the reclassification of the alcohol and drug position and the staffing in the coming couple of months. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 298-14(6): Capacity To Deliver Health Programs And Services**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to give the community of Aklavik some assurances that this government is moving on this stuff. Does the Minister have any idea of deadlines? When can we actually physically see someone standing on the ground in Aklavik providing a public service as an alcohol and drug program, or basically a public nurse position? I'd like to ask the Minister how soon can these people be physically in Aklavik carrying out their responsibilities?

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

**Further Return To Question 298-14(6): Capacity To Deliver Health Programs And Services**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're going to work with the Inuvik Health and Social Services Authority to look at using the funds that are currently in the Inuvik budget for the alcohol and drug program in Aklavik, to get some support staff from Inuvik into Aklavik on a more regular basis. Then within a couple or three months, we're going to have it reclassified and staffed so that there will be a person on the ground, hopefully by the end of summer.

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

**Question 299-14(6): Availability Of Medevac Aircraft**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, we've been getting lots of information from constituents in terms of the impact the services that we provide will have on the people should there be no negotiation and the specialists' resignations come to reality. Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns is the availability of medevac planes. I hope the Minister has this information because, from my information, he's been cc'd with this communication. My understanding is that there are two, possibly three planes available for medevacs in the Northwest Territories. We know, unless there are locums in place, we're not going to be able to facilitate all of our medevac requirements. What is the Minister doing to prepare for that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Return To Question 299-14(6): Availability Of Medevac Aircraft**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member refers to correspondence that I have not seen, from my memory. But I can tell the Member, as I've told the House, that we do have locum coverage planned. We do have arrangements with the Health Authority. Should there be a requirement for extra flights, then we will make arrangements to have Alberta or other plane outfits provide that service. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 299-14(6): Availability Of Medevac Aircraft**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If anything, the Minister is known for doing his homework. But it seems that the only correspondence he doesn't read are the ones that I'm asking questions about. Mr. Speaker, we are hearing now that not only are we going to use Alberta and BC hospitals, but we're going to use Alberta and BC, or wherever, planes. Mr. Speaker, he would also have on his desk an e-mail from somebody who says that her uncle would not have died had he been medevaced to Yellowknife instead of Edmonton, and her family is from Fort Smith. Would he look at that e-mail and give me the answer as to what I should tell her? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 299-14(6): Availability Of Medevac Aircraft**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member is making a number of assumptions; assumptions that there are going to be no locums, assumptions that there's going to be some terrible visitation that's going to require a fleet of medevac planes to deal with a situation that may or may not occur at some point in the future if all these other assumptions in fact bear out. I'm dealing with the reality that we do have locums, we do have a contract with a viable plane company, a flight company. In regard to the e-mail that she makes reference to, Mr. Speaker, I check my e-mail every day, but if the Member would share a copy of that with me to refresh my memory, I'll look at it. I've been reading e-mails in a fairly steady stream over the last few days, just paying attention to what's happening. But the Member makes a very specific reference to an e-mail and I don't want to discuss it in the House, but I'd be happy to look at it.

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

**Supplementary To Question 299-14(6): Availability Of Medevac Aircraft**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister said I'm making assumptions, but I'd like to call that research and I'm not going to apologize for inquiring and finding out and reading all the e-mails that I get. Mr. Speaker, I'd be happy to give him a copy of these two e-mails that I'm talking about, and I'd like the Minister to provide the information as to what measures he's taking. What is the availability of medevac planes? What is the cost of it? What will be the alternative if

those medevac planes are not available and what will the cost be? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**Further Return To Question 299-14(6): Availability Of Medevac Aircraft**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will look at the e-mails and I will respond to the Member. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 299-14(6): Availability Of Medevac Aircraft**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Another question on the same e-mail, if he goes to read it, is that each medevac would cost \$10,000 to \$12,000. Would the Minister give me information as to what the going rate of a medevac is each time it is flown from each community in the Northwest Territories, whether it's flown from Yellowknife or Inuvik or Tuk?

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

**Further Return To Question 299-14(6): Availability Of Medevac Aircraft**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would be happy to provide the Member with a range of costs for a medevac from different communities in the North. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Question 300-14(6): Co-Payment For Medevacs**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for the Minister of Health and Social Services. I'm loathe to assist the Minister in this line of questioning that he's been under, but not all medical evacuations are emergency charters. Anyway, on his contingency plan, transportation... This may have been asked of him already, but I'd like to know if someone does have to be medevaced or has to be sent south - - which could be, like I said, a charter or on a scheduled flight - - on the sched flights, what's the policy going to be on services that are normally available here in Yellowknife through the core services as determined that are not available? What's the status of the co-payment for Yellowknife residents or for any residents of the Northwest Territories for that matter? Thank you.

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

**Return To Question 300-14(6): Co-Payment For Medevacs**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we've committed, during the last session and prior to that, to do a comprehensive review of the supplementary health programs. Part of what we agreed to was the review of the co-payment issue. We've agreed to, temporarily on an interim basis, separate out and try to address

it on an interim basis. I indicated to Mr. Delorey in the House, I believe it was last Wednesday, that we would have something on the table for the Members in the next day or so. It's an issue that's just being reviewed right now by Cabinet. So we will have what we think is a good interim step to the Members in the next day or so. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 300-14(6): Co-Payment For Medevacs**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The information that the Minister is going to provide, is it specifically related to the ongoing issues around medical travel co-payment, or is it in specific response to what might happen after June 30<sup>th</sup> if core services are not available here in Yellowknife for territorial residents? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 300-14(6): Co-Payment For Medevacs**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, the issue that we're looking at, the co-payment and that segment of the population that doesn't have third-party liability, is being looked at. It's somewhat coincidental that the specialist issue has occurred while we're working on that very specific response. But we believe that that response to the co-payment issue will address the concerns arising as a result of the possible resignations on July 1<sup>st</sup> of the specialists. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 300-14(6): Co-Payment For Medevacs**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So the proposed medical co-payment solution that Mr. Miltenberger plans to put in front of us is not in specific relation to residents who would normally be able to acquire specialist services in the Northwest Territories.

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

**Further Return To Question 300-14(6): Co-Payment For Medevacs**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the issue is going to address the co-payment issue, the third-party liability issue specifically as it relates to those people who have to leave their community to obtain medical services. Hay River to Yellowknife, Fort Smith to Edmonton, Yellowknife to Edmonton; we're trying to address what has been clearly identified by myself, the department and the Member's office, that there's a gap in our service and we're trying to address that. It's not just geared specifically to one community. We want to do this in as comprehensive a way as possible, recognizing that having to leave your community is a significant inconvenience that the vast majority of people in communities outside of Yellowknife deal with on a regular basis. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary, Mrs. Groenewegen.

**Supplementary To Question 300-14(6): Co-Payment For Medevacs**

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my last question again is in respect to this contingency plan in the event that no agreement is reached with the specialists physicians here in Yellowknife, and that has to do with liability that's being referred to in the Member's questioning from some document that none of us have access to or know what it says, but about what might have happened if different services had been available. Has the government contemplated whether or not the absence of a full complement of specialists here in Yellowknife creates any liability in terms of delivery of medical services for the government? Thank you.

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

**Further Return To Question 300-14(6): Co-Payment For Medevacs**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Bell indicated that in Nunavut, for example, they don't have any specialists on staff; in the Yukon they have three-and-a-half full-time specialists, the rest fly in on a fee-for-service basis. We have 21 specialist positions. On a relative basis, just among the Territories alone, I think that is a very healthy complement of specialists. Staffing is an issue. So we are going to work, if there is a resignation that takes place July 1<sup>st</sup>, we believe we have a locum coverage on a contingency basis, and we also have the back-up plans should that not be available to get them within hours to the Capital Health Authority, which will, we believe, address the responsibility we have to maintain a high level of service to the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

**Question 301-14(6): Safety Standards For Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Deputy Premier. Mr. Speaker, a couple of weekends ago I was home in Lutselk'e. I was crossing the community having a picnic. Looking across the community you could see the dust just sitting there right in the community. I'd like to ask the Deputy Premier if his government has a level where the safety of people is in jeopardy depending on the level of dust in that community. Is there a bar that is used to measure the safety factor of dust in communities? Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Return To Question 301-14(6): Safety Standards For Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, in the environment and the clear air that people are entitled to, there are different measurements that are used. In the Northwest Territories we're monitoring certain communities and the level of pollutants in the air. As well, measurements are used to measure the amount of particles there are in the air. There is a bar, whatever, a level that we use. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 301-14(6): Safety Standards For Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, I agree, there is a bar. In the environmental review process for both BHP and Diavik, that particular bar was addressed on many occasions and for many days. I would like to ask the Deputy Premier if that bar is not met, if the dust control is not to the level that's below the bar, would this government be liable for health issues of the residents of the communities? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 301-14(6): Safety Standards For Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, certainly the Department of Health and Social Services is very concerned about health, and as a government we are very concerned about the health of people and we try to provide a public campaign with regard to having healthy lifestyles. The Minister mentioned smoking for one thing, and other lifestyles that people have. Certainly there is a concern and if there is a dust problem in the communities, we are aware of it. I know that as a government we've talked about it and we try to review and look at each community to see how we could alleviate those problems. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 301-14(6): Safety Standards For Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's very smooth of the Deputy Premier to insinuate that the lifestyle that we lead might be a reason why the court case against the government for possibly not meeting the government's obligations for creating an environment in the community where there's dust control. It's very smooth of the Deputy Premier on that. But I'd like to ask him whose responsibility is it within this government to ensure that there's dust control? If this government is so strong on healthy living, why is it taking so long to control dust in their communities?

