



# **NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

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**16<sup>th</sup> Assembly**

## **HANSARD**

**Tuesday, March 10, 2009**

Pages 2921 - 2956

**The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker**

# Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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(Hay River North)

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**YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES****Tuesday, March 10, 2009****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, Hon. Paul Delorey, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Mr. Krutko, Hon. Jackson Lafferty, Hon. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:35 p.m.

**Prayer**

---Prayer

**SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey):** Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**Ministers' Statements****MINISTER'S STATEMENT 61-16(3):  
IMPROVING FAMILY LAW SERVICES**

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to announce new services from the Department of Justice to help families in transition. These services are the first steps in longer-term project design to create an effective and accessible family law framework for more choices for families.

For many people, the court system works well, but it's only one option. It can be expensive and time consuming. As Members know, mediation offers parents an alternative. They talk to each other, work out their issues, like where the kid will live, visitation, financial support and how they will continue to be good parents in what is now a different kind of relationship.

Many parents come away from mediation with their issues resolved in a way that works for them. They feel that they have been heard and they can move forward. It's usually much faster than going through courts. Agreements can often be reached within a few hours.

Mr. Speaker, the department has offered a mediation service over the past number of years on a pilot basis. It was done using the services of a single mediator. That pilot confirmed that there is a need for mediation services in the Northwest Territories and resulted in a resolution of many family law cases.

Mr. Speaker, we are now setting up a new mediation project with a roster of five mediations and the program will be up and running this week. It will be free of charge, Mr. Speaker. Depending on demand, we may increase the number of mediators on the roster. We will be able to offer family remediation services in communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

We recognize the need for other services and support for parents who are separating or divorcing. We are working out the last few details of a course that will start early in the new fiscal year for parents who are separating. It will help parents make a new transition to a new type of relationship in a way that is positive. We've offered similar courses for a few years, so we know what works and what doesn't.

We also know that similar programs in other jurisdictions have been really helpful to parents who are separating or divorcing, but these programs are mandatory. Judges order parents to take these type of courses before seeking a court order for custody or access. This seems to be a key to its success because it is seen as a court requirement. Mr. Speaker, we will be studying the program closely to ensure that it will meet the needs of families in the Northwest Territories.

I would also like to highlight work we are doing in the Court Worker Program. Members indicated to us that community-based positions could play a greater role in our justice system. We are finishing a study on the feasibility of having our community court workers play a greater role in helping family law clients. We are looking at how often court workers deal with individuals facing family law issues. We need to know which legal issues or situations our residents are most likely to bring to court workers and the best way for court workers to answer those questions.

From this research, we will identify family law services that will be performed by court workers both in and out of court. We know they are in a great position to help people in their communities with information about court processes and their legal rights and responsibilities.

We know every family is different. We know that what works for one family won't work for all. We also know that families in transition may face

serious challenges and need help to overcome these. We want to provide options that can help families resolve their issues in the way that works best for them. We will continue to work closely with the judiciary and the family law bar to make real improvements in family law for Northerners. We will look to the continued advice and support of this Assembly to advance this work.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 62-16(3):  
COUNSEIL DE DEVELOPPEMENT  
ECONOMIQUE DES TERRITORIES  
DU NORD-OUEST AWARDS CEREMONY  
STATEMENT

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, this evening the francophone population of the Northwest Territories will honour their own with the first Francophone Entrepreneurial Awards. These awards will not only identify outstanding francophone businesses, but will highlight the importance of French entrepreneurs in developing the economy of the Northwest Territories.

French entrepreneurs have been active in the North for over 300 years. It is good to see that their efforts are being acknowledged. The event will be held here in the Great Hall of the Legislative Assembly and hosted by Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, also known as CDETNO.

---Applause

Entrepreneurs will be honoured in four different categories. The first one is a special category for the Northwest Territories arts business, then commercial services, business services, and micro business. Winners in the commercial services, business services, and micro business categories will be submitted to a national competition that is being held in 2009. You may remember this is the competition that Pierre LePage of Le Frolic won in 2005.

The host for the event will be CDETNO. This francophone organization offers a multitude of services to businesspeople in the Northwest Territories who speak French as their first language. A non-profit organization, CDETNO works to promote, encourage, and support economic development and employability of French speaking residents of the Northwest Territories.

I congratulate all the businesses that have been nominated for the awards and, to use the words of Simon Lamoureux, president of CDETNO, "This is a recognition for the important contribution made by

French entrepreneurs to the economy of the Northwest Territories."

Merci beaucoup, Mr. Speaker. Later today at the appropriate time I will be recognizing special guests in the gallery.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 63-16(3):  
COMMUNITY CAPACITY BUILDING FUND

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It is my pleasure to provide Members with information about the current status of the Community Capacity Building Fund. This program has supported innovative and diverse projects in all 33 communities in the Northwest Territories, providing benefits to all of our residents.

In July 2005 the Government of the Northwest Territories established the \$35 million Community Capacity Building Fund from funding made available by the Government of Canada under the Northern Strategy. The Community Capacity Building Fund provided one-time funding to communities to assist them to advance their capacity building priorities and objectives. The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has been administering this program since it was first implemented.

The program was designed with the goal to bring community governments and organizations together to collaborate, develop, and endorse projects that would benefit the community-at-large. I am very pleased to inform Members that this goal has been achieved.

Funding of \$35 million has been provided to support a total of 247 projects across the Northwest Territories. The funded projects reflect a wide variety of community capacity building initiatives, including the expansion of community complexes or hamlet offices to include additional services and infrastructure support for various community groups; investment in housing projects for seniors, staff, and community residents; development of new or enhanced community facilities such as a community workshop, commercial cooking facility, and youth centre; training and succession planning for community staff; and infrastructure enhancements such as communication system upgrades.

Since this program was first implemented in July 2005, MACA has been administering the fund and over this period has worked with communities to address their community capacity needs. While some communities are still in the process of

implementing their projects, many others have completed their projects with successful outcomes. Although the department's administration of the Community Capacity Building Fund ends on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009, MACA continues to offer ongoing support to address capacity challenges. Communities face a variety of challenges and MACA supports capacity building to ensure that community governments are able to lead effectively to ensure responsive, resilient, vibrant, and sustainable communities.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating all communities who are working collaboratively to develop proposals to improve the quality of life for our residents.

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

### Members' Statements

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SNOWMOBILE TRIP TO PEEL RIVER HEADWATERS

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Tomorrow, March 11<sup>th</sup>, snowmobilers from Fort McPherson will be skidooning to the headwaters of their traditional territory, the Peel River watershed. The Tetlit Gwich'in Council and Na-Cho Nyak Dun have spent many months planning this snowmobile trip, originally planning to leave Fort McPherson and ending in Mayo. Due to unforeseen circumstances and time shortage, the trip will see that both parties meet halfway between Fort McPherson and Mayo at the headwaters of the Peel River watershed.

The purpose of this trip is to revisit the traditional trails that were once travelled by our ancestors and to teach the youth about the importance of protecