



**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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The Honourable Tony Whitford, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Monday, October 6, 2003****Members Present**

Honourable Roger Allen, Honourable Jim Antoine, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey, Mr. Dent, Mrs. Groenewegen, Honourable Joe Handley, Honourable Stephen Kakfwi, Mr. 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): Good afternoon. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Transportation, Minister Handley.

Minister's Statement 89-14(6): Infrastructure Canada Commits \$65 Million To NWT Resource Highways

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to report that on Saturday, the Honourable Allan Rock, Minister responsible for Infrastructure Canada, came to the Northwest Territories to make some very important announcements. As, no doubt, many may have heard by now, Minister Rock confirmed the Government of Canada's commitment of \$65 million to the improvement of resource highways in the Northwest Territories.

Securing these commitments to our highway infrastructure has not come easily. For several years, we have put forward our case that developing the resource wealth of the Northwest Territories made a contribution of national significance to the Canadian economy. We made the point that developing our natural resources was as much in Canada's interests as it was in our own but that the load that resource industries put on our territorial infrastructure was far more than the Government of the Northwest Territories could carry alone. We have been able to convince the federal government that its contribution to improving our highway infrastructure genuinely serves the advancement of Canada's national interest.

Mr. Speaker, this announcement must first be credited to our Premier, the Honourable Stephen Kakfwi. Premier Kakfwi has lobbied tirelessly to convince our Prime Minister and the Government of Canada of the need and urgency of federal investment in the North.

I also want to recognize the crucial support of the Honourable Ethel Blondin-Andrew, our Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic. Ms. Cece McCauley deserves special mention as a tireless advocate of northern transportation infrastructure development.

---Applause

As well, the Northern Business Coalition has ably represented the private sector of the Northwest Territories in our joint lobbying efforts. Finally, I want to recognize the Members of this Assembly who have helped get our message across.

---Applause

Mr. Rock's \$65 million announcement on Saturday is made up of separate contributions from a number of closely-related funding sources. Twenty million dollars comes in the form of

firm project approvals under the Canada strategic infrastructure fund that was first established in the federal budget of December 2001. This first \$20 million which we are already investing has been approved, according to the resource highway priority identified in the Department of Transportation's Corridors for Canada proposal of May 2002. The Corridors for Canada proposal identified the Mackenzie Valley and Slave Geologic Province as two transportation corridors central to the development of the NWT's resource economy. The Mackenzie Valley projects include the installation of 10 new permanent bridges along the Wrigley/Fort Good Hope winter road system and the reconstruction of the Dempster Highway in the Mackenzie Delta. In the Slave Geologic Province, the approved projects are for the continued reconstruction of Highway No. 3 and Highway No. 4.

The Canada strategic infrastructure fund was enhanced in the federal budget for 2003-2004. Saturday's announcement commits a second contribution of \$20 million for the Northwest Territories matching the first. As of Saturday, Minister Rock has committed an additional \$25 million for the Northwest Territories under the special category of national priority projects. All of these funds will be allocated on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis consistent with the transportation priorities set out in Corridors for Canada. Federal and territorial officials will work on the details and scheduling of eligible projects over the next several months.

Mr. Speaker, I want to emphasize how important the Department of Transportation's efforts in seeking alternative sources of financing have been in supplementing its territorial appropriation and advancing the construction of new infrastructure; especially at a time when territorial finances fall far short of meeting the demands of an expanding resource sector and rapidly growing economy.

In the term of the 14th Assembly and with Saturday's announcement, we have obtained a total of \$90 million in funding commitments for transportation projects in the Northwest Territories. Funding from the departments of Transport and Infrastructure has helped to pay for highway reconstruction projects on the Dempster Highway and Highway No. 3 and No. 4. Transport Canada has contributed \$10 million to runway pavement and airfield lighting projects in Sachs Harbour, Tulita, Inuvik and Aklavik. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development made a \$4 million contribution towards the installation of the first seven permanent bridges over stream crossings along the Mackenzie Valley winter road system. Contributions worth \$1 million from the Canadian Coast Guard paid for the construction of a breakwater at Lutsel'k'e and the installation of community docks at Deline and Aklavik.

During the recent exploration boom for natural gas reserves, we have made important new partnerships with the private sector. Exploration companies made direct in-kind contributions to the building of the Colville Lake winter road,

coordinating their crews and equipment in a joint construction effort. In the Mackenzie Delta, the oil and gas companies contributed \$1 million to the winter ice road program to meet the demands of their exploration programs.

The most exciting collaboration with the private sector is the striking of a public/private partnership with the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation to build and operate a permanent highway link over the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence. A highway bridge over the Mackenzie River looks likely to become the first enduring piece of the 14th Assembly's legacy.

---Applause

In all the attention given to new diamond mines and a Mackenzie Valley pipeline and the impact of these major resource developments on the transportation system, we have not lost sight of the basic transportation requirements in our small communities. The Department of Transportation has done a commendable job of upgrading and applying a chip sealed surface to the access roads that link communities to all-weather public highway systems. The Dettah access road, the Fort Liard access road and the Hay River access road were all improved and given dust-free chipseal surfaces. Surface grade and drainage improvements were also made to the Jean Marie River and Kakisa access roads. The Department of Transportation also committed to continue working with Municipal and Community Affairs to pave the main streets in our smaller non-tax-based communities.

Comfortable and spacious air terminals are especially important in the off-highway communities that rely entirely on air transportation. In the term of this Assembly, new air terminal buildings have been built in Aklavik, Tulita and Wha Ti. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would mention and thank the department staff, including my deputy minister Peter Vician, who have worked hard to prepare the Corridors for Canada proposal and deliver transportation projects and services across the North.

Mr. Speaker, the term of the 14th Assembly has been a time of steady achievement in the improvement and expansion of the territorial transportation system for both our growing resource industries and our traditional communities. It is a positive record of accomplishment we can justly look back upon with satisfaction and pride. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Minister's Statement 90-14(6): Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with this House the good news that was announced in Yellowknife over the weekend by the Honourable Allan Rock, the federal Minister responsible for Infrastructure. Minister Rock has confirmed that under the new Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund announced in the 2003 federal budget, the Northwest Territories will receive \$15 million to support community infrastructure needs.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of aggressive lobbying by northern leaders representative of the NWT Association of Communities, the Premier and Finance Minister of the Northwest Territories, the Government of Canada has recognized that per capita

allocation of federal funding programs does not begin to address our unique needs. Thus we are guaranteed a minimum of \$15 million over the next 10 years, and we will receive an as-yet-undetermined additional amount based on a per capita allocation.

The new municipal rural infrastructure fund is designed to support essential infrastructure needs identified by communities themselves. It is my hope that this funding will enable the Government of the Northwest Territories to respond to concerns that have been raised time and again in this Assembly; concerns like the need for adequate water treatment systems in all our communities, and the need for chip sealed roads to address dust control issues.

Mr. Speaker, working in partnership with the Northwest Territories Association of Communities, with community government and with Members of this Assembly, we can take maximum advantage of this new funding for the benefit of all our residents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 91-14(6): Family Violence Awareness Week

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year in the Northwest Territories 4369 calls were made to NWT crisis lines. Almost 700 women and children stayed in shelters. Both of these statistics are indicators of the unacceptable level of family violence that is currently in our communities.

This week is Family Violence Awareness Week, an opportunity to bring the issue of family violence and abuse to the forefront and to renew our commitment as leaders and residents of the Northwest Territories to eliminating this tragic element of our northern society.

There are many different forms of family violence or abuse, Mr. Speaker, and none are acceptable. This year the theme for Family Violence Awareness Week is "Respecting Elders, Respecting Others."

While we often think of abuse as being physical or sexual, there is also psychological abuse -- undermining someone's self-confidence and making him or her afraid. Neglect is another form of abuse. So is taking money or threatening people to get their money. These real examples of family violence are too often targeted at our elders.

People who have experienced family violence often tend to treat others in similar ways. Children may bully other people in the school or the community. A recent bullying conference in Yellowknife was a first step in teaching children how to break this cycle. Schools are no longer assuming that children know appropriate behaviour but rather are teaching it.

We all have a responsibility to promote healthy relationships and we can make a difference if we work together. A good example of this, Mr. Speaker, can be evidenced in the work of the Coalition Against Family Violence. This organization brings together advocates, service providers, agencies, police,

lawyers and government, to work together for the common good of ending family violence.

Earlier today, on behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories, I received from the coalition an action plan on family violence. I look forward to working with the coalition and other government departments in the implementation of this plan.

Mr. Speaker, on September 26, 2003, the Ministers responsible for the Status of Women in Canada met in Edmonton and introduced a new action group to develop strategies specifically to deal with family violence in Inuit and other aboriginal communities.

I am pleased to inform this House that the Northwest Territories and Canada will also lead the work of this federal/provincial/territorial action group.

Mr. Speaker, the elimination of family violence will, unfortunately, be a long and challenging undertaking, but progress is being made. I encourage my colleagues, particularly this week but also throughout the year, to continually seek and find ways to support and encourage those people and events that are working together to make family violence a thing of the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 92-14(6): World Teacher Day - October 5, 2003, Recognizing Stacey Koebel

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge the work of all teachers, especially those here in the Northwest Territories who assist our children, young people and adults to become the best they can be.

October 5th is recognized internationally as World Teacher Day and this year, as they celebrate their 10th anniversary, the chosen theme is "Teachers - Opening doors to a better world."

Teachers are one of the best parts of our education system. Teaching is so much more than telling us about facts and figures. It is the unlocking of potential, offering new perspectives and assisting in the development of values such as peace, tolerance, respect and understanding. A good teacher challenges us to realize our dreams, instills confidence, critical thinking skills and inspires trust.

Here in the North we have some of the finest, most committed teachers. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize one teacher who is unfortunately no longer with us, but who I feel personified these virtues.

Anastasia Koebel, or Stacey as she was better known, moved to the North with her husband Dan to teach in the community of Tsiigehtchic in 2000. She and her family were accepted and fit into the community in many ways. When they were short a principal at the Paul Niditchie School, Stacey, although she was a relatively new teacher, stood ready to accept the challenge.

Starting in the 2000 school year, Stacey taught grades 4, 5 and 6, as well as the term principal position. The Koebels increased their family with the birth of a son, Jack, in 2003.

When she returned from her maternity leave, Stacey taught the special needs class and assisted wherever she was needed in her school.

At 32 years of age, Stacey passed away this June while doing what she loved - teaching. Her memory will live on through her students as well as a unique bursary that has been set up in memory of her outstanding contributions to education in the NWT.

Her family has put into place a memorial fund designed to help support other young teachers reach their dream of being able to teach in Canada's North, as Stacey was able to fulfill hers.

I can think of no better day to recognize the accomplishment of this dedicated young woman's life, Mr. Speaker, than World Teacher's Day. This one teacher, Mr. Speaker, represented the qualities of so many of our teachers: dedication, concern and commitment to their students.

Mr. Speaker, colleagues, please join me in acknowledging the commitment of Mrs. Anastasia Koebel, as well as each of our teachers here in the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 93-14(6): Fur Industry Support

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past two years, this government has made concerted efforts to support and expand the fur industry in the Northwest Territories. We have focused our attention on training, improved services for trappers and encouraging young people to consider participation in this traditional activity.

I am pleased to report that since 2001, 1400 students have participated in trapper training programs. A number of these students were young people who had either dropped out of school or who had already entered the workforce. The ages range from youngsters to people in the mid-30s.

We also now have 20 certified trapper trainers in the Northwest Territories. The majority of these trainers are active trappers. Trapping workshops have been held in virtually every community.

Mr. Speaker, we have also made some major changes with our fur price program to assist harvesters. The main purpose of the changes is to eliminate the confusion over pricing and eligibility. Now all prime or good quality fur is guaranteed a minimum advance value. Harvesters now know that before they go out trapping they will receive a minimum price for their prime fur with the promise of more if the fur sells for more at auction. To ensure all proceeds for the sale of fur at auction go back to the trappers, we have eliminated all shipping, handling and commission charges previously paid for by trappers for fur going to auction. This provides many trappers with an additional eight to ten percent premium.

The market for fur has improved over the past several years. Most dramatic of these improvements is for seal pelts. It was only a few years ago that these pelts were fetching only a few dollars at auction. Today it is not uncommon for seal pelts to attract prices of \$50 to \$60 with some reaching \$80 per pelt.

Over the past two years, we have worked closely with our colleagues in Nunavut who have offered the opportunity to sell NWT seal pelts through their marketing program. This has proven to be a very beneficial arrangement for our seal harvesters. I am pleased to confirm that seal pelts are part of the revised fur price program.

Mr. Speaker, the overall strength of the fur market today creates opportunities for existing and new trappers. This year we are introducing two new programs to further assist fur and seal harvesters to take advantage of these opportunities. These are a prime fur bonus and a fall grubstake program. The prime fur bonus is designed to stimulate the production of prime fur and improve trapping and handling skills. The trapper will receive the bonus after the fur is sold, if it sells for the same or more than the advance provided. If the fur sells for less than the advance, the trapper will not receive the bonus but will be able to keep all of the advance.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to waive Rule 34(6) so that all Ministers' statements filed with the Clerk can be delivered today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The honourable Member is seeking unanimous consent to waive the rules and have the remainder of the Ministers' statements concluded. Are there any nays? There are no nays. Mr. Minister, you may conclude yours plus the others that are on the agenda.

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fall grubstake program is designed to assist harvesters with the high costs of starting trapping each year. Trappers will qualify for the program if they have harvested and sold at least 20 pelts in the previous season. Payments from this program will start in the fall of 2004.

Mr. Speaker, these two initiatives along with our continued focus on trapper training will continue to bolster our fur industry in the Northwest Territories and assist harvesters, particularly in the smaller communities, to continue their traditional lifestyles. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Minister's Statement 94-14(6): Update On The Health And Social Services System Action Plan

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Later today at the appropriate time, I will be tabling the latest status report on the health and social services system action plan which was initiated a year-and-a-half ago. However, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the steps taken to complete and support the actions identified in the plan.

To ensure that services and supports are available where and when they are needed, we must have a strong, stable workforce. For this reason, the recruitment and retention of frontline workers has been, and will continue to be, the top priority of the department and authorities. Through the action plan and related initiatives, steps have been taken to support our health and social services professionals.

As Members will recall, Mr. Speaker, through the interim health profession plan, \$8.2 million was invested to create 42 new

positions, including 24 nursing positions and 13 physician positions. These were key to improving community health services while also addressing workload issues for frontline professionals.

The plan represented a turning point for two new professions in our system, as resources were identified to introduce three nurse practitioner positions and two midwife positions. We have also taken complementary steps in our legislation to strengthen and formalize the roles of nurse practitioners and midwives in our health care system. The Nursing Profession Act, approved in this House a few months ago, paves the way for nurse practitioners to practice in the NWT. The Midwifery Profession Act will hopefully be enacted during this session of the Legislative Assembly. The introduction of these professions will improve primary care by expanding the scope of services available at the community level.

Another important element of the action plan is the mental health and addictions strategy. Through this strategy 16 new positions have been added in the communities and regions to provide increased counselling and clinical supervision. In addition, funding is available to upgrade the salaries of existing workers.

Also, Mr. Speaker, a recruitment and retention plan was developed for allied health care professionals, nurses and social workers. This plan guarantees professional development opportunities for our current workforce, provides consistency in how we financially compensate professionals for their experience, and encourages NWT students to return to the NWT following graduation.

We have also responded to the need to offer competitive compensation to frontline workers, particularly those professions that are experiencing shortages or are hard to fill. We have been able to offer very competitive contracts to the physician workforce and the government is undertaking a major review of all nursing and allied health worker job classifications to ensure fair and equitable compensation for these professions. Also, Mr. Speaker, we are nearing completion of a comprehensive human resource plan for the health and social services system.

The pressures of national and international shortages in the health professions will continue to exert pressures on our workforce. That is why we will sustain and look for new ways to stabilize and develop our workforce; it is why our workforce will continue to be our number one priority.

Mr. Speaker, we have also taken steps to improve how our network of services and facilities work. The development of an integrated service delivery model that describes the types of services we provide and how we provide them will define professions, shape staffing models, identify staffing requirements, and establish a common vision and philosophy of service delivery among all who work in our system.

Closely linked to this work is the development of a collaborative service networks between the various service providers. We recognize that not all services can be provided in all communities, so these agreements between facilities and service providers ensure all residents have access to more specialized services.

As Members of this House know, board trustees are the voices of the communities and regions. To provide support to the health and social services authorities, programs have been

developed to provide orientation to new trustees. Mr. Speaker, we have made alignments in the organizational structure of the system to improve service delivery to residents, including the recent announcement of the establishment of the new Sahtu Health and Social Services Authority.

Mr. Speaker, 36 of the 45 items identified in the action plan have been completed, and in about six months' time, the developmental work of the remaining nine items will be completed. It was recognized at the outset that this plan was ambitious but the tasks were kept at the top of the priority list, and the commitment was kept to provide updates to this House as well as to the public through status reports every six months.

The progress to date represents the collective efforts of frontline workers, professional associations, communities, board trustees and Members of this House. Steps have been made in building a system of services and supports that is stable, accessible and of the highest quality, and a foundation has been provided to the next government to manage the change and challenges ahead. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Minister's statements. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Steen.

Minister's Statement 95-14(6): NWT Sport, Recreation And Physical Activity System

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to advise Members on recent developments in the Northwest Territories sports and recreation system.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to report that over the course of the last few months, Northwest Territories sports and recreation partners and MACA staff have been working hard to develop a new governance and financing model for sport and recreation service in the Northwest Territories. They have made significant progress and we are on the verge of moving forward with two important advances in this area.

In the very near future we will finalize the design of a new Northwest Territories sport and recreation partners' council, and implement revisions to the Western Canada Lottery Act regulations.

The Northwest Territories sport and recreation partners' council will be structured to bring together the major sport and recreation partners and regional representatives in a common forum to set policy and make decisions on the allocation of resources. The council will report to the Minister of MACA and will be accountable to its membership for streamlining decision-making, improving program coordination and identifying new ways to access resources.

The council will be supported in its activities by an updated set of regulations under the Western Canada Lottery Act. The changes to the regulations will both ensure that the proper controls are placed on these lottery programs, while allowing the lottery to seek out new opportunities to increase revenues, so that ultimately communities and participants in the sport and recreation system will benefit.

Mr. Speaker, later today I will table a document titled "The Northwest Territories Sport, Recreation and Physical Activity System." This document, along with the discussion paper I circulated to all Members on the changes to the Western

Canada Lottery Act regulations, spells out the government's commitment to supporting community, regional and territorial sport and recreation services.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the next steps in this process and to working with our partners and communities to continue to improve sport and recreation services in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Motion To Move Minister's Statement 89-14(6) To Committee Of The Whole, Carried

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for North Slave, that Minister's Statement 89-14(6) be moved into Committee of the Whole for consideration.

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

---Carried

Minister's Statement 89-14(6) will be moved into Committee of the Whole. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

ITEM 3: MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Member's Statement On Recognition And Appreciation For Securing \$80 Million Contribution From The Federal Government For The Highway And Infrastructure

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, following the very exciting news over the weekend and the Minister's statement today, I would like to take this opportunity to give my unqualified, unfettered, unequivocal recognition and appreciation for the \$80 million the federal government will be investing in our NWT highway and transportation system.

Mr. Speaker, any way we cut it, this is great news indeed. Eighty million dollars is a huge sum of money for us, and one that is very timely to be coming our way for the purposes that it is.

---Applause

This really is a concrete and tangible example of what we as leaders can achieve for the benefit of the people we serve when we put our collective heads and political will together into a well-laid-out plan and sell it aggressively and cohesively. It's time for everyone...

---Applause

...who played a part in it to give themselves a pat on the back. I would particularly like to congratulate the entire Cabinet, especially Premier Kakfwi, on a job very well done.

A special recognition should also be given to the NWT Business Coalition, Chambers of Commerce and NWT

Association of Communities who worked tirelessly on this cause. I would also like to recognize the federal government; everyone from Prime Minister Chretien on down to all responsible Ministers, including Minister Rock, who have taken the time to hear our case and act on it. A particular thanks must also go to the Member of Parliament for Western Arctic, Ethel Blondin-Andrew, who, as our representative and an important bridge between the federal government and the NWT, has played a crucial role in delivering this very needed money to the North.

Mr. Speaker, I would be completely remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to give one more plug for the urgent need to complete Highway No. 3. It's no longer an option of setting priorities, it's a matter of safety for Northerners. It's the most travelled road in the North, but it is literally crumbling. I'm sure the government agrees with me that there are now no road blocks in completing this highway as soon as possible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Family Violence Week In The Northwest Territories

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize that October 6th to 12th is Family Violence Awareness Week here in the Northwest Territories. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, family violence continues to be a tragic reality for far too many. It is hoped that by drawing public attention to the issue it will become a priority for all citizens of the Northwest Territories to support the victims of family violence, and to make to known that our society will not tolerate abuse.

Mr. Speaker, recently the Standing Committee on Social Programs, of which I am a member, had the opportunity to examine the Protection Against Family Violence Act. We heard from many concerned citizens and organizations, including the NWT Seniors' Society and the NWT Status of Women Council, that this legislation was desperately needed. Presently in most communities in the NWT, the only immediate option available to victims of family violence is to call police and leave the home. It was recognized, Mr. Speaker, that this is an unjust situation, where the victim is the person required to leave the home in order to escape violence.

One thing that the new legislation will do is allow the justice of the peace to make an emergency protection order that can require the abuser to leave the home for a period of time. This will provide an immediate intervention in violent situations and will, no doubt, save lives.

This legislation is an important step in the right direction, as it provides the tools to protect victims from an immediately threat. However, Mr. Speaker, there is still a large role for individuals and groups to play in the constant advocacy for better services and solutions.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the NWT Status of Women Council for publicizing this significant week. I would also to extend thanks to the government, particularly Minister Allen, the Minister of Justice, for this very important legislation. The Prevention of Family Violence Act will make a difference to the

lives of many women, children, elders and men in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Preparation For And Impacts Of The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Mega Projects

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, interest is growing among my constituents, with the anticipation of a pipeline being constructed down the Mackenzie Valley. My constituents are also aware that the federal government has committed funds for a pipeline readiness office, for training initiatives, and for a specific First Nations business venture throughout the NWT, all for the purpose of being ready to participate in this mega project.

Mr. Speaker, we also understand that our government has spent considerable time and funds on consultants to look at those areas that a pipeline will impact, including the environment, economic and business development, human capacity, social and other relevant issues. In addition, various government departments have committed personnel along with funds to assist on specific oil and gas initiatives. This government has even gone as far as allocating responsibility for oil and gas initiatives to regional staff who are already strained from various other duties and responsibilities.

Mr. Speaker, we still have many people and businesses in the communities questioning what is happening. What communities will be deemed to be part of the impact area? What is being done to encourage new business start-up and expansion of existing businesses? Mr. Speaker, our communities are waiting for the answers to these questions. Our communities are also waiting for this government to acknowledge the developmental role that it must play in encouraging northern participation in the oil and gas sector. Our communities are also waiting for this government to recognize the way that oil and gas companies conduct business in order that legislation may be revised to enhance access and timing of loan applications in order to avoid missed opportunities.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that this information be provided to the communities with respect to potential social impact, training, economic impact, access to capital, developmental timelines, specific opportunities and industry requirements for doing business. It's imperative that this government starts to assist communities in developing their capacities through cooperation and participation.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of RWED during question period. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Recognition Of Significant Federal Investment Secured For The Canadian North

MR. BRADEN: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I, too, want to acknowledge Saturday's news from our partners in the federal government, Mr. Speaker. A veritable hurricane, as Eastern Canada has experienced with the weather, of investment and spending here in the NWT and across the North, Mr. Speaker. We've seen \$55 million going to each of our sister territories, the Yukon and Nunavut; \$85 million being invested in aboriginal training across Canada; here in the NWT, of course, \$65 million for roads, \$15 million for municipalities, and I couldn't catch up with some of the other good news that I believe was announced in Rankin Inlet yesterday about the expansion of the telecommunications and the broadband system on a pan-territorial basis. So this is great news.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of Cabinet. Premier Kakfwi's message, I was convinced early on, was the right one and that I was very pleased to see our Ministers, along with the Premier, stick with a consistent message. It was taken up by mayors and chiefs, by a business coalition and by my colleagues here. Just about all of us in the room took our turn going to Ottawa, walking the hallways and the corridors there to impress our message upon the federal government.

Quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, after some two years of doing this and really getting only a trickle of response, I was ready to give up on our message. But my faith, indeed, has been restored.

I would turn to one other aspect of this which, as Mr. Handley pointed out, and Ms. Lee has also indicated, when we put our collective hearts and minds and backs into something that we all believe in, Mr. Speaker, we're going to get results. Can we do the same thing with other equally significant and important things on our agenda, Mr. Speaker, like family violence, like housing, like the social conditions that need so much attention? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Concern With The Recent Announcement Of The New Human Rights To Be Located In Yellowknife

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that is of great concern to the residents of Hay River; that being the recent announcement of the location of the new Human Rights Commission office.

Mr. Speaker, the Board of Management of the Legislative Assembly has decided to place the Human Rights Commission office in Yellowknife, much to the chagrin of other communities. Earlier this year, Mr. Speaker, the Board of Management wrote to Members asking them to put forward appropriate locations for this new commission. The criteria was that there was to be professional office space available, good transportation facilities, in-town access to office support services, and computer banking and accounting services readily available in the potential community. At that time, Mr. Speaker, I wrote a letter to the Board of Management emphatically stating that Hay River would be an ideal location for the new commission.

Mr. Speaker, the report prepared for the implementation of the Human Rights Act stated that the office should be placed in a regional centre. Again, I fully believe that Hay River was an ideal location.

Mr. Speaker, the announcement that Yellowknife was chosen to be the best location appears to have been a preordained decision. I do believe they put the cart before the horse on this one, Mr. Speaker. I believe that the assumptions made in this regard were wrong.

Mr. Speaker, I did speak to an owner of an ideal office space in Hay River, and he informed me that DPW was way off base when they reached their conclusion as to the appropriate location. Mr. Speaker, DPW stated that this particular office space in Hay River would not be up to spec as far as being wheelchair accessible within the timeframe. Mr. Speaker, the landlord stated that it would have taken no more than 60 days to have the office space up to spec, which was well within the aforementioned timeframe.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe the information and arguments put forward by the Board of Management justifies the decision to assign the Human Rights Commission office to Yellowknife. Mr. Speaker, had the Human Rights Commission office been placed in Hay River, I do believe staffing would not have been an issue for this new commission, and there would have been an upheaval to no one. Mr. Speaker, this would have been a perfect opportunity for this government to follow through on their commitment to empower communities.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I would just like to state that it appears that the vacuum that I have brought up on many occasions in this House has successfully sucked up another one for Yellowknife. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Apprehension Of Children From Our NWT Communities

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the most important fabric of our communities is our community family units. We have large aboriginal families, we have grandparents, great-grandparents, and we go back, in some communities, over 150 years. Yet, Mr. Speaker, it's those small aboriginal First Nations communities that continue to face the circumstances of children being taken away.

We saw the symposium that was in the hallway with regard to the hostels across Canada. Yet, Mr. Speaker, we have a practice in this government with regard to apprehending children from our communities, especially in the communities I represent.

I've raised this question time and time again with the Minister, and every time I request information, one thing that jumps out at me is the number of children that are continuing to be in care. Mr. Speaker, information I received from the Minister on March 31, 2003, stated there were 43 children in the Mackenzie Delta receiving care under protection services. Mr. Speaker, one thing that alarms me is the latest statistics that I received; from August 31, 2003, that number has increased from the 43 in May to, now, 56 children.

Mr. Speaker, the thing that scares me the most is the number of children that are in permanent custody. We have over 17 children out of the 56 who are classified permanent custody, which is technically short for Lords of the State. Those children will now find themselves being institutionalized for well into their adult lives, as we've seen through the hostel systems, the corrections systems, and First Nations children and people find themselves being institutionalized in a system we call social justice.

Mr. Speaker, I have asked the Minister time and time again to establish a plan of care committee with the communities I represent, especially working in the community of Fort McPherson. The community has approached the Minister on this matter, to establish such a committee to ensure that we have a mechanism to deal with these matters in our communities and not have someone from outside deal with them.

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. You may conclude your statement, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I have seen what has happened through the federal justice system with regard to the Youth Justice Act, which we had to find alternate means of sentencing for youth criminal offences than strictly jail. I feel that this government has to do more than strictly apprehend children. We have to find alternatives to apprehension.

Mr. Speaker, the most important part of life is to ensure that our families are healthy, our children go along and watch their parents grow old, and also for our children to do good in life. But by taking our children away from our communities, away from their families, and most importantly being institutionalized, is not going to achieve that goal.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services questions on this matter later. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Fire Rescue Canada Award Of Excellence For Inuvik Fire Chief Al German

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Each year the Canadian Association of Firefighters, or CAFC, recognizes men and women who promote the fire services in their communities. During the annual conference held in late September in Ottawa, Fire Rescue Canada selected a number of fire chiefs that represent the fire services industry in Canada.

This year the Award of Excellence in the Volunteer Fire Department category was presented to Mr. Al German, who is a full-time fire chief of the Inuvik volunteer firefighters department. Mr. German has been involved with the fire service for 18 years and has held the position of fire chief in Inuvik for approximately seven years. He has been instrumental in the development of the Inuvik regional fire training school which now boasts a burn house, a smoke

house, tank farm, in-house structural rescue facility and vehicle extrication pits.

As current president the NWT Fire Chiefs Association and provincial/territorial director to the CAFC, he is also instrumental in securing certified fire service training for all communities within the NWT. I hope Members will join me in congratulating him on his award. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Safety Concerns Remain With Highway No. 3

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as an Assembly we meet in this House three times a year. We meet in February to discuss the budget, we meet in June, and we usually meet again in the fall to plan the projects which will go into the next budget.

Over the past four years, I have raised the issue of Highway No. 3 at each and every session. I have made 10 statements, asked over 30 questions, and tabled documents related to the safety issue of Highway No. 3. I have also issued press releases, held interviews with the media, and written more than 30 letters to the Minister of Transportation expressing concerns related to Highway No. 3.

---Applause

Last week in his sessional statement, the Premier acknowledged my relentless pursuit of improvement on Highway No. 3 and road access for the smaller communities in my region.

Mr. Speaker, it was a relief to me that my efforts have been noted, but I must say that it's too bad that my efforts were not recognized earlier.

---Laughter

We are now at the end of the life of this Assembly. The Premier's comments tell me that I have been doing my job. The lack of response by the Cabinet and the department to the issues I have raised make me question whether they are doing theirs.

This weekend there were a number of federal Ministers in the North. Eighty-five million dollars has been promised for NWT roads and bridges. I am pleased to see that some of the money will be spent on finishing Highway No. 3.

---Applause

But I question why \$6.3 million has been targeted to address safety concerns along the Ingraham Trail. Mr. Speaker, it was only a few years ago that both Highway No. 3 and Highway No. 4 : full of lumps, bumps, washboards and potholes. In only two years, the Minister has managed to turn the Ingraham Trail into one of the best roads in the country.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yea!

---Applause

MR. LAFFERTY: These improvements have been done at the expense of Highway No. 3 and other territorial highways which have been deteriorating in the meantime.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid to bring up safety issues related to the poor condition of Highway No. 3. The reason for this is because the only response I have received, other than being ignored, is for the Minister to threaten to lower the speed limit on the road that he says is in excellent shape.

I see a lot of inequities in how funding is allocated, and I hear a lot of mixed messages about how Members' input is valued.

Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to continue 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. You may conclude your statement.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. Mr. Speaker, the only time I see this road being repaired or maintained is when either a federal Minister is visiting or when there is a community celebration which territorial Ministers will be attending.

---Laughter

Why is this? These are the funding parties and in order to know the poor quality of the road in order to fix it, they must travel it. Mr. Speaker, I feel that I have done everything that I can to draw attention to the safety issues related to the poor maintenance of Highway No. 3. Mr. Speaker, I will not have any questions on this statement as I probably will not get any answers or I may be removed from this House. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Recognizing The Status Of Women Council For Their Work To Combat Family Violence In The NWT

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's always difficult to follow Mr. Lafferty, but I would like today, if I could, to recognize, like a number of my colleagues have, Family Violence Awareness Week. I think it's important to do so. I would also like to recognize the work of the Status of Women Council and the Coalition Against Family Violence for getting us kicked off over the lunch hour today. It's important, I think, Mr. Speaker, for us to ensure that this remains the highest priority and we continue to give this our fullest attention in order to do what we can to combat family violence.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister today talked about the almost 700 -- that's an amazing, staggering statistic, Mr. Speaker -- women and children who stayed in shelters in the past year. What he didn't mention was that many more were turned away because the shelters were full.

I think it's taken us some time, but legislatively we're now starting to make the shift. We're making a philosophical shift, we're recognizing that maybe it should be the abusers who are removed from the homes, Mr. Speaker, not the victims, not the

women and children who have to uproot their lives and many times leave their community. This is important; it's an important shift for us to make and I'm happy to say that we're doing that.

I'd like to remind my colleagues that we, as a group, endorsed a proclamation in 2001 naming Family Violence Awareness Week an official week, and there are a couple of "whereas" clauses I'd like to remind my colleagues and remind the public of.

Mr. Speaker, whereas violence and other forms of abuse can cause serious problems for many individuals, families and communities;

And whereas all levels of government need to work together with community groups to increase awareness of violence and support healthy family and community life;

Whereas Family Violence Awareness Week is a time to talk honestly about how family violence harms our families and our communities;

And whereas community leaders, families and individuals wish to encourage those who are healing from violence and to speak out against violence.

Mr. Speaker, it made sense to us then, it makes sense to us now. We can't continue to sweep Family Violence Awareness Week under the carpet. It's important that we carry forward this momentum into the life of the next Assembly, and continue to ensure that this is our highest priority in dealing and coping with family violence. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Recognition Of GNWT's Work To Secure \$80 Million In Infrastructure Funds For Our Communities

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I, too, am glad to hear about the funding that we're getting for infrastructure in the Northwest Territories, especially the funding for community infrastructure. I'm reminded of a constituent of mine, Adeline Mandeville, who unfortunately passed away this past weekend at the age of 94. When I first ran, Mr. Speaker, Adeline was one of my supporters. The things that she wanted in the community were paved streets so that the elders don't have to walk through the mud; improved infrastructure in communities so that people have a better, positive outlook on their communities. I think these infrastructure dollars go a long way to address those concerns. People like Adeline lived their whole lives in the small communities, seen them grow from tent encampments to the communities they are today. They know, from experience, how the community looks and the feeling it gives. It has a tremendous effect on the spirit of the people.

I would like to send my condolences to Adeline's family. My former CA Steven Norn is Adeline's great-grandson. I send my condolences to my former CA, as well. With that, Mr. Speaker, mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Mahsi, Mr. Nitah. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Kakfw.

Member's Statement On Recognizing The Passing Of A Respected Elder Of The Sahtu, Isadore Yukon

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yesterday an elder in Deline, Isadore Yukon, passed away. Isadore Yukon was someone who was known to many people throughout the Northwest Territories. He served for many years as a river pilot with NTCL, and spent many summers on the barges on the river system. He was a recipient of the Order of Canada, as well as the Commissioner's medal. He was also one of my earlier supporters, going back to my days in the Dene Nation. He was there supporting me in 1983 in Fort Resolution when I was elected as president of the Dene Nation.

His many sons and daughters will all miss him. The people of the Sahtu have lost a great elder. I know, because of all the support he's given to many young people and the young leaders, and the role he's played in serving his community and his region. We will all miss him very much. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Kakfwi. Indeed, the condolences of the House go to the Yukon family. Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Allen.

Member's Statement On Congratulations To Newly Elected Inuvik Native Band And Nihtat Gwich'in Council

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I would like to make my statement to congratulate all those members of the Inuvik Native Band and the Nihtat Gwich'in Council who were officially sworn into office on October 1st of this year.

The role of the Inuvik Native Band and the Nihtat Gwich'in Council have supported and worked on behalf of and for many of my constituents in Inuvik Twin Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, today it gives me enormous pleasure to congratulate Mr. Richard Nerysoo as the chief of the Inuvik Native Band. Councillors who will serve under his leadership are: Ruth Goose; Herbert Blake, Jr.; Dwayne Debastien; Elizabeth Hansen; Linda McLeod Lennie; Robert Charlie; and, Melba Mitchell.

Serving as elected members of the Nihtat Gwich'in Council are: Ruth Goose; Herbert Blake, Jr.; Richard Nerysoo; Tom Wright; Elizabeth Hansen; Dwayne Debastien; Denise Kurszewski; and, Linda McLeod Lennie.

Mr. Speaker, it's important that I recognize the outgoing chief, Chief James Firth, for his many years of dedication and commitment to the political, economic and social changes that affect our people in the Inuvik region. I had the privilege of serving under Mr. Firth's leadership, so I am very familiar with his sincere approach to the path toward change.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a continued working relationship with the newly-elected chief and council and the council of the Nihtat Gwich'in. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

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

Member's Statement On Passing Of Respected Northerners Pearl Hodgson And Justice Mark de Werdt

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, today I want to pay public tribute to two influential Northerners who have passed on. Both Pearl Hodgson, wife of our former Commissioner Stuart Hodgson, and Mark de Werdt, former justice of our Supreme Court, died in British Columbia in September.

Mr. Speaker, as many people know, when I first moved to Yellowknife in 1967 to work with the territorial government, I was the executive assistant to Commissioner Hodgson, and in this way I got to know the Commissioner's wife, Pearl. She was a very gracious lady and an active volunteer here in the Northwest Territories. In her role as Commissioner's wife, she hosted many distinguished guests, including members of the Royal family. In fact, she and Stuart became good friends of Prince Charles, and Pearl was one of only seven Canadians invited to Prince Charles' wedding to Princess Diana. Pearl Hodgson was also a devoted wife and mother, and a wonderful friend to all who knew her.

Mark de Werdt was also a long-time Northerner. He moved to Yellowknife to practice law in 1958. Over the years, he served in many legal capacities including both defense and Crown lawyer, magistrate and finally justice of the Supreme Courts of both the Northwest Territories and British Columbia. He and his wife, Ann, retired to British Columbia in the 1990s, although he continued to come north as a deputy judge from time to time.

Justice de Werdt died of cancer in Vancouver. He has left behind him not only a grieving wife, four sons and other family and friends, but also a long list of notable accomplishments and the respect and affection of a great many people in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories, including me, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saying thank you and goodbye to these two fine people who contributed so much to the North. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ootes. Item 3, Members' statements. Item 4, returns to oral questions. The honourable Member for Nunavut, Mr. Steen.

ITEM 4: RETURNS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Further Return To Question 347-14(6): Consolidating Contracts For Computers

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a return to oral question asked by Mr. Roland on October 1, 2003, regarding consolidating contracts for computers.

Mr. Roland asked how many computer purchase contracts have been awarded this fiscal year to companies outside of Yellowknife. In 2003-2004, there have been 10 tenders for different products. These contracts have been awarded to three different Yellowknife firms.

The total value of the contracts is \$610,632. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ITEM 5: RECOGNITION OF VISITORS IN THE GALLERY

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to recognize Ms. Bea Campbell, a Fort Smith constituent and friend who is the president of the NWT Seniors' Association. She's accompanied by Barb Hood, the executive director of the NWT Seniors' Association, and with them is Jane White a new resident of the NWT from British Columbia.

---Applause

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

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a former constituent who everybody in the Northwest Territories knows, Snookie Catholique of CBC. Thank you.

---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 gives me great pleasure to introduce a constituent with the Salvation Army, Major Karen Hoefft, who is also a tireless community volunteer. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Item 5, recognitions of visitors in the gallery. I would like to take this opportunity to say welcome to all those who are here to see their government. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

ITEM 6: ORAL QUESTIONS

Question 378-14(6): Baccalaureate Programs Available Through Aurora College

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, for a number of years now the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment has been telling us that Aurora College would be moving ahead to offer a baccalaureate or bachelor degree programs in a limited number of areas. I believe that teaching degrees and nursing degrees that they planned to offer in particular. Can the Minister confirm and outline the college's plan to move into baccalaureate degrees in the next year?

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

Return To Question 378-14(6): Baccalaureate Programs Available Through Aurora College

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we have had plans for several years to offer a teacher education degree out of our system, through the Aurora College system, and additionally we have been working with Health and Social Services to offer a degree in nursing, and also we've been working with the University of Victoria to offer a degree in social work through the college system. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 378-14(6): Baccalaureate Programs Available Through Aurora College

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I remember hearing the previous Minister say that we would soon be delivering degrees for teaching. Can the Minister confirm that we will actually be starting third-year programs in nursing next year?

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

Further Return To Question 378-14(6): Baccalaureate Programs Available Through Aurora College

HON. JAKE OOTES: Mr. Speaker, yes, the intent is to offer a third year, starting in 2004-2005, for nursing. There are still some hurdles to come, mainly in the area of space and so forth. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 378-14(6): Baccalaureate Programs Available Through Aurora College

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister advise whether or not the program will be part of the base funded operation of the department, or will they have to be looking for new money each year in order to continue offering the program?

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

Further Return To Question 378-14(6): Baccalaureate Programs Available Through Aurora College

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are still some process issues that need to be ironed out, and we hope to be able to accomplish that in the next couple of weeks. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 378-14(6): Baccalaureate Programs Available Through Aurora College

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there are a number of people who are in the program, and they got in the program, particularly from smaller communities, expecting they'd be able to finish their degree here in the North. The Minister is, I think, raising some question about whether or not that's going to happen, saying that they haven't answered of the questions. Is the Minister confident that we will see years three and four of the nursing baccalaureate program starting at the beginning starting next year in the Northwest Territories?

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

Further Return To Question 378-14(6): Baccalaureate Programs Available Through Aurora College

HON. JAKE OOTES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, if the Member is speaking about the nursing, we already have everything in place for the teacher education program. With regard to the nursing program, it is our intent to proceed next year, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Ootes. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Deh Cho, Mr. McLeod.

Question 379-14(6): Impacts And Opportunities Of The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Member's statement today stated that there were still a lot of questions in my communities regarding the pipeline and I just wanted to know if this government has been working on putting a process in place to ensure that all communities are provided with information regarding the impacts and opportunities. I would like to pose that question to the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

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

Return To Question 379-14(6): Impacts And Opportunities Of The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, there's an immense challenge to all of us in the North as a result of the growth of the oil and gas industry in the Northwest Territories and this government has a responsibility to ensure that benefits flow to people in the North. To try to manage the impacts, there is a Mackenzie Valley development plan that has been set up within the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and we have been concentrating on strategic efforts on how we could make sure that we increase cooperation with DIAND and see what they're doing. They have an office there called the Pipeline Readiness Office. We're in the process of working with our deputy ministers to get them together to look at what we can do.

We also had Terriplan do a strategic plan for us for our officials. Mainly we're working with our deputy minister at this time. We do have personnel in some regional communities that would do it, but we wanted an overall, coordinated approach on how we're going to do it and part of it would be how this communication flows. At this time we're listening to the people in the communities, we're working with them and there are a number of different issues that are going on but we need an overall, strategically coordinated plan to do that. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 379-14(6): Impacts And Opportunities Of The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's important that the communication links be developed early to take advantage of all the opportunities. Mr. Speaker, regarding this project, there's a lot of anticipation for business start up and for new businesses to get involved and some to expand. However, we all know the monies and dollars for business development within the territorial government is very restricted and the

capital does not go a long ways. I'd like to know if this government is looking at new sources. We've heard that there's new dollars for training, there's new dollars for infrastructure. However, I'd like to know if this government is looking at new sources for business development for capital for northern companies. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 379-14(6): Impacts And Opportunities Of The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the department has looked at that. We have to work with Members and Cabinet to look at other sources. As you know, it's a restricted kind of financial situation we're in, but we are going to be developing some plan of action of how to look at it because certainly there's going to be an increase in demand and we have to look at that. So we will consult with and continue to provide assistance to different aboriginal groups that are down the valley. We go through the aboriginal government private sector partnership fund through the maximizing northern employment initiatives currently. So we will continue to support capacity building through our existing levels of funding, but I understand where the Member's coming from and we'll certainly have to continue to look at it as we go through our strategic plan of approach on how we're going to deal with this big project that's looming ahead of us.

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

Supplementary To Question 379-14(6): Impacts And Opportunities Of The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline

MR. MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I hope the strategic plan's going to include some new dollars. Along with communication and capital funding, I think it's important that we look at how this is all going to be handled within the department. Because now we recognize there's only so many regional staff allocated to economic development. It's very limited and we have to consider travel, training, holidays. I would like to ask the Minister if he would be looking at committing additional staff to advance the northern participation on this project. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 379-14(6): Impacts And Opportunities Of The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated earlier, our first response is that we are planning a workshop for the deputy ministers for all our departments organized by Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and the objective is to work on an effective, cooperative model to clearly define proactive actions and respond to the Mackenzie Valley pipeline project. We plan to do that first with our deputy ministers as up to this point in time we have been monitoring what has been going on. We have been using our regional petroleum advisors to increase community awareness of what's going on, as well as listening to the communities. So we have a lot of issues and concerns raised by the communities that we're aware of, but we just wanted to do it through this exercise with our deputy ministers so that the heads of all the departments are fully

involved and are aware of all the different issues that are out there so we have a truly coordinated approach on this. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 379-14(6): Impacts And Opportunities Of The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline

MR. MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, communities in my riding and up and down the Mackenzie Valley are being bombarded by visits from the oil companies and exploration companies. They're all coming into the communities and requesting meetings. We really have nobody out there working with them. When the diamond industry moved into this area, a whole new division was created for them. I believe it was under Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and it was exclusive to the diamond industry and issues in that area. I wonder if something comparable could be done for oil and gas to help out the smaller communities. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 379-14(6): Impacts And Opportunities Of The Mackenzie Valley Pipeline

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, currently the mechanism that we're using at this point is the Mackenzie Valley Development Planning Unit within Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and they have been trying the best they can to try and be the central source for gathering information on oil and gas in the Northwest Territories. They have been providing the information to other departments and trying to get information to the community groups. We've been working with the producer groups as well as the pipeline groups and other interested parties. It's a main point of contact within the government at this point and hopefully through the exercise that I mentioned of a deputy ministers' workshop, this point will be raised that the Member has said and perhaps it will be another form that may evolve out of it. But it's a Cabinet approved direction that we use this unit at this stage in the whole process of the development of the pipeline. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Antoine. Before we go to the next question, I'd like to direct your attention to the presence in the visitors' gallery of the Grades 8 and 9 of Ecole Alain St. Cyr School here in Yellowknife with their teacher, Jean Gravel. Please welcome them.

---Applause

Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Question 380-14(6): Available Office Space In Hay River For The Human Rights Commission Office

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in follow up to my colleague, Mr. Delorey's Member's statement today, I have some questions for the Minister of Public Works and Services. As Mr. Delorey indicated, we supply a committee of this legislature with information about Hay River and asked that Hay River be considered for the location of the new Human Rights Commission office.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Minister can understand our surprise when we received a letter indicating that Hay River was not being considered because there was no appropriate office space. I've been contacted by several constituents who do indicate that they have office space available. I would like to ask the Minister, was Public Works and Services involved in providing information to a committee of this House with respect to the availability of space for a Human Rights Commission office? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 380-14(6): Available Office Space In Hay River For The Human Rights Commission Office

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the answer is yes, we were involved. We were asked by the Board of Management to do a review of what housing and office facilities were available within a number of communities – that would be Fort Smith, Hay River, Fort Rae, Yellowknife and Inuvik. Public Works and Services phoned the landlords and got information from them on what's available, how long it would take to bring them on stream if they were, in fact, identified as the community that the facilities would be built in and that information was passed back to the Board of Management. We didn't put any recommendations to favour any one community to the Board of Management. We just gave them the information as it came to us from the landlords. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 380-14(6): Available Office Space In Hay River For The Human Rights Commission Office

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I find that very interesting. I'd like to know how the Department of Public Works and Services would have determined who they would contact in these communities and what the criteria was for what they were looking for because certainly the only contact in Hay River that's referred to in the letter indicated that they would be able to meet the requirements of what the Human Rights Commission office was looking for and other landlords in the community indicate that they have never been contacted. So, how would they have determined who they were going to contact and what would they have said as the outline or scope of what they were looking for? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 380-14(6): Available Office Space In Hay River For The Human Rights Commission Office

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the information I have is that they received certain criteria that the Board of Management would need in order to address the needs of the commission and we used that in a questionnaire to the landlords and that's what we used to establish the information that we passed on back to the Board of Management. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, I would like to suggest that in the case of Hay River, the information collected by Public Works and Services was in error. I'd like to ask the Minister, seeing as there were only certain people contacted in the communities, what's the policy of the Department of Public Works and Services in these instances? This could be frightening for the future. Would it not have been better to advertise in local and territorial newspapers for expressions of interest? Outline the criteria so that anybody could have responded to this proposal? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Mrs. Groenewegen, the chair is having some difficulty with the question. Perhaps you'd like to rephrase the question. It sounds like you're asking the Minister his opinion and that's not allowed under the rules of the House. Perhaps you can rephrase the question to a question, Mrs. Groenewegen.

Supplementary To Question 380-14(6): Available Office Space In Hay River For The Human Rights Commission Office

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Mr. Speaker, why didn't the Minister responsible instruct his officials to publicly advertise to give everyone who was interested in providing this office space fair and equal opportunity to provide a proposal on this space? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 380-14(6): Available Office Space In Hay River For The Human Rights Commission Office

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Member suggested, it would have been one option. However, Public Works and Services advised that if a community is picked by the Board of Management it would be at that point that Public Works and Services would put forward a request for proposal to the landlords in that particular community. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 380-14(6): Available Office Space In Hay River For The Human Rights Commission Office

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That seems like a rather backward way of going about it. However, since they seem to have gotten the information incorrect that they supplied to the Board of Management with respect to Hay River, I would like to ask the Minister if he'd be prepared to direct his officials, both at headquarters and at the regional level, to attend in Hay River next week to be shown and toured around so that this will not happen in the future as to what is available in terms of vacant office space in Hay River because it is significant and it is that there's several landlords who have very good space that qualifies. Would the Minister be prepared to ask his officials to visit our community and see those spaces? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 380-14(6): Available Office Space In Hay River For The Human Rights Commission Office

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd be prepared to do that. I'll ask the department to visit the Hay River business community and put together an estimate of the amount of office space and price-wise and that's all we received from them in the first place. So, I'll ask them to put it together again. Thank you.

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

Question 381-14(6): Increasing Numbers Of Child Apprehensions And Permanent Custody Cases

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, my question's for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It's with regard to my Member's statement and the information I've received in the increased numbers of children who are being apprehended through the Child Protection and Family Services Act. Mr. Speaker, there's been a major increase from some 43 children at the end of May and at the last week of August, it was almost at 56 children. In two of my communities, there are 22 children in Aklavik and 33 in Fort McPherson. I'd like to ask the Minister, exactly what is his department doing to ensure that we see a decrease in these numbers and to work with our communities to establish child planning committees in those communities?

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

Return To Question 381-14(6): Increasing Numbers Of Child Apprehensions And Permanent Custody Cases

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we are moving ahead with the child and family services committees. In Fort McPherson, my understanding is that there have been six members identified and that training is scheduled to take place in November to get this committee up and running and which I know will be the first one of its kind in the Northwest Territories and probably all of Canada. Mr. Speaker, we also spend a lot of time with all the services we provide trying to deal with child and family services issues with social workers, alcohol and drug counsellors, mental health workers, even the nurses and doctors we have available, as well as the RCMP. Mr. Speaker, it's a very difficult area. It's a very complex one, but it's one where we devote a lot of time and resources. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 381-14(6): Increasing Numbers Of Child Apprehensions And Permanent Custody Cases

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I noted in my Member's statement, I made reference to the Youth Justice Act that's been appealed across the country to ensure we find alternative means in sentencing for young offenders. Yet, Mr. Speaker, under our Family Law Act

basically the only option we see in place is apprehension, where children are being taken away from their families and put into foster care. I think this government has a responsibility to amend our laws to follow the federal laws in regards to how alternative sentences have to be concluded.

Mr. Speaker, there are two sections of this act I'd like to ask the Minister about: Section 10 and section 27. Section 10 means that any person who's going to apprehend a child has to have reasonable grounds to do so. The child protection worker has to ensure that the health and safety of the child is in danger. The other section which deals with section 25 needs a court order in order to apprehend that individual. I'd like to ask the Minister, do you have any idea of how many children have been apprehended under these two different sections? What sections are they being apprehended under?

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

Further Return To Question 381-14(6): Increasing Numbers Of Child Apprehensions And Permanent Custody Cases

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out that there are a number of options and that permanent wardship is the very last option that is there when all other initiatives and options have failed. We're talking about voluntary support agreements, support services agreements, plan of care agreements, apprehensions of less than 72 hours, apprehension, interim custody orders, temporary custody and finally, Mr. Speaker, when all else fails, we have permanent custody. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 381-14(6): Increasing Numbers Of Child Apprehensions And Permanent Custody Cases

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, from the information I've received it's clear that the permanent custody numbers have gone up. It's gone up from 10 in May to almost 17 at the end of August. The numbers I'm getting shows me that there's an increase in the number of children being put into permanent custody. I'd like to ask the Minister, have you looked at intervening and looked at these numbers to say why there is such a drastic increase in the number of children that are being put in permanent custody?

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

Further Return To Question 381-14(6): Increasing Numbers Of Child Apprehensions And Permanent Custody Cases

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is an issue where the safety of the child is paramount. There are at least five investigations done per child before any kind of wardship is considered. We respond to on average per child seven community reports of abuse or neglect. Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that we have to, in fact, take children into care, but I can tell the Member that across Canada there has been a study that we have taken part in where they've looked through the Canadian incident study of reported child abuse and maltreatment completed in 1998 and there are some very basic, common reasons why children come into care and things that affect children who are brought

into care. For example, Mr. Speaker, 34 percent of the parents had alcohol and drug abuse issues; 31 percent of the parents had a child with history of abuse; 29 percent of the parents lacked social support; 24 percent of the parents had mental health issues; 23 percent of the parents experienced spousal violence themselves. Mr. Speaker, I'd like to point out that these figures are not cumulative because they overlap, but it points out that there are some very significant issues that affect children being brought into care and it's not something that's done lightly. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 381-14(6): Increasing Numbers Of Child Apprehensions And Permanent Custody Cases

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the Minister hit the nail right on the head when he said there was a lack of care, especially from this government, when it comes to programs and services that these people can depend on such as alcohol and drug programs; have mental health and alcohol and drug workers in our communities; have counsellors there to counsel the families to deal with these problems. Mr. Speaker, maybe the Minister can maybe do something in that area. I'd like to ask the Minister, what exactly is this government doing to stem these problems that he knows of in our communities related to children who are apprehended from their families because of alcohol and drug problems, people being unemployed, people...

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

Further Return To Question 381-14(6): Increasing Numbers Of Child Apprehensions And Permanent Custody Cases

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today in this House we made reference to Family Violence Awareness Week. We are making concerted efforts to focus on prevention and that we're trying to deal with problems at the front end. We've funded and increased the funding for alcohol and drug workers, we've added social work positions, we've increased the environmental budget over the last three years by \$40 million. Mr. Speaker, we are basically pouring a lot of money into the health and social service system. Until we deal with the front end issues of what causes the problems and what causes the people to drink and to abuse their families, we will never have enough money to deal with the issues. Thank you.

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

Question 382-14(6): Publish And Revisit Procedures For Discretionary Funding Applied By Ministers

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question today is to the Premier and it's following up on the answers the Premier provided last Friday with regard to the question asked by Mr. Dent. Mr. Speaker, the Premier indicated that he will be taking appropriate action with regard to the rules and procedures about discretionary funding. I'd like to know from the Premier whether or not he would make available to us what kind of actions he will be taking in this regard. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 382-14(6): Publish And Revisit Procedures For Discretionary Funding Applied By Ministers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the controls and guidelines that we have in place that define how decisions are made, resources are allocated, are, I believe, available to Members. As well, the way in which Ministerial discretion is allowed for under the legislation is exercised. I had indicated that Ministerial discretion was used in this instance and following discussions between myself and the Minister we had agreed that we should look at the guidelines that govern how decisions are made and review that and also the parameters given to Ministerial discretion to focus more on using the process rather than the area that allows for Ministerial discretion. We will try to make those available to Members as it becomes available. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 382-14(6): Publish And Revisit Procedures For Discretionary Funding Applied By Ministers

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I don't want to tie up the hands of the Ministers to do their job. I appreciate that in some cases they should be left to use their discretion, but as the Premier has pointed out, we're moving closer to the elections and the Members around this House have been given lots of rules to follow in light of that. I'd like to know from the Premier whether or not he's provided any direction to his Cabinet Ministers as to their conduct and rules and procedures so that there might be no perception whatsoever or no opinion from the public as to any Ministers abusing their discretionary powers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 382-14(6): Publish And Revisit Procedures For Discretionary Funding Applied By Ministers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As early as a year ago we had alerted Ministers, especially new Ministers, to the fact that a phenomenon visits us starting about six months before the election called "the silly season." It does cause us to act in a way that perhaps is a little different from our usual mode of behaviour. That is because of the proximity to elections and it's not only one that can affect the behaviour of Premiers and Ministers, but also Members of the legislature on the other side as well.

We are aware of that and we've fortified ourselves well in advance of it, but it's still upon us and we try to conduct ourselves with as much dignity and restrained passion as possible at this time. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 382-14(6): Publish And Revisit Procedures For Discretionary Funding Applied By Ministers

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I might need a translator to figure out what the Premier just said. I hear fortification and silly season or something. Mr. Speaker, I don't think there's anything silly and unserious about Ministers, especially in his own riding weeks before the election writing out text on discretionary conditions. I'd like to ask a very serious question to the Premier. Would he issue a guideline to his Ministers about what they should and should not do with discretionary funding at this time of election, which is very serious? There is nothing silly about that, in my opinion. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 382-14(6): Publish And Revisit Procedures For Discretionary Funding Applied By Ministers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think the Member's beating a point to death. As far as I'm concerned the process is working. The Member and Members have identified an instance where Ministerial discretion that was used is being questioned. I shared that, the Minister shares that. We've agreed to address it. There are other areas in legislation where Ministers are allowed to use discretion as they come up and we agree that we should visit the way in which these Ministerial authorities can be exercised. That's a good thing to continue raising it day after day when we've already agreed, we've acknowledged that there's perhaps a deficiency there. The Ministerial discretion area should be reviewed. We've agreed to do that. There's really nothing more to be said. She's asked that we share whatever it is we decide to do and we've agreed with that as well. So let us get on with our work. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 382-14(6): Publish And Revisit Procedures For Discretionary Funding Applied By Ministers

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It might be that this issue's been beaten to death from that end, but thus far, Mr. Speaker, I have nothing that's been given to me that tells me under what discretion the Minister has spent this money. Under what rules? I have no information as to what the Premier is prepared to do. All I have is that they're going to do something about it. How could it be beaten to death? May I please have the Premier give me information as to how the Minister spent \$120,000 in Inuvik for 12 people, tomorrow? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. There is a question there. The honourable Premier, Mr. Kakfwi.

Further Return To Question 382-14(6): Publish And Revisit Procedures For Discretionary Funding Applied By Ministers

HON. STEPHEN KAKFWI: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, some resources were allocated to members of the public in Inuvik and in reviewing it we felt that we should have more guidelines in place to govern that and rely less on the

Ministerial discretion. We've agreed with the comments made by the Members and we have committed to addressing that. We haven't done any work since the session started. We've asked officials to look at it and they will do their work and we will make it available to Members as soon as it is available. We agree it's an area that needs attention. We've acknowledged that and we said we're going to address it. The Member wants us to share our work so she can understand how it is that we're going to address it and we're prepared to do that. That is what we've agreed to do, so there we are. Thank you.

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

Question 383-14(6): Infrastructure Funding For Highway No. 6

MR. NITAH: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question's for the Minister of Transportation. As we see in today's headlines, \$85 million for Northwest Territories roads and highways. I'd like to ask the Minister, since we got more money for Highway No. 3 and two other highways in the Northwest Territories, will we see now an accelerated pace on other construction projects on Northwest Territories highways, specifically Highway No. 6? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 383-14(6): Infrastructure Funding For Highway No. 6

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I expect we will see some action on the other roads that are not included in the Corridors for Canada proposal. As Members know, the Corridors for Canada proposal my department put together is a proposal that links economic return with highway infrastructure. The additional money that we're receiving on top of the \$20 million we already have for this year, that \$45 million has not yet been allocated and remains to be negotiated between Mr. Rock's officials and my officials. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 383-14(6): Infrastructure Funding For Highway No. 6

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as the Minister's negotiating with Mr. Rock's office I'd like him to keep in mind Highway No. 6 and the need for improved road infrastructure including a chipseal that's thicker than half an inch, Mr. Speaker. So I'd like to ask the Minister if he would consider Highway No. 6 for an accelerated improvement pace. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 383-14(6): Infrastructure Funding For Highway No. 6

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly. As we factor in the additional \$45 million into our Transportation infrastructure budget, we'll need to look at our whole capital plan in Transportation to figure out where we can prioritize money and distribute the opportunities that are here. Definitely Highway No. 6 will be taken into consideration on that, as will

other highways. I think, Mr. Speaker, the next government has a big task to figure out how to reallocate all of our resources. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 383-14(6): Infrastructure Funding For Highway No. 6

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I agree the next government has a lot of work ahead of them, but I'd like to encourage the Minister to work with the community of Fort Resolution and the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to have a more inclusive program to allow more people than just the crew that started the work on Highway No. 6 so that there's a training component involved to prepare people for the diamond and the oil and gas rush. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 383-14(6): Infrastructure Funding For Highway No. 6

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that will continue to be a priority and if we need to do a better job on the next project than this last one, in terms of training northern people, then we'll have to figure out how to do that. I agree with the Member that as well as getting the infrastructure improved, creating jobs and training are also important objectives. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 383-14(6): Infrastructure Funding For Highway No. 6

MR. NITAH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's no question, just to agree with the Minister that, yes, it does need an improvement compared to the last job that was done. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. I don't think there was a question there. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

Question 384-14(6): Allocation Of \$3 Million Infrastructure Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Honourable Vince Steen, the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. I'd like to ask the Minister, of the \$15 million to support community infrastructure needs, have they identified where any of these projects are going to go? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 384-14(6): Allocation Of \$3 Million Infrastructure Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the \$15 million is at this time spread over a 10-year period, roughly \$1.5 million a year, plus whatever we'll receive based on population. Up to now we had some very preliminary

discussions with the NWTAC members and I believe three or four mayors must have taken part in the discussions, but we never identified any particular communities or projects at this point in time other than trying to prioritize what services would be the most needed. It seems obvious that water and sewage programs will be a high priority right now. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 384-14(6): Allocation Of \$3 Million Infrastructure Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to ask the Minister if he can give me the names of the communities that the mayors came from. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 384-14(6): Allocation Of \$3 Million Infrastructure Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'd have to refresh my memory a little bit here, but I believe that Fort Simpson was one of the mayors. The mayor of Yellowknife took part as well. I'm not sure about the other two mayors at this point, but I do know that the NWTAC office membership, administration, was involved as well. One of the things they have not identified yet is how much will go to non-tax-based and how much to tax-based. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 384-14(6): Allocation Of \$3 Million Infrastructure Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So far he's mentioned two mayors from tax-based communities, so I guess those are the only concerns he would have heard from. I would like to ask the Minister if he would like to go to the non-tax-based communities or even send out a letter or survey to ask them where their needs are for the next 10 years. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 384-14(6): Allocation Of \$3 Million Infrastructure Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Municipal and Community Affairs does have an inventory of the needs for non-tax-based communities at this time. However, we don't have that for tax-based and that was one of the reasons why we were meeting with the tax-based communities was to see if they could put together an inventory of their needs and prioritize it as well. There will be consultations with the communities before we make any decisions about where this funding is going to go and that includes all tax-based. I believe one of the reasons why there may not have been as much non-tax-based representation is because Municipal and Community Affairs spends most of its funding at the present time on non-tax-based communities. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 384-14(6): Allocation Of \$3 Million Infrastructure Program

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thought for a while there he was going to say Municipal and Community Affairs decides what the communities needs were. But he didn't say it, so...The communities have different needs from other communities and Municipal and Community Affairs may have a list, a 20-year plan or whatever is up in their ivory towers over there, but if they don't go to the communities, they don't know what the needs are. I would like to ask the Minister if he would go to the communities again when they have a capital planning process which they used this summer and still has been acted on and he might have questions about that tomorrow? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 384-14(6): Allocation Of \$3 Million Infrastructure Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Member's quite correct. We do have a capital planning in process which we've been using and it did identify some of the municipal water and sewage needs in particular communities. In most communities that I'm aware of, anyway, the communities did come forward and put high priority on their water and sewage programs. However, they will be making a point of going to all of the communities, either through letter form or actually attending municipal meetings, and then review what the municipalities need for water and sewage. We will also have to have from the tax-based communities their inventory as well. Thank you.

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

Question 385-14(6): Western Economic Diversification And Non-Renewable Resource Development

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question today is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. As he well knows, it's important for us to make sure that our economy is as diversified as possible so that we aren't at the whims of the boom and bust cycle that's solely dependable on the non-renewable resource development. I want to ask the Minister if this government, indeed his department, has a plan for ensuring that manufacturing, tourism, possibly the petro-chemical industry or other spin-offs from oil and gas are being included in this plan. Can you tell us what the plan is? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 385-14(6): Western Economic Diversification And Non-Renewable Resource Development

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, it is in our framework plan that we're looking at all the sectors and the plan here is to flesh out all the different sectors that contribute to the economy. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 385-14(6): Western Economic Diversification And Non-Renewable Resource Development

MR. BELL: Thank you. So is this planned to the stage where we've seen a thorough discussion of the priorities, a thorough discussion of all the options and how we're prepared to allocate funding accordingly? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 385-14(6): Western Economic Diversification And Non-Renewable Resource Development

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, that would be included in the budgeting process. The plan here is to look at all the sectors now and look at all the different options that are there in terms of what needs to get done to fund it, if it needs additional funding. But that, of course, goes through the budgeting process. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 385-14(6): Western Economic Diversification And Non-Renewable Resource Development

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the year 2000 in September the then-Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Mr. Handley, was trying to make the case that we hadn't had an economic development agreement since 1996, we were without any regional economic support. He was appealing to the other western economic development Ministers. I'm wondering if we've made any progress since that date. Can the Minister update us on any progress as far as western economic diversification goes? Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 385-14(6): Western Economic Diversification And Non-Renewable Resource Development

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, on the economic development agreement, that point is raised constantly by the different Members of the Cabinet in their different roles and portfolios. Most recently, I was in Iqaluit attending a northern development Ministers' meeting along with the Ministers from the other two territories and northern Ministers and there we raised the issue of that and it seems to fall on deaf ears in Ottawa. We're working with our Member of Parliament at this time to try to get that issue moved forward, but at this point in time there's absolutely nothing of that sort, no indication at all from the federal government to fund us. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 385-14(6): Western Economic Diversification And Non-Renewable Resource Development

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It seemed to me from accounts at the time that we had the support of western economic development Ministers. They had acknowledged that per capita funding didn't make sense for us. There was a discussion about base funding. There was an acknowledgement that it didn't make sense for our money to flow through DIAND. What's happened, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 385-14(6): Western Economic Diversification And Non-Renewable Resource Development

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, the way we try to find out about it or try to find out how and why we don't get this special economic development money from the federal government is that simply they haven't budgeted for it in their budgetary process at all. As much as we try from all our different lobbying efforts, we don't seem to be making any headway with the federal government to have this type of extraordinary funding to help us in the development of our economy in their budget. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister Antoine. Item 6, oral questions. The honourable Member for Hay River North, Mr. Delorey.

Question 386-14(6): Update On NWT Sports And Recreation Council

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions are for the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It has to do, Mr. Speaker, with his update today on the new sports and recreation physical activity system. One of the statements says that in the very near future we will finalize and design the new Northwest Territories Sports and Recreation Partners Council and implement revisions to the Western Canada Lotteries Act regulations. Could the Minister inform the House when exactly he's planning on doing this? What does he mean by the very near future? Thank you.

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

Return To Question 386-14(6): Update On NWT Sports And Recreation Council

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the summer we've been monitoring the progress of the interim team that has been putting together plans for the implementation of the Northwest Territories Sports and Recreation Council. Based on their progress up to date, we believe there is the will and there is a need and it's supported by the membership on that interim team to put in place this sports and recreation council. Therefore, I'm prepared to sign off on the sports and recreation policy and the changes to the regulations for the Western Canada Lotteries Act regulations. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 386-14(6): Update On NWT Sports And Recreation Council

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, is the Minister aware of any sports and recreation delivery bodies out there that have concerns yet with the changes that are being made? Is he aware of any groups that are opposing these changes? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 386-14(6): Update On NWT Sports And Recreation Council

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, since the June session, over the summer, I haven't heard and I haven't received any specific opposition from any specific groups towards the implementation of the sports and recreation council. We're proceeding as if we're assuming that the ones that are working on the team or part of the team are in fact representing those people that may have had concerns in the past. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 386-14(6): Update On NWT Sports And Recreation Council

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm quite sure I heard the Minister say that he has not received any concerns or letters opposing the changes from any groups out there. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

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

Further Return To Question 386-14(6): Update On NWT Sports And Recreation Council

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I haven't received anything since the summer session. Nothing new. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 386-14(6): Update On NWT Sports And Recreation Council

MR. DELOREY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Minister informed the House as to what the process would be once the changes are finalized? How is information going to be disseminated across the Territories to all the different groups that are involved in sports and recreation? How are they going to be informed and what input are they going to have into the process? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 386-14(6): Update On NWT Sports And Recreation Council

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I hope that the documents I'm going to table today will help the Members and general public get some idea how and who will

be involved in the consultation process and who will be in charge of the consultation process. Right now, the plan is that the council itself will be involved and will be directing most of the consultation process. The interim team will actually be doing all this until the council is in place. So, Municipal and Community Affairs is part of the support for the interim team and we'll be taking part in the consultation process and getting the information out to the membership, the partners, the sports groups, as required. Thank you.

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

Question 387-14(6): Application Of The \$15 Million Municipal Infrastructure Funding Program

MR. BRADEN: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to address a question to Minister Steen, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs. It's also in connection with the announcement over the weekend of \$15 million coming to the Northwest Territories for municipal improvements. I'm wondering if the Minister can tell us, Mr. Speaker, whether there are any strings attached to this funding. For instance, in the case of Transportation they are 50 cent dollars. Anything else we should know about regarding the municipal contribution? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Return To Question 387-14(6): Application Of The \$15 Million Municipal Infrastructure Funding Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of meeting with the Honourable Andy Mitchell, who is the Secretary of State for our rural infrastructure and he indicated that it's expected that the \$15 million will, in fact, be met with \$15 million from either one-third, one-third, one-third with the federal government, the municipalities and the territorial government or on a 50/50 basis for non-tax-based communities with the territorial government. So, he's expecting that overall the infrastructure funding will be at least \$30 million. Thank you.

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

Supplementary To Question 387-14(6): Application Of The \$15 Million Municipal Infrastructure Funding Program

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The broad terms of this particular fund, as I found from consulting the federal government's website, also allowed considerable latitude in their application. It goes beyond the water and sewer kind of infrastructure. In fact, it talks about tourism, recreation, culture. We could be crossing three different departments in the eligibility. So, Mr. Speaker, I'm wondering if Minister Steen is working with his other colleagues to look at the suitability of applying these funds in areas other than hard municipal infrastructure. Thank you.

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

Further Return To Question 387-14(6): Application Of The \$15 Million Municipal Infrastructure Funding Program

HON. VINCE STEEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, like I responded to another Member in the House here, we're very early in the stage of consultation with the municipalities in how they would like to see this funding applied. At this point, there is indication that the water and sewage programs will be high priority, however, there are also indications that there would be some priority placed on dust control in smaller communities. We are also supporting the request from the Federation of Municipalities to have this funding applied to between a three- and five-year program rather than a 10-year program to allow for more funding at an earlier stage and to allow a lot of the municipal projects to be completed at an earlier stage. At this point in time, we haven't closed off discussions with anyone and I'd be happy to open discussions with memberships, in particular probably through the business planning process as well, to have some input from the Members as well. If possible, I don't know if we have the time or not, but it would have been nice to have the time to sit down with the AOC and see whether we can have some thought put forward on this from them before the new government. Thank you.

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

Question 387-14(6): Government Response To Motion To Rescind The New Business Incentive Policy

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Mr. Speaker, last week the House passed a motion asking the government to rescind the revised business incentive policy. I'd like to ask the Minister if the government has had occasion to consider that motion and the government's response to it. Thank you.

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

Return To Question 387-14(6): Government Response To Motion To Rescind The New Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Mr. Speaker, the government listened to the serious concerns raised by the Members last Thursday during the debate over the weekend and as a result of a meeting with the construction associations we made a decision to comply and reflect the consensus approach of this House and we've rescinded the amendment to the business incentive policy this morning and returned to the 1992 business incentive policy. Thank you.

---Applause

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

Supplementary To Question 387-14(6): Government Response To Motion To Rescind The New Business Incentive Policy

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's difficult to congratulate the government in a question. Would the Minister agree that this is a good example of how consensus government can work?

MR. SPEAKER: Is that an opinion? Thank you, Mr. Dent. It borders on opinion, however, I will allow the Minister to respond. The honourable Minister of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Minister Antoine.

Further Return To Question 387-14(6): Government Response To Motion To Rescind The New Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, yes, this shows the Cabinet responsiveness to the concerns of the Members and that way reflects the consensus approach of this House. Thank you.

---Applause

MR. SPEAKER: Supplementary, Mr. Dent.

Supplementary To Question 387-14(6): Government Response To Motion To Rescind The New Business Incentive Policy

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to congratulate the Minister and Cabinet for following through on that matter. Would the Minister also advise the House if the Cabinet or his department, in particular, is planning to ensure that the contract registry will track the cost of business incentive policy over the course of the next year so that we can have some accurate information to assess the program in the future? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Further Return To Question 387-14(6): Government Response To Motion To Rescind The New Business Incentive Policy

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during the debate and the concerns raised in this House was the concern that change without quantitative impacts is very difficult to do. So once the cost-benefit implications are clear through the contract registry and reporting system which we are currently moving ahead with the development under the system, government tenders and proposals, as evaluations and results have happened...So we are working towards it. We are in the pressing stage of this registry and we are hopeful once all data is entered, we will have this registry in place. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. The time allocated for question period has expired. Item 7, written questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

ITEM 7: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

Written Question 12-14(6): Child Apprehensions

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a written question directed to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

1. How many children apprehensions are done under section 10 versus section 27 of the Child and Family Services Act?

2. Where are the children apprehended and under what section of the act?
3. Was there a court order for apprehensions of those children?

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

ITEM 13: TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Tabled Document 95-14(6): Business Development Fund 2002-2003 Annual Report And Recipients Report

HON. JIM ANTOINE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have two documents I would like to table. I wish to table the Business Development Fund 2002-2003 Annual Report and Recipients Report.

Tabled Document 96-14(6): NWT Development Corporation 2002-2003 Annual Report

I would also like to table the following document entitled Northwest Territories Development Corporation 2002-2003 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 97-14(6): 14th Annual Report Of The Victims' Assistance Committee Of The NWT 2002-2003 Annual Report

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled 14th Annual Report of the Victims' Assistance Committee of the Northwest Territories from April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 98-14(6): Workers' Compensation Board 2002 Annual Report

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Workers' Compensation Board of the NWT and Nunavut, 2002 Annual Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 99-14(6): NWT Health And Social Services System Action Plan Status Report: April To September 2003

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled NWT Health and Social Services System Action Plan; A Status Report April to September 2003. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Tabled Document 100-14(6): NWT Sport, Recreation And Physical Activity System

HON. VINCE STEEN: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled the Northwest Territories Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity System. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Minister. Item 13, tabling of documents. Item 14, notices of motion. Item 15, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 16, motions. Motion 16-14(6). Motion 16-14(6) will remain on the Order Paper until tomorrow. Item 16, motions. Motion 17-14(6). The honourable Member for North Slave, Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 16: MOTIONS

Motion 17-14(6): To Resubmit A One Rate Zone Application To The Public Utilities Board, Defeated

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Northwest Territories has entered a period of substantial economic growth and prosperity;

AND WHEREAS this growth and prosperity is primarily concentrated in those communities with access to inexpensive hydroelectric power;

AND WHEREAS our communities and residents in the Northwest Territories absorb the cost of the hydroelectric infrastructure in one form or another;

AND WHEREAS no community in the Northwest Territories should be penalized because of the reliance on diesel fuel to run their electric generators or their geographic location and lack of proximity to the hydroelectric grid;

AND WHEREAS the cost of diesel fuel is subject to frequent price changes dictated by the world market;

AND WHEREAS under the current rate structure, these communities on the hydroelectric grid are not subject to the same price fluctuations for the cost of power that a community relying on diesel fuel for the generation of electricity would expend;

AND WHEREAS a price structure that levels cost between communities on our hydroelectric grid and communities relying on diesel fuel for power generation would be fair to all residents of the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS with the withdrawal of the general rate application, the proposed one-rate zone in October of 2002, there has never been a public consultation process on advantages and disadvantages of a one rate zone power plan;

AND WHEREAS the views of Northerners are not being considered;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, that the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation direct the corporation to resubmit their one-rate general rate application to the Northwest Territories Public Utilities Board so that a meaningful discussion and consultation can take place amongst the people of the Northwest Territories.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. There is a motion on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lafferty, you have the opening comments on it. Mr. Lafferty.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to speak in favour of the motion that I have put in. The reason I am doing it is a little over a year ago, or less than a year ago, directions were given to the Power Corporation to go with a one-rate zone system for the power rates. In the fall, there was a holdback by this government for no reason at all and the board was fired. That was a political decision on the part of Cabinet. For that reason, I ask that we go through with this motion and as politicians in this House, we decide how we are going to deal with this one-rate system.

We can give direction to the Power Corporation to go with a one-rate zone, but all we are doing is telling them to go out there and come back and give them discretion to fire the board again because we are not happy with what they are doing. We are going to deal with this over and over again until we, as politicians, can sit down and decide on how we are going to deal with it. We have to give them direction as an Assembly, not only Cabinet or the Minister of the department, but the Assembly as a whole. We need to decide that. We need to decide what's fair for all the people in the Northwest Territories, not just the people in our ridings or the people who we think should be given cheaper power.

A lot of infrastructure that was put in place 25 or 30 years ago, there was no cost to some of those people who are not paying the low rates. Those costs were there by some of the mining companies. They paid for the infrastructure. We, as a government, just took it over and are running the system for the people. Because of that, some people are paying a lower rate. Why should some people have a lower rate than others? We have the larger centres with the lower rates, the lower cost of living, the lower fuel, the lower grocery bills and freight bills.

Then you have communities that have the high cost of fuel, the high cost of living, the freight, the airlines. Everything is higher. We are telling these people already that their cost of living is high. We are saying it's okay. You can pay the higher cost because we in the larger centres, we need to stay where we are and we like it just the way it is. Nice and dandy. It's good to say that. We can't continue to do that. We are here to represent the people of the Northwest Territories. We say it in our prayers. Give us the power to treat everybody equally we say when we pray in the House, but as soon as the prayer is done, we all go and say it's okay, we can't make any changes. We are just kidding in the prayer.

We can't just continue the way it is. We have to, as politicians, in this House look at this one more time. Maybe it says that the new general rate application is going to be for three years. That is something that regulation has put in. We as politicians can go over there and say look, we made a mistake, we are going to change it. It is just like traveling on a highway somewhere, you are reading a map, you are going down a road and you take a wrong turn, well you are not going to continue on that wrong road, you are going to back up and go the right way. This is what we have to do, let's back up and go the right way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. To the motion. The honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I must say that the Member for North Slave definitely continues to work for his constituents in pushing this forward. Mr. Speaker, it was quite a controversy when the issue of a one-rate zone came through and now we see it being brought forward again by a motion.

Mr. Speaker, unfortunately at this time, I am going to have to speak not in support of this motion. I think that, number one, what we need to do as an Assembly, as Members of a government or the next government, we should be directing to have that discussion amongst Members, not send the staff out to do something just to be quashed again by somebody else when the political pressure is put on. Instead, as a government we need to decide if we are going to change the structure, then at that point, we can send the people out to do the work that we have decided politically.

When we decide or do it the way it was done before, there is always room for politics to kick in and to turn things around but, Mr. Speaker, in this motion, when we look at it, I have the same concerns that the rate zone in Inuvik is higher than it is in Yellowknife. But, Mr. Speaker, one thing we have as a government that we have continued to support is the subsidy program that has every resident of the Northwest Territories subsidized at the Yellowknife rate of the first 700 kilowatt hours.

Mr. Speaker, as a family man who has a large family, for the majority of months during the year, through the diligence of my wife, I manage to keep our household power rates down to take advantage of that. There are a couple of months a year that we go over slightly. Usually at Christmastime, Mr. Speaker, is one of the times. Mr. Speaker, I think instead of sending out the staff and the Power Corporation or directing the Public Utilities Board to do some more work on behalf of a rate structure, I think as leaders of the government and knowing that we are in the twilight hours of this Assembly, that instead we should be directing the next government to have that political discussion to decide if in fact that is the best way to go for our Power Corporation. I say ours, Mr. Speaker, because it does belong to all of the Northwest Territories and we have to decide if one flat-rate zone or two zones are the better way to go, but I think this is not an appropriate tool to be doing that at this late juncture. So, I will not be supporting the motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I too will be opposing this motion and I would agree with my colleague, Mr. Roland, that the Member has certainly led the charge on this issue quite fashionably for a long time, but I don't think that this is a decision that should be thrown to the Public Utilities Board or the Power Corporation. They came forward and they filed an application once already, I got told by politicians that they couldn't go forward, so until the politicians have a clear position, there is no point in trying to move this forward at the bureaucratic level. That means that we do have to have some kind of political discussion on this issue if we are ever going to consider it. But I think what really makes this a difficult issue even for politicians to have a significant discussion around, is that it is a matter of social policy right now, that this government says that electrical power is so important to people living in the

North that we have to subsidize the cost of the first 700 kilowatt hours to the same rate as what everyone is paying in Yellowknife. That represents a significant amount of money that this government puts into a social policy. Unfortunately, neither the Power Corporation nor the Public Utilities Board can ever guarantee that that is always going to be there. That is something that a future Legislative Assembly is always going to have to vote on and determine whether or not the subsidy is there.

I am concerned that if we were to go to a one-rate zone, I think it takes away part of the argument for the subsidy. I think that in the future what you are liable to see is if we are all paying \$0.21 a kilowatt hour or \$0.23 a kilowatt hour, if the financial situation of the government worsens, then we might be hearing the Minister of Finance say well we can't afford this subsidy any longer and so the price of electricity is going to have to go up. Then if the smaller communities are crying about how expensive it is, then it is too easy to say well you are paying the same rate as everyone else in the Territories, so what's the difference?

As far as I am concerned, one of the strongest arguments for the social policy we have now is the difference in the rates of power between some communities. As long as you have that difference, then it has to be looked at or the government has to look at subsidizing the rates in order to make it affordable to live in some of its smaller communities, and I think that is the best way we can protect the subsidy in the long run. I oppose the motion for two reasons: The process is wrong, there has to be the political will for Members in this House before we provide direction for the Power Corporation or the Public Utilities Board to consider such an approach; and, I think even after that discussion, I will still oppose it because I think that if we are all paying the same rates for power, we quickly lose the argument for the government subsidy and I think everybody in the Northwest Territories will wind up paying an unaffordable rate for power. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, I too will be opposing the motion, although it certainly doesn't take too much understanding to appreciate why our colleague Mr. Lafferty is bringing this forward. The rates, the cost of diesel fuel and the cost of ensuring safe and reliable power supply is getting more expensive, but in the meantime we are doing battle with the whole cost of living issue and this is one of the consequences. Mr. Lafferty talked about the good fortune that we had in the previous decades because of large mining developments, some hydro stations were built and we had some infrastructure put in here. It wasn't quite as simple as Mr. Lafferty suggests, that those are just handed over to us. I won't go into that level of detail but the point of one part of a territory being able to transfer wealth or in effect subsidize other parts of the territory may have had some validity.

We had these huge corporate and industrial customers that were probably able to shave some of their bottom line off, but we don't have many of those customers here anymore, Mr. Speaker. In Yellowknife, their sun is setting; Pine Point, of course, is long gone, so the customer base is changing dramatically and some of our thinking that might go along with well, who can afford to pay, also has to change.

I'd also bring up the issue, Mr. Speaker, of the whole governing structure that we have in place to look after the delivery of this

vital utility. We have not only a Power Corporation and a board of directors, which has a mandate on how to deliver electricity; we also have a Public Utilities Board, which has a mandate to set the terms of conditions and the price. That is something that this Assembly, I think back in the late 1980s or early 1990s, very deliberately and carefully decided to do, to take that regulatory responsibility out of the hands of political jurisdiction and give it to an independent group made up of experts who in effect are a proxy or a replacement for competition and do their job extremely or thoroughly. If we take this attitude in the Assembly that because, even for as good a reason as Mr. Lafferty raises, the cost is getting atrocious and absolutely unaffordable for some customers in some communities, we just can't go about deciding to ignore the rules and the fundamentals of making these decisions. We can't ignore the Public Utilities Board. We should not be going around and shutting down boards of corporations because they haven't met our political priorities or mandates, Mr. Speaker. We need to be much more careful about how we take on the duties of governance and then how we apply it.

I am more on side with Mr. Dent's approach to this, which is, if indeed we do politically agree that we have to do something to change the way power is costed across our territory, then that is something that we need to determine on a political basis because we are going to have to dig very deep in our political wallet and our financial wallet to be able to afford that kind of thing. It may be the right thing for us to do. That is a very large debate that, as Mr. Dent has suggested, we need to have. In fact, I think we were about to have it last year, Mr. Speaker, when Cabinet did make that fundamental governance mistake when it went in and issued directives against the initiatives and I think that the prerogative of the mandate of not only our Power Corporation board but our Public Utilities Board. So we've got a political discussion to have in this Assembly and indeed with the customer base before we can go about just telling our institutions what to do.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would leave a thought about price as something that should be factored into the way we manage the cost of any utility, whether it is electricity or water or telephone service. The point that I am trying to make here, Mr. Speaker, is one of conservation. I think all you need to do perhaps is look at what is going on in Ontario where, the way I understand it, the government there has decided to freeze electricity rates at an artificially low level for political expediency and they are finding now that demand for this cheap electricity has rapidly overtaken their ability to generate and buy other supplies of electricity. So what have you done? Cheap electricity is not necessarily a great thing.

The price signal is a very good conservation tool and we should not be ignoring it, Mr. Speaker, anywhere in our territory, regardless of how little or how much it costs. Responsible energy use is something that we should all be paying attention to and the way we deliver the service and how much we pay, we ask for it is really part of the overall equation. In summary, Mr. Speaker, I have every sympathy for why Mr. Lafferty wants this issue addressed, but we have yet to work on how to do it effectively and responsibly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Braden. To the motion. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I support this motion. I realize what happened a year ago and I would like to remind the Members and I'll quote from Hansard, October 16, 2000, Mr. Kakfwi, "Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr.

Speaker, in early August, Cabinet directed that the Power Corporation should cease consulting on a range of issues, including the single-rate zone. This was not properly communicated, apparently, to the Power Corporation. They went ahead and filed their papers for a single-rate zone in early September. When we had a Cabinet meeting here two weeks ago, we revisited that decision. The decision was maintained and direction was given. They refused to comply, and so their appointments were revoked and a new interim board was put in place. The interim board is expected to withdraw that application and resubmit a new application so that the public process can continue." That is what happened to the single-rate zone and I think for people here that keep harping on the issue of, well, a subsidy is something that we should really look at...What about the individual contractor that has a business who does not get a subsidy? What about someone that runs the Co-op or the Northern Store whose power bills in the winter are in the range of \$20,000 a month? All of those dollars that it costs to maintain a small business in the community is outrageous. You cannot compete with Yellowknife, Hay River or Fort Smith in that sector. That is whom this bill is really meant for. We have to really realistically think of the economic well being of the territory as a whole.

We talk about pipelines, diamond mines and all these major things that are going to happen. Why should somebody set up a business in Tulita or in Fort McPherson or anywhere else where you are on power diesel generation, knowing that it is cheaper to basically just fly in and fly out, drive your equipment in and drive it out at the end of the season because there is no reason for anyone to start a business in our small communities under this existing process. That is something that is missing in this discussion.

We keep focusing on a subsidy that you get based on the Yellowknife rate of 700 kilowatts a month. It is great for the residents, but it is not great for business and that is what I am trying to focus on with regard to these discussions. The Northwest Territories communities, especially the communities in the Beaufort-Delta region where they intervened on this issue at the last hearings a number of weeks ago, raised this issue. Regardless that this issue was on the agenda or not, they wanted to make their point clear that we in the Beaufort-Delta and in the Sahtu communities are paying through the nose when it comes to our economic well-being. So for someone starting in the diamond industry or a polishing facility or running Wal-Mart, you already have an upper hand in your business because no one from outside Yellowknife is able to compete because you are on the hydro grid.

I think as a government, we have to face this issue sooner or later. I think we can hide behind a subsidy and say well, you get a subsidy so you are taken care of, we are not taken care of. That is one segment of our community population that you consider. There are other sectors we have to consider and especially the business sector. As a government, we have to pay the actual costs of maintaining power in our communities, our streetlights or running of our municipalities. Those are costs that affect every one of us here. I think for you just to unilaterally say that you oppose the motion because you oppose it, I think you really have to think of what the political implications of doing nothing are. I think by doing nothing and just continuing on, we will always continue to see have and have-not communities.

The biggest asset we have as a government is the Power Corporation, which is owned by everyone, so why can't everyone benefit as a territory and enhance our economic well-

being by ensuring that we have an electrical grid system that is not only competitive but it is fair across the board to all Northerners; regardless if you are in Holman Island, Tsiigehtchic, Colville Lake, Fort Smith, Yellowknife or Hay River?

I think it is important that we seriously realize what the pros and cons about the single rate zone are. Yes, there are pros to realizing that you do get a subsidy in the small communities, but you have a lot of communities who still depend a lot on diesel generation to run your furnace or your heating system or your power generator or even electrical outlets that you have in your communities have a lot to do with it, but you don't have another source of energy that runs your water treatment plants or maintains a lot of public facilities in your communities. Technically, you are paying for it. I think as a government and a legislature, we have to realize that the motion directs the government to consider resubmitting the application.

Another point I would like to make in regard to the Premier's statement in Hansard on October 16, 2002, a small sentence at the bottom of the page says "Cabinet should not reject the idea of a single-rate zone. It should stop consultation on it until the energy strategy is completed." That is an important point I make. The energy strategy has been completed. There is no reference to a single-rate zone. A single-rate zone is probably something that was said to them time and time again, yet they haven't mentioned it in their energy strategy. Or is that again another waste of a couple million dollars on a report that, as far as I am concerned, is fluff. It doesn't have anything in it that you can't get off the Internet. I think as a government that we should have taken that money, put it into a public hearing process for a single-rate zone. At the end of the day, we could have gotten a decision one way or the other, but at least we would have got something out of it.

I think it's important that we, as a government, realize that issue isn't going to go away. Hopefully the people who are running in this election will make this an election issue. I feel that our small communities and people outside the hydro grid system have just as much right to power in the Northwest Territories and be treated as fairly as anyone else. Especially coming from a small business community.

We talk about all these major projects in the Northwest Territories. But if we can't compete fairly, how can we expect to benefit fairly.

I would just like to close on a note that I will be supporting this motion, and at the right time I will be asking for a recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. To the motion. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't wish to debate the merits of a one-rate system versus community-based rates today. I think there are good arguments on both sides, and I certainly look forward to advice from Members.

I do want to point out one thing though. I believe, and I don't have a copy of the motion, but I believe the motion was to withdraw the current application and file another one, based on a single-rate zone. It's a bit late to do that, Mr. Speaker. The PUB has already basically made their decision on the old application, have asked the Power Corporation for further information on rate schedules and so on. That has been filed and we expect to have the final go-ahead from the PUB within

the next week or so in order to have the rates come into effect in November.

So I think it's pretty much impossible. I think this is a good debate. I think it's good to have it, but I think it's one that might be a better debate when we are at the point where the Power Corporation is filing another application with the PUB. This particular one has been going on for 30 months, since they filed the original phase I application and it has been a long drawn-out one. I think this one has now reached the point where it is virtually impossible to withdraw it and do something different. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Handley. To the motion. The honourable Member for Range Lake, Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to put on record my position on this motion, Mr. Speaker. I will not be supporting this motion, and that's because while I do believe that the issues being raised by the Members for North Slave and Mackenzie Delta are valid ones, and obviously very complex too, we have to take into account what Mr. Handley has indicated.

Put simply, I'm opposing this motion at this time mainly for process reasons. There is no question that this file has not been handled as well as it should have been from the beginning of this legislature. It's hard for me to recall everything, but I do remember a number of studies being done on this issue. I recall the electric generation and distribution studies. For the energy strategy, we've had a hydro strategy on the go, and I just think that it's better at this juncture to leave it for the next Assembly to review some of the findings of the study. They should get consensus built on the political will and political direction and to work with the board of the corporation to better coordinate this time so that nothing like what happened last time is repeated.

So simply, Mr. Speaker, we just haven't had a chance to debate fully on the implications of the latest ruling of the board. I just feel, as I said, at this juncture on the eve of the dissolution of this Assembly, this is just not the right time. So for that reason I will not be supporting the motion at this time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. Mr. Lafferty, you have the opportunity to close the debate.

MR. LAFFERTY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My colleagues on this side, one spoke for it and the rest against. The reasons, the excuses they use was the subsidy. Well, I think the subsidy was something that some politician put in there because they felt so guilty about what they were doing to the smaller communities. They're trying to bring the smaller communities up to a certain little level because of their guilt, and because of that they put the subsidy in. It doesn't even meet at a certain level at all.

We have people in the South Slave paying \$60 a month for their power, while you have people in Colville Lake paying \$400 or \$500 a month. Is that fair? Does the subsidy bring them up? No. If it wasn't for the subsidy it would be maybe \$1000, but, hey, because they felt guilty, we'll give them a little subsidy, they'll feel better now, but they're still going to have to

pay the cost. So that's what the subsidy is all about. It's just some guilty trip from former politicians. That's all it was there for.

Talking about a subsidy. If I had put a motion here in the House saying well, from today on the study will be based on Fort Smith rates, I'm sure everybody on this side of the House would have jumped on the bandwagon and talked on the motion for the motion. I'm sure they would have. Even that side would have.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear!

MR. LAFFERTY: But I didn't do that, that was my mistake.

---Laughter

So, Mr. Speaker, one other Member said that we can't ignore the rules and the boards that were put in place. Hey, we did that last November. We canned a board. Cabinet canned a board because they didn't like the decision. Now we're saying well, we can't, we can't do anything with the new board. Well, look, we put them in there to do a job for the people of the Northwest Territories. If they're not doing that job, then they deserved to be canned. I say that. Their job was to make sure that the power rates were fair for everybody in the Territories. That was their job, to make sure it's all fair, but they haven't done their job. They should be getting their pink slips tomorrow.

---Interjection

MR. LAFFERTY: Yes, off with their head, that's what we want to say. Why should the people be there if they're not doing their job? People are being canned for less than that. We saw it last year. They were trying to do for the people of the Northwest Territories. You guys can't do anything, get out of here. We'd like to keep the place where it is. That's what was said.

We have a document called "Towards a Better Tomorrow." What kind of tomorrow are we expecting for people who we're taking the money out of their pockets, taking the food out of their kids' mouths because we have to turn on an extra light because it's dark for 10 months of the year in some of the higher Arctic? It's not the same as being in Fort Smith. In Fort Smith you have more daylight than anywhere else in the rest of the Territories, and you have the lowest rate. What I'm trying to say here is let's be fair to everyone, but we aren't doing that.

Then it was mentioned that we have the strategy. Well the strategy, if you read it, all it says is conserve this, conserve, it's good for you. But some of these small communities have substandard homes. They don't have the quarter-million-dollar houses like they have in Yellowknife or Hay River or Fort Smith, with R2000 rating or whatever they call it. These people don't even burn one fuel tank a year. If you have a small community with a substandard home, you're burning three fuel tanks a year, and maybe six or seven cords of wood at the same time. These people are struggling in these communities. They turn on the fans in their home because it's too hot in Yellowknife sometimes. Look at the apartments that some of the people are living in. They have their windows wide open. They can't even open the door in some of the houses because it's so cold, and here we're saying it's okay, don't worry about them, just continue. You can't do that.

This study that they gave to us for the energy strategy was a lie, because the one-rate system was one good thing that the Premier said was going to be there. The Minister responsible for the Power Corporation said it was going to be in there. They promised it to us. Just like the BIP, they promised it to us. But they turned around and did the opposite. Turn off your lights. Turn off your lights. Your power won't go high, they say. How are you going to heat your home? Some of the larger centres like Yellowknife, Fort Smith and Hay River have a water system that you don't even need a pump. When you turn on your water tap and you get water, your pump doesn't even go on. If you go to a home in one of the smaller communities, you turn on the pump to get your water because that's the only way to get your power.

So why are we here? If we're going to be here just to pick and choose where we need to make legislation, then we're here for the wrong reason. We're here for everybody. Like I said when I first started speaking on this, we say it in our prayer every day before we start in this House. Maybe it's time to change the prayer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Is the House ready for the question? The chair recognizes the honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: I would like to request a recorded vote.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member is seeking a recorded vote. Mr. Clerk, prepare the documents. All those in favour of the motion, please rise.

Recorded Vote

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Lafferty, Mr. Krutko.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. All those opposed to the motion, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Ms. Lee, Mr. Roland, Mr. Dent, Mr. Bell, Mr. Braden, Mr. Delorey.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. All those abstaining from the vote, please rise.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Steen, Mr. Miltenberger, Mr. Antoine, Mr. Handley, Mr. Allen, Mr. Ootes.

MR. SPEAKER: The results of the vote on the motion: those in favour, two; those opposed, six; those abstaining, six. The motion is defeated.

---Defeated

Item 16, motions. Motion 19-14(6), the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Motion 19-14(6): To Amend Rule 85(4) Of The Rules Of The Legislative Assembly, Carried

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to amend Rule 85(4) of the rules of the Legislative Assembly.

WHEREAS the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause recommended in Committee Report 12-14(6) that the Standing Committee on

Rules and Procedures be given responsibility for monitoring and reporting on the implications which implementation of self-government agreements will have on the powers, structures and procedures of the Legislative Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the Legislative Assembly adopted, by motion in Committee of the Whole, the recommendation of the Special Committee on the Implementation of Self-Government and the Sunset Clause;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Rule 85(4) of the rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended by renumbering Rule 85(4)(b) as 85(4)(c) and adding the following after Rule 85(4)(a):

(b) Review and make recommendations on the implications and impacts that the implementation of self-government agreements will have on the powers, structures and procedures of the Legislative Assembly; and

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, initially when looking at this motion I had some concerns in the wording of this, and it talks about the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures will be given responsibility for monitoring and reporting on implications which implementation of self-government agreements will have on the power, structure and procedures of the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, that's a very broad category, and my initial concerns were in the area that, for example, we're dealing with some of those acts as a government now and would those then be reported to that committee. But it has been clarified to me that in fact it would more do with the rules as we go on day-to-day business as a government, not looking at legislation and approving or disapproving of that legislation. The other committees would still have that role. This would just be an internal process, and once that was clarified, Mr. Speaker, I could look at it and support that motion. But initially when looking at it, I was concerned that this would open the doors to quite a different process and was concerned about that. But that has been clarified, and I've been informed that legislative matters and bills that we deal with would not be going to that committee, but would be going through the regular process. So with that and on that understanding, I would support this motion. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Roland. To the motion.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

---Applause

Item 16, motions. Motion 20-14(6). The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bell.

Motion 20-14(6): To Amend Rule 70(1) Of The Rules Of The Legislative Assembly, Carried

MR. BELL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to amend Rule 70(1) of the rules of the Legislative Assembly.

WHEREAS Rule 70(1) of the rules of the Legislative Assembly prohibits the House from proceeding with a bill for 120 days after it has been referred to a committee other than Committee of the Whole, or until the report of the committee has been received by the Assembly;

AND WHEREAS the rules of the Legislative Assembly do not include a mechanism whereby a bill may be returned to the Orders of the Day upon the expiration of the 120-day period and the committee has not reported the bill back to the Assembly;

AND WHEREAS a formal mechanism is required for a request for an extension to the 120-day rule for the review of a bill by a committee;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Rule 70 of the rules of the Legislative Assembly be amended upon dissolution of the 14th Assembly by adding the following after Rule 70(1):

70(1.1) Notice of intent to proceed with a bill not reported in accordance with Rule 70(1) may be given to the House by the sponsor of the bill under the item "Ministers' Statements" on the Order Paper if it is a government bill, and under "Members' Statements" if it is a Private Members' Bill.

(1.2) On the third sitting day after receipt of a "Notice of Intent" the Speaker shall have the bill placed on the Orders of the Day in Committee of the Whole.

(1.3) A standing or special committee may request an extension of the 120-day review period by motion under the item "Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bell. We have a motion. The motion is in order.

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. All those in favour, please signify. Thank you. All those opposed? Thank you. In the chair's opinion the motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 16, motions. Item 17, first reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 17: FIRST READING OF BILLS

Bill 33: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2003-2004

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 33, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2002-2003, be read for the first time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

---Carried

Bill 33 has had first reading. Item 17, first reading of bills. Item 18, second reading of bills. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Handley.

ITEM 18: SECOND READING OF BILLS

Bill 33: Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2002-2003

HON. JOE HANDLEY: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 33, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4, 2002-2003, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill makes supplementary appropriations for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the 2002-2003 fiscal year. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

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

---Carried

Bill 33 has had second reading and, accordingly, the bill stands referred to Committee of the Whole. Item 18, second reading of bills. Item 19, consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and other matters: Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act; Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act; Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act; Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act; Bill 26, Youth Justice Act; and Committee Report 18-14(6), Report on the Review of Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act, Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act, and Bill 26, Youth Justice Act, with Mr. Delorey in the chair.

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

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): I'll call Committee of the Whole to order. There are a number of items to consider in Committee of the Whole. What is the wish of the committee? Mr. Dent.

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to recommend the committee continue consideration of Bill 26, and that we follow that with Bill 21 and Bill 24, and concurrently deal with Committee Report 18-14(6).

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Thank you, Mr. Dent. The chair will call a short break and come back and consider Bill 26. Does the committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---SHORT RECESS

Bill 26, Youth Justice Act

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): We are now dealing with Bill 26. Would the Minister like to bring in his witnesses?

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Yes, I would, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

I would like to ask the Minister to introduce his witnesses.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to introduce Shirley Kemeys-Jones, assistant deputy minister for the Department of Justice on my left; Patricia Gall, legislative counsel, legislation division; and Janice Laycock, acting director of policy and planning. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. We are now on general comments. Mr. Roland.

General Comments

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, in the area of youth justice, I have some comments towards this bill. It's always good that we are taking into consideration how we deal with young offenders in our communities and trying to have them deal with the occurrences of what brought them before justice and to a justice committee. It's good that they are going to be dealing with what's happened in their own community amongst their own people, but I guess in looking at it in the long run, years ago that was probably done anyway. Parents and families and extended family used to take care of that situation in their communities. It seems like when we bring laws into existence, we create other problems. I can recall when the Young Offenders' Act first was introduced by Parliament, the impacts it had down the line and what it caused in communities, it just seems that we've developed a system that creates another problem.

For example, many times when a young person finds themselves in trouble with the law, they would end up being picked up and when the act that's now being replaced came into effect, they would say they are under a certain age and we can't deal with them. We will try to deal with it in these ways. We think somehow mysteriously when they reach the age of 15, they are going to become better people. As a parent with a number of children and having some experience now, maybe that's why I am a little more grey – some would say it's because of this line of work – when I look at my raising by my parents and how I look at things, it starts at a very early age of what happens at home. The courts or justice committees would be the last place we would ever want to be.

It seems as a society we are relying on courts and legislatures on making decisions on how to do things and to the point now where if a child is misbehaving for whatever reason and a parent tries to do something to pull that child in line, whether it's one smack on the behind or something, a charge is laid. Just recently there was a parent being charged and there are all kinds of different circumstances and as parents we all have to decide how to deal with our children. It seems to become more of an issue of how the government will deal with your

children, how a peace officer or how your neighbour or somebody in the Northern Store would see you deal with your child and make a complaint. We've created so many rules that parents are afraid to deal with their children. Some people might shudder at the fact if I say something I was brought up with as a child and my father and mother did much to instill in me as a young child the ways they would want me to go. They were not always the nicest of ways. When I look back, I thank them for their direction and guidance because if you go by what the Bible says, "Spare the rod, spoil the child" we wonder why we are into situations where children are now taking parents to court.

I don't say that everybody go out there and grab a willow and do that. You can talk to most adults in the Northwest Territories in the small communities and find out when you discuss things and you talk about what happens when they were children and got in trouble with their parents, you would almost jokingly talk about how your grandmother made you go out and get your own spanking stick or willow, but you try that and you are up on charges quicker than you let the words slip out of your mouth.

We ask ourselves why has society gone to the direction it has and it's gone so bad, we had better make another law. Well, that law didn't address these issues, we had better change the law again. I still deal with some of my own families in cases, but other people in the Northwest Territories are also saying the history of the North, what happened to them as children should never be repeated and should never have been done. In some cases, that's true. But I don't believe there is anyone who was born on this earth who was born with the perfect ability to parent. Each one of us who have had children, it's a learning experience of how you deal with your child and how you try to teach them in the ways you hope they would come back to and respect your neighbour and respect your parents and so on.

But with all these laws, we have created systems where there is no more respect for our elders and for seniors. We hear more about elders' abuse and that happens by their own family members. What's gone so wrong to make these things happen that we have to write another law to correct the things that are going wrong? I don't think we will ever come up with all the right answers and as a government, it is our duty from time to time to try to put some laws in place that would benefit and secure the safety of our young people, but we can't go to the point of handcuffing society, parents, in how we deal with our own families.

I guess I see this rewrite and this work as a result of the federal legislation and us trying to change ours as a way of dealing with that. It's bringing it back to communities, to family members, to say deal with the situation locally. For years we've heard in this House and I have even said it myself along with other Members that I have worked with, how we cannot continue to send individuals off to other communities to do their time and come back and think everything is right. Unless somebody has really dealt with the issue and dealt with the people they've hurt or they've harmed, it seems like we have given them an out to deal with it. I speak from a different side in a sense. When it comes to responsibility and we have to take it as individuals, it seems to be when we are sent out of our community, whether it's alcohol abuse or some other substance abuse or some crime we've committed against society or against our fellow human being, that we have a difficulty dealing with it head on, so we would rather deal with it with some stranger up on a bench, telling us what to do and go to another community and serve our time away from people.

Then when we come back, as individuals we play it like they've been on an extended holiday.

In some cases, Mr. Chairman, I think many of us can show examples where we have young offenders in facilities that are treated much better than our children are who are obeying the rules, but because they are low income families, don't have a truck or don't have someone to chauffeur them around, they are not better off than somebody who has committed a crime. So we've almost created something where the word gets around to an individual who doesn't like what's happening in their home and creates a couple of break and enters and they are young offenders and they are going to give you a warm place to sleep and meals better than you've had at home. Guess what? When you say you want to go someplace, they are going to pick you up and drive you there. We've created a system where it's almost a benefit. It's not a surprise, we've heard it before. It's better to be in one of these facilities.

We have wonderful weather now, but usually the cycle begins at this time of year when it gets darker and colder, there is a rash of break and enters or assaults that would send individuals back into facilities where they can have the better services than they would find in their community. Is that a problem of law? Is that a problem of fixing it by making law? To some degree we can, but we have to go right back to square one and that's our families and parents and how we deal with our children. Some people would not be appreciative of having that put back on their laps to say look at what we are doing as families. What are we doing as parents?

I have learned the hard way. My father once told me, as he told me on one occasion when I got myself into some trouble -- you have to understand my father to a certain degree and how he looks at things -- but he looked at me and he said my boy, I put it to the Lord and this is what the Lord said. Some people have to learn the hard way and if that's what he's got for you, that's the way it's going to be. That's had a lasting impact on my life and I will be sharing it with my grandchildren at some point, hopefully not in the way he shared it with me, but as a story they might be able to grasp and avoid some of the obstacles and difficulties we find as people in our communities.

So I think it's a good thing that we are coming back to dealing with our situations and what happens in community, in our community amongst our peers, which is a good thing. It just seems a shame that we've gone all the way around. It's almost gone full circle now. Informally, years ago, that used to happen. Somebody got in trouble, the family got together and talked to the individual, tried to correct them but then the rules got changed where if you tried to do that, you as an individual, as an adult, got into trouble because you tried to deal with things. You can talk to children now and they accuse you of abuse, to a certain degree. It's still a very scary world out there for parents, even more so than before. Some for the right reasons and some for the wrong, but I think it's time that we started dealing with some of these things in our communities amongst our peers and have them really say sorry to those they've hurt and harmed in whatever way. Will that be enough in some cases? Probably not.

When we create things and it's been so wrong to create a system that seems to put parents against children and children against parents, family members against family members and then against the court system, it takes a long time to finally come back and start dealing with each other as family as we would do normally to a certain degree. Some people have gotten so accustomed to our system and our facilities, it's still

going to be better off than it is in their home settings and that's where they would rather be. They know the ways to get there. Unfortunately, that's almost generational now. We are going to have to break that at some point and that will be tough, but hopefully this is the right move and hopefully we can hold a course and do that. We are not going to shut all facilities down, as some would hope and all things will be perfect after, when it will be a long process and we will unfortunately still need some facilities, but I think it's a turn in the right direction. I apologize for my going on at some length, Mr. Chairman, but that's how I speak generally to the issue and put my thoughts on the record. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. General comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Clause by clause.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Page 10, clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Mr. Minister, do you have anything you would like to bring to committee?

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion. That the definition of adult of clause 1 of Bill 26 be repealed and the following substituted: adult means a person who is neither a young person nor a person under the age of 12 years.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. The motion is being passed around and the Minister can read the motion.

Committee Motion 133-14(6) To Amend Clause 1 Of Bill 26, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that the definition of "adult" in clause 1 of Bill 26 be repealed and the following substituted:

"adult" means a person who is neither a young person nor a person under the age of 12 years;

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): I don't recognize a quorum. I will have to ring the bells.

---Ring of Bells

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): There's a motion on the floor. Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 1, as amended. Mr. Minister.

Committee Motion 134-14(6) To Amend Clause 1 Of Bill 26, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another motion. That the definition of "peace officer" in clause 1 of Bill 26 be amended by adding the following after paragraph (o):

- (p) a bylaw officer, in respect to an offence or an alleged offence under a bylaw;

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. There's a motion on the floor. We will just wait until it's passed out. The motion is in order. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

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

---Carried

Clause 1, as amended.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 19.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 20.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 21.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 22.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 23.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 24.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 25. Mr. Minister.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a motion that reads clause 25 of Bill 26 be amended by adding the following after clause 25(6): definition (7), in this section peace officer means peace officer as defined in the Criminal Code. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Mr. Minister, can you read the motion, please?

Committee Motion 135-14(6) To Amend Clause 25 Of Bill 26, Carried

HON. ROGER ALLEN: I move that clause 25 of Bill 26 be amended by adding the following after clause 25(6):

Definition (7) In this section, "peace officer" means peace officer as defined in the Criminal Code.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Question is being called. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Clause 25, as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 26.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 27.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 28.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 29.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 30.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 31.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 32.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 33.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 34.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 35.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 36.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 37.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 38.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 39.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 40.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 41.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 42.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 43.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 44.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 45.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 46.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 47.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 48.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 49.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 50.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 51.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 52.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 53.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 54.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 55.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 56.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 57.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 58.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 59.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 60.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 61.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 62.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 63.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 64.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 65.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 66.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 67.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 68.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 69.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 70.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 71.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 72.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 73.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 74.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 75.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 76.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 77.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 78.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 79.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 80.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 81.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 82.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 83.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 84.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 85.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 86.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 87.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 88.
SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.
CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 89.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 90.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 91.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 92.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 93.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 94.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 94.1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 95.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 96.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 97.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 98.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 99.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 100.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Bill 26 as a whole as amended.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Does the committee agree that Bill 26 is ready for third reading as amended?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Delorey): Bill 26 is now ready for third reading as amended.

---Applause

Thank you, Mr. Minister, and your staff.

Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act

The committee will now consider Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act. I would like to ask the Minister if he has any opening remarks.

Minister's Opening Comments

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to speak today on Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act. This bill provides new protections for people who are threatened with, or are victims of family violence. These protections complement Criminal Code and civil protections currently available.

The bill defines family violence and identifies who can apply for the new protections available. In setting out who can apply, the legislation clearly identifies elders as protected from abuse by their family. In response to concerns raised by standing committee and several of their witnesses, the definition of family violence has been amended to clearly state that forcible confinement is included.

Under the bill, people may apply for an emergency protection order from a justice of the peace 24 hours a day seven days a week. If the justice of the peace is satisfied on a balance of probabilities that family violence has taken place or there is immediate danger of family violence, they may make an emergency protection order.

An emergency protection order can include granting sole use of a home or other property, restricting communication between the people involved and the seizure of weapons or firearms by the police.

The Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories will review all emergency protection orders. The court may agree with the order or hold a hearing where they can agree with, change or revoke the order. Persons affected by the order can also apply to the court to have the order changed or revoked.

Also available under the bill are protection orders. These are longer-term orders available from the Supreme Court after family violence has occurred. They can include the same provisions as an emergency protection order, but may also include financial compensation and counselling orders.

The third new protection under the legislation is a warrant of entry. This is available 24 hours a day, from a justice of the peace who is satisfied someone who may be a victim of family violence, cannot be reached and is likely in the place to be entered. The warrant of entry allows someone to enter and search the place named, help the person who may have been a victim of family violence and remove anything that may be evidence of family violence.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to recognize the important contributions made by the Standing committee on Social Programs and the witnesses who appeared before them. With their input and suggestions, we have changed the name of the act and clarified the definition of family violence.

I would be pleased to answer any questions or concerns Committee of the Whole may have on this legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you, Mr. Minister. Comments by the chair of the Standing Committee on Social Programs? Mr. Bell.

Standing Committee On Social Programs Comments

MR. BRADEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I have just a few short comments. The House has already had the benefit of our report, so I am not going to propose that we reread it. I would just like to say that our committee is pleased to report Bill 21, Protection Against Family Violence Act. This legislation can help victims of domestic violence in the majority of communities in the Northwest Territories. It provides more tools to the RCMP and to the court system to help victims of violence and their children deal with the aftermath of a dangerous situation.

Public hearings took place in September in communities of Fort Smith, Hay River, Wha Ti and Yellowknife with the majority of presenters favouring the legislation. Amendments were made in committee that strengthened the definitions of what constituted family violence in the areas of forced confinement and sexual abuse. An amendment was also made in committee to clarify that the Supreme Court could dismiss provisions of an emergency protection order that could not be supported by evidence or judicial fairness.

The Standing Committee on Social programs would like to thank the Minister and the Department of Justice for their hard work in getting this bill to this stage. The Members of the standing committee have several concerns relating to the implementation of the act and to include provisions to allow for the temporary custody of children in emergency protection orders. These and other concerns, Members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs may have will be brought out as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I would also like to just reiterate our thanks to the Department of Justice, to all the officials and to the Minister. It was critical in getting the bill to the House in the short timeframe we had and our staff were able to work with the Minister's staff and once again these folks have done a good job in making sure we get good legislation before us in a timely manner. I would like to thank them. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister if at this time he would like to bring in his witnesses.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): I would like to ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses in.

Mr. Minister, please introduce your witnesses at this time.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I would like to introduce Janice Cooper, legislative counsel, legislation division to my immediate right; Lucy Austin, senior advisor for family law, directorate, to my left. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Dent.

General Comments

MR. DENT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, it's particularly a nice coincidence that we are dealing with this on the same day that the Minister has announced we were just beginning Family Violence Awareness Week. I think that's particularly appropriate.

Mr. Chairman, I have been waiting to see this legislation come forward for a long time. I am not sure, but I may have been the first MLA to call for this type of family violence protection legislation. I first heard about Alberta's legislation at a seminar on seniors' abuse that happened here in Yellowknife several years ago.

So it's been a long time coming and I am happy to see it going forward as I think it is an important piece of legislation to help us deal with the issue of family violence. I would also like to congratulate the Minister and his staff in making sure we did get a chance to see this legislation in the life of this assembly. I am quite convinced that this legislation is something we should be proud of bringing into play.

Mr. Chairman, victims of family violence need immediate protection and they've got to feel safe in their own homes. Police need to be able to obtain immediate protection orders over the phone like they can in several other provinces. Right now, victims are sometimes further traumatized by having to follow an often overwhelming and time consuming legal process to obtain the protection they need. This legislation would make it easier to gain immediate protection. Too often, victims cannot report abuse right now for fear of being forced to leave their homes. This legislation may lead to more victims coming forward so we can help them and their families.

As the Minister pointed out earlier today, we have way overcrowded shelters. Nearly 700 women and children stayed in shelters in the last year and over 4,300 calls in the last year to crisis lines. That indicates that we have a very severe problem and if this legislation helps us to improve the situation for some of those people, then I think it will have been very worth our time to make sure that we got to see it.

I know we have heard from the seniors' society. They say this legislation will make it easier for elders to be protected from abuse. I think it's important to remember this legislation is only a tool to help us deal with family violence. I think we all know that more needs to be done. We need more resources for family programs that will help address the reprisals of family violence. For instance, I think we need to consider how families can best be served by having social workers come to family homes to support them, rather than removing family members or apprehending children.

---Applause

We need effective family unification programs that help supports families as a whole. We need to help families and individuals learn about effective parenting and relationship skills and we also need to support existing and new programs to help individuals deal with addictions.

Mr. Chairman, by keeping families together and supporting them as a family, we can bring about many of the changes that are needed to decrease family violence. It's important to understand and properly support families to make positive changes. We also need to understand the broad definition of family in the Northwest Territories and make sure our programs

address extended families in all communities. In order for this legislation to help families in crisis, we must ensure the proper implementation of this legislation takes place. The legislation needs to be clearly understood by stakeholders and appropriate training has to be provided to all who will be involved in its implementation. It won't be worth the paper it's written on if frontline workers, the RCMP, justices of the peace and others are not adequately trained and supported to implement the legislation.

We can't afford to further traumatize victims of family violence. We must live up to our commitment by making sure provisions of this legislation are properly brought into force.

Mr. Chairman, as we all know, family violence is more common in the North. Nearly three in 10 Canadian women who have been married or live common-law have been physically or sexually abused. We know that rates are much higher in the North, especially among aboriginal women. The physical, emotional and psychological costs are impossible to determine. Many victims are afraid to leave their homes and many even lose their jobs because of high stress levels. This legislation will give people at risk another tool they can use to protect themselves and their families.

The effect family violence can have on children can be huge. They can be scarred for life and it plays a big role in whom they grow up to be and the values they believe in.

Mr. Chairman, as I mentioned earlier, the seniors told us they supported this legislation and they told us that one of the most disturbing forms of family violence is elder abuse. The seniors' society pointed out that there is not enough being done right now to protect elders in the Northwest Territories. Elders have contributed so much to our communities and continue to be important teachers, caregivers and role models. So it's our responsibility to make sure we bring in laws like this to help protect them.

As I have already said, I know that this sort of legislation is not going to resolve all the issues we have for victims of violence. But I think it really is a key part of the arsenal that we need to fight family violence. I would just like to take a moment to recognize the dedication and work of shelter workers, counsellors, police officers, social workers and the people who today are offering victims' services. Their commitment is admirable and I appreciate their involvement thus far in the development of this act. Mr. Chairman, preventing family violence must be our first priority. We must now turn our attention to how we can reunite families. This legislation is a tool that we can use, but we must never lose sight of our obligation to work on preventing family violence from occurring in the first place. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. General comments. Ms. Lee.

MS. LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am not sure if I can add anything more to the very eloquent statement by the Member for Frame Lake. I just simply wanted to put on record that I am in full support of the legislation and its intent, purpose and spirit. I agree with Mr. Dent. Legislation is a big step and it's a clear statement from the House about the importance of the issue. In this case, it is the government's obligation and responsibility to make a legislative statement by passing legislation. However, we are aware of the dire situation that

our society faced. We are constantly hearing of the stats that are not improving. While it is a coincidence that this week we are debating and passing this legislation, which is also the week of family violence awareness, just last week we saw yet another victim of domestic violence. We are always reminded and we ought to be mindful of the fact that so many people suffer from family violence and that too often we have family violence resulting in great danger to individuals and sometimes death.

So I think all the members here are aware that legislative action is just one component of combating and dealing with family violence. There are lots of other resources and support systems that have to be in place to prevent the conflict and distress in the families from happening by supporting the necessary resources in all areas, for children, for families and women to handle everyday life skills as well as parenting skills and dealing with any substance or alcohol and drug abuse.

I just wanted to make that short statement in support of other legislation and the need for this Legislature and the leaders of the Territories and throughout the land to keep pursuing and working on this issue that seems to be getting worse rather than better. We still have much more work to do, but this definitely is a step in the right direction and I think we ought to be very proud that we are making this step today. I certainly am glad that this issue did not fall off the legislative agenda that it was very close to doing. It's a good day, good work and I will end there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you, Ms. Lee. Mr. Roland.

MR. ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, I thought I would say it's a good piece of legislation overall. I think as Members have stated, it's something we can use and it can be a tool that we can use as a Legislature and those who carry out the business of fulfilling these laws. But in everything we do, we have to be cautious about what we are doing and what end we are trying to achieve. For the most part, again, it's a good thing, but as Mr. Dent said, if proper training isn't given to those who will be implementing this law, then we could create more problems and difficulties in the process of people going and doing what they think is the way to do it. We have examples of that, Mr. Chairman, in laws that we have put in place in this government. Unfortunately, we have examples of families being taken apart because of somebody's interpretation of how things go or how they should be fulfilled or how an individual should be dealing with other family members.

So we have to ensure that the training is done for those people who are implementing the law. I could just say what we see here and what members of committee have heard, that this is what it is intended to do. I find through my experiences as a Member who has brought in laws, sat before Ministers, asked questions and been told this is the intent of what we are doing is meant to do and, unfortunately after it becomes law and it starts to be put into practice, people who aren't trained, they see the law and they have their idea of what it means and begin to implement it that way. It doesn't match what we've heard as legislators during the process. So I think it's key that education and training comes into it. Not to say that we shouldn't be careful in dealing with how situations occur. The definition of "family violence," for example, can incorporate a whole lot of things that one is going to have to put this into effect will have to be aware of. Some of them are straight forward, forcible confinement, sexual abuse, intentional recklessness, threatening act, things like that are very straightforward and clear to deal with.

What could be a little more difficult is in a place with what could be considered emotional abuse or things like that. We've heard that the seniors are in support of that and that's a good thing. I guess as a society, we think that everything is good and dandy until it actually becomes very apparent and drawn out in the courts. I think we have to ensure that with this law coming into place, we have the appropriate training put into place and understanding and intent of this law, so we don't have our courtrooms filled and applications being made that could cause more family disruption and the pulling apart of families. I am a big supporter of families and trying to keep them together. Unfortunately there are times when the best thing is to pull families apart for a time to deal with their differences. Sometimes, unfortunately, it is something that is more permanent. At the same time, we don't want to find ourselves in a position or place where we end up pulling families apart for reasons other than those that were genuine, when an application was putting something forward or something of that nature.

With laws like this, we are continuing to put more authority into hands of those outside of the family and into those that would deal with the situation when it comes to this point and someone being called in. By doing that, we better ensure that our training is done to the appropriate level so we don't have individuals coming back to this Assembly complaining that we've put a law in place that has torn their family apart for no other reason than somebody being disgruntled in a family. That's not to be taken lightly and not to take the other situation of someone going to a point where they feel they have to call someone to bring the law into action. I have also seen the other side where trying to do what we think is best, sometimes we go beyond what many people have thought of or when the training isn't done. We leave it to the individual who is applying the law to start bringing in an interpretation of their own and that could lead to some problems of its own. It's a good thing as far as coming forward as we have heard, but at the same time we must ensure there is an adequate amount of training for those individuals who are going to be in the field and applying this law. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. General comments. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My comments are more around the area of implementation and realistic terms in implementing emergency protection orders in communities where you don't have the facilities with regard to shelters. I think realistically we have to realize and ensure that there's a system in place that works in all aspects of our smaller communities or medium-sized communities. A lot of times legislation gets passed in this House with great intentions, but what it does is cause chaos in a lot of our small communities who don't have the resource people or the resources for facilities or programs to assist in those areas. We can sit here and talk about why the legislation is there, but I think we have to dig a little deeper and find the stem of where these problems come from.

There are many communities who depend on seasonal employment three or four months of the year. The rest of the year you are having to live on income support, social housing, alcoholism, drug abuse, violence. These things are an aspect of life, but you have to get to the core problems. Where do these things stem from? I think you can go back two or three generations to your great-grandparents when the day the North was being occupied through the fur trade and the hostels and the major influx of southern societies as we know them today.

Most aboriginal communities have lost the whole aspect of family. Many people have seen violence going on for two or three decades. Violence is in our communities. The frustration is that people are seeing their children going through the same cycle as they did. I think we have to find ways of changing that cycle of life, so that we can find a healthy society that we work with.

The key to me to deal with that is you have to have good programs and services to assist those people who realize at the end of the day they might not have good parenting skills or good social skills. Being illiterate is not a crime. There are people out there who are not as lucky as most of us. They have the right to have the means of dealing and coping in our society. They know they have to change the way they do things and they know there is help out there for them. Help is only as good as what you receive from it.

I have been lecturing the Minister of Health and Social Services for the last week, but I was doing it to prove a point. We have a system that does not work in our communities. We have programs that aren't even delivered in our communities. I think it's important that we, as a government, realize that when we pass legislation, we should have a system in place that has 100 percent guarantee that you can implement that legislation that you pass. I think what we've done is adopted good legislation from other parts of Canada, but other parts of Canada do not deal with systemic problems in the Northwest Territories. It very much saddens me to see a family member, relative or see their children being taken away, seeing families broken up, seeing the grandparents raising their grandchildren and not enjoying their retirement. Much of that stems from alcoholism, which happens everywhere in the Northwest Territories. Who supplies the most amount of alcohol in the Northwest Territories? The Northwest Territories Liquor Commission, an agency of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

We can incarcerate all the people in the world, we can pass all the laws and make a lot of legislation, but unless we deal with the systemic problem which we all know is out there, we can sit here day in and day out, pass legislation, take children away, break up families and have a system in place that gives the whole administration arm of government by way of enforcement of our legislation to do anything less than what people have done for the last 100 years. The greatest thing to do is incarcerate people, put them away and they're dealt with. It's great we have legislation to protect families and protect people from injuring each other, but I think before we move on any more legislation, we have to, as a government, ensure that we have the resources to deal with the problems when they are there and have a workable system in place.

We have money now sitting at the health board for alcohol and drug workers. It's been sitting there for two years and the biggest problem in my communities is people calling me and crying to the Minister on the speakerphone that they can't get alcohol and drug programs to go to a treatment centre in Hay River. If we can't deal with those little things, how do you expect us to deal with something like this?

I think it's very hard for me to see a relative that comes to me and says my kids were taken away because there really is nothing I can do about it because they are protected under legislation. We have to make sure we do pass laws that have the intentions that they are set for, but also have the ability to implement what we intend through the passing of that legislation. We need to make sure we have the tools to not

only deal with the victim, but also deal with the prosecutor and the offender, so we don't start institutionalizing people to the point where that is the only easy way to deal with our problems. We could spend \$50 million building jails, but we can't spend a couple hundred thousand to find alcohol and drug funding to establish a treatment centre in the Northwest Territories. We have one facility in the Northwest Territories and we all know what the problem is.

So I think it's important to ensure we pass legislation. We do have to have the tools to protect families and our children, but we also have to realize that being poor, being illiterate, living on social assistance for most of your life does not make you a bad parent. I think because of who you are and where you live, it should mean something to those people who realize there is a way to change your life. Giving them the tools to help them change is all most families in communities are asking for.

So as the Minister and department responsible for this legislation, I would like to ask at the end of the day that you have a system in place that can measure the legislation you bring forward ensuring that first it does what you want it to do and improve the lives of people in our communities and ensure we do away with violence, alcoholism and homelessness, people who don't have a job and people who are dealing with illiteracy. That is the stem of our problem. We have a responsibility to ensure that when we pass legislation, we have the ability to enact it and also implement it so it finds a system that avoids seeing large numbers of people incarcerated or large numbers of victims because we don't have the tools to deal with the sole problems in our society. With that, mahsi cho.

---Applause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. General comments. Detail has been called. Mr. Minister.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If I may, I would like an opportunity to respond to some of the comments. I think it's reciprocating to extend our gratitude to our staff, both from the Department of Justice and the standing committee to try to understand the intent of this piece of legislation.

Certainly I want to acknowledge the input of the stakeholders and I think if we look back at the standing committee report, the excerpts taken from the various presenters certainly indicates the drafting in this piece of legislation the importance the department has placed in understanding the value of those comments. In all due respect, with respect to yourself as chair, we have taken into consideration a number of comments that may lend credence to other departments as they build upon this piece of legislation and the importance of it. I just wanted to let the Members know that we have listened well and we have heard the public and the standing committee. On behalf of the Department of Justice I want to say we are very pleased to have worked with the standing committee and your officials. I just want to convey that to the standing committee through the chair. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you, Mr. Minister. General comments.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Clause by clause.

Clause By Clause

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 1.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 2.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 3.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 4.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 5.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 6.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 7.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 8.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 9.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 10.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 11.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 12.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 13. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Can you tell me what clause 13 is all about?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Mr. Minister, clause 13.

HON. ROGER ALLEN: I am going to ask Ms. Austin to reply to that question. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. Ms. Austin.

MS. AUSTIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Section 13 essentially means what it says, that even though an order is made which may remove a person from a home or may have other provisions affecting a person, it doesn't have any impact on the ownership, the title of that property. So if one party is ordered removed from the home, that doesn't affect that person's interest in that home or property.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. Clause 13.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 15. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Clause 14. One of the problems we have in our communities is sometimes we don't have a probation officer and just to get access to counsel in most communities, you either have to wait for the court party or to ensure you can get legal advice and also knowing what your rights are is something most of us take for granted. We would request that we have access to a lawyer knowing you have certain rights. In most communities, people don't really understand what rights they do have. Most young offenders find themselves in front of a judge or needing legal advice...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Excuse me, Mr. Krutko. We are on clause 14, page 12. Are we on the same page? Page 12, clause 14, Bill 21. No? We are on Bill 21, clause 14.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 15.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 16.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 17. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Could you tell me what page you are on...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Page 13, clause 17, Bill 21.

MR. KRUTKO: ...so I can catch up?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Mr. Krutko, up to now the committee had agreed to all the sections and we are now on 17.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 18.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 19. Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Could you explain which officers you are talking about with regard to clause 18?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Clause 18, Mr. Minister. Can the Member ask the question again?

MR. KRUTKO: Clause 19 talks about officers. I would just like to know who you are talking about.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Lafferty): Thank you. It's unfortunate, Mr. Krutko. The time has run out on the clock. I recognize the clock and report progress. I would like to thank the witnesses and the Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: I call the House back to order. Item 20, report of committee of the whole. Mr. Lafferty.

ITEM 20: REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MR. LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 26 and Bill 21 and would like to report progress with three motions being adopted and that Bill 26 is ready for third reading and, Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Do I have a seconder for the bill? The honourable Member for Nunakput seconds the motion. All those in favour? All those opposed? The motion is carried.

---Carried

Item 21, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, item 21, Orders of the Day.

ITEM 21: ORDERS OF THE DAY

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Hamilton): Mr. Speaker, a meeting of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight at adjournment today and again at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Orders of the day for Tuesday, October 7th:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Returns to Oral Questions
5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
6. Oral Questions
7. Written Questions
8. Returns to Written Questions
9. Replies to Opening Address
10. Petitions
11. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
12. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
13. Tabling of Documents
14. Notices of Motion
15. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
16. Motions
 - Motion 16, To Develop Strategies for Diversified Diamond Processing
17. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 29, NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation Act

- Bill 30, An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act,
No. 2

- Bill 32, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 2,
2003-2004

18. Second Reading of Bills

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

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

- Bill 21, Family Violence Prevention Act

- Bill 22, Waste Recovery and Reduction Act

- Bill 24, Midwifery Profession Act

- Bill 25, Municipal Statutes Replacement Act

- Bill 33, Supplementary Appropriation Act, No. 4,
2002-2003

- Committee Report 18-14(6), Report on the Review of Bill
21, Protection Against Family Violence Act, Bill 24,
Midwifery Profession Act, and Bill 26, Youth Justice Act

- Minister's Statement 89-14(6), Infrastructure Canada
Commits \$65 Million to Resource Highways

20. Report of Committee of the Whole

21. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 26, Youth Justice Act

22. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this
House stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 7, 2003, at
1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 6:00 p.m.