**MR. SPEAKER:** The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 301-14(6): Safety Standards For Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, I didn't intend to try to get out of answering the questions. It's just that there is genuine interest by this government, and all of us here and the people in the communities, to have an environment that is clean. We're working hard with the Minister of Public Works and Services to try and come up with some solutions on how to take care of the dust. Certainly the health of everybody is very important. Everybody's lifestyle comes into play, along with the dust in the communities. So that's not what I'm putting the emphasis on. But dust control is a problem, and we're trying to do whatever we can with the department responsible for it. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 301-14(6): Safety Standards For Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**MR. NITAH:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the government says they're doing what they can, but they have a five-year plan addressing maybe five communities. We have 27 communities that are facing this problem on a daily basis. We are supposed to look forward to summers in the Northwest Territories because of the long winters. It's hard to look forward to the summers when you have to breathe in dust all the time. So I ask the Deputy Premier, would he commit his government to doing something immediately to control dust this summer, and come up with an action plan that will see a permanent solution to this problem instead of taking your time?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Nitah. The honourable Deputy Premier, Mr. Antoine.

**Further Return To Question 301-14(6): Safety Standards For Dust Levels In NWT Communities**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're told by the Minister responsible for this portfolio, that calcium chloride that was used quite extensively for the last few years may not be a good product for health, so we have to look for alternative materials or chemicals, whatever, to put on the roads in some of the communities. I know that some communities are going out on their own and looking for alternatives. There are suggestions out there by some of these communities that are saying let's try this product, but they are actively looking for different products out there that would be used for dust control in the communities. Thank you.

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

**Question 302-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Worker For Aklavik**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services, in regard to my previous question. Mr. Speaker, I do not agree with the Minister that the community of Aklavik can wait three months to have a position filled that is an essential position. This position hasn't been filled in two years. The money has been allocated to the divisional board for two years. The money has been sitting there for two years. So I'd like to ask the Minister exactly what do we have to do to get a position in the community of Aklavik, knowing that the money is in place? All we need is a body to put into the community of Aklavik. What is this government going to do to move on this thing rather than simply say we'll offer alternative services from Inuvik? For me, that is not the solution. How soon can we see this position on the ground, not waiting three months?

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

**Return To Question 302-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Worker For Aklavik**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we're currently in a state of transition as we move the former alcohol and drug workers that were scattered across communities in various programs, bringing them in under the boards. We're looking at classification of all the jobs, all the people currently in these positions and their pay levels and skill levels. So I will commit to the Member that while I've said by the end of summer, I will commit to talk to the department and

the Inuvik Health and Social Services to see if there's a way to fast track this or possibly get somebody in over the summer on a casual basis as we work through the longer range of longer-term issues. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 302-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Worker For Aklavik**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't know what it's going to take to convince this Minister how essential this position is in the community. I have children who have basically had to leave school because of behavioural problems. There's no one there who can assist these children. We have people who can't take programs because they can't get the basic orientation programs to prepare them for programs outside the community. We have justice committees that can't give an alternative sentence to youth because of an alcohol and drug problem, because you don't have people in the community that can assist them. So I'd like to ask the Minister, knowing that this money is there, what will it take this department to ensure that they advertise for this position as soon as possible and have that position filled within, say, a week?

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

**Further Return To Question 302-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Worker For Aklavik**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the gravity of the situation, of the terrible effects of alcohol and drug abuse across the Northwest Territories. I've been dealing with that issue for a long, long time. I'll commit to the Member that I will try to fast track the actual formal hiring, and in the interim look at putting in, on a casual basis so that we don't have to wait, or a term basis, hopefully, a qualified individual while we sort through those other particular issues. Thank you.

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

**Supplementary To Question 302-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Worker For Aklavik**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, knowing that this position hasn't been filled for two years and the money is allocated to the community of Aklavik, I'd like to ask the Minister will those dollars be reprofiled so that the dollars that have been sitting there for two years will be given to the community of Aklavik for programs and services such as alcohol and drug programs?

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

**Further Return To Question 302-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Worker For Aklavik**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the last two years while that position has been vacant and the program has not been operational for other reasons, there have been fly-in services, however inadequate they may seem to be. But the services have been flown in from Inuvik, so there has been a cost with that. But, once again, I'm prepared to ask for an accounting of the Inuvik Health and Social Services Authority to the community of Aklavik on how

these funds for their program have been expended over the last two years. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Your final supplementary for the second go-round, Mr. Krutko.

**Supplementary To Question 302-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Worker For Aklavik**

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in regard to the Minister's commitment to do something, I'd like to ask the Minister is there a possibility of having the position reprofiled for the community of Aklavik for those dollars that have been sitting there for two years for a mental health worker to work along with the alcohol and drug worker? I believe this problem has a direct impact on what has happened in the community of Aklavik for the last two years. So how soon can that position be filled by either an alcohol and drug program worker or a mental health worker?

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

**Further Return To Question 302-14(6): Alcohol And Drug Worker For Aklavik**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I will be following up today and tomorrow on the commitments that are being made in this House to look at a casual or term position, the accounting of the funding over the last two years, as well as trying to fast track the permanent hiring of a qualified alcohol and drug prevention worker. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Time for question period has ended. Item 7, written questions. Item 8, returns to written questions. Item 9, replies to Opening Address. Item 10, petitions. Item 11, reports of standing and special committees. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

**ITEM 12: REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON THE REVIEW OF BILLS**

**Bill 13: Deh Cho Bridge Act**

**MS. LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to report that the Standing Committee on Governance and Economic Development has reviewed Bill 13, Deh Cho Bridge Act, and wishes to report that Bill 13 is ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole, as amended and printed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 12, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 13, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

**ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS**

**Tabled Document 55-14(6): 2001-2002 Annual Report Of The NWT Housing Corporation: Forging New Partnerships**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have two documents to table today. Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Forging New Partnerships, NWT Housing Corporation, 2001-2002 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Tabled Document 56-14(6): 2002 Public Utilities Board Annual Report**

I have another. I wish to table the following document entitled Public Utilities Board of the Northwest Territories 2002 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motions for the first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

**ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS**

**Bill 21: Family Violence Prevention Act**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have three bills for first reading. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 21, Family Violence Prevention Act, be read for the first time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Allen. Oh, I'm sorry. We have a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? Thank you. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Bill 21 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Antoine.

**Bill 22: Waste Reduction And Recovery Act**

**HON. JIM ANTOINE:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 22, Waste Reduction and Recovery Act, 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. To the motion.

**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 22 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledah, Mr. Handley.

**Bill 23: An Act To Amend The Safety Act**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Safety Act, 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. To the motion.

**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 23 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

**Bill 24: Midwifery Profession Act**

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act, 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. To the motion.

**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 24 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

**Bill 25: Municipal Statutes Replacement Act**

**HON. VINCE STEEN:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act, 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. To the motion.

**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 25 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes.

**Bill 26: Youth Justice Act**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 26, Youth Justice Act, 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. To the motion.

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



**Bill 27: An Act To Amend The Access To Information And Protection Of Privacy Act**

**HON. ROGER ALLEN:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy 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. To the motion.

**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 27 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, with Mr. Lafferty in the chair.

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

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** The committee is considering Bill 14. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Handley.

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Sorry, Bill 14.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** Does the committee wish to deal with Bill 14 today? Ms. Lee.

**MS. LEE:** Mr. Chairman, I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty):** The motion is in order. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

A motion was made to report progress. Three people voted; two were in favour and one against. The motion was carried and I rise to report progress.

**MR. SPEAKER:** The House will come back to order. May I have the report of Committee of the Whole? Honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

**ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**MR. LAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Your committee has been considering Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. May I have a seconder for that? The honourable Member for Range Lake seconds the motion. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**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

Item 21, third reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

**ITEM 21: THIRD READING OF BILLS****Bill 15: An Act To Amend The Workers' Compensation Act**

**HON. JOE HANDLEY:** Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that Bill 15, An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Act, be read for the third time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 15 has had third reading. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

**ITEM 22: ORDERS OF THE DAY**

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton):** Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at adjournment, followed by a meeting of the Board of Management at 6:00 p.m. Meetings tomorrow at 9:00 a.m. of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, at 10:30 of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, and again at 12:00 noon of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

Orders of the Day for Wednesday, June 11, 2003:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motions for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
17. First Reading of Bills

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

- Bill 28, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act

- Bill 29, NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Act

18. Second Reading of Bills

- Bill 21, Family Violence Prevention Act

- Bill 22, Waste Reduction and Recovery Act

- Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Safety Act

- Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act

- Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act

- Bill 26, Youth Justice Act

- Bill 27, An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act

19. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

- Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Public Service Act

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

22. Orders of the Day

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned to Wednesday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 4:35 p.m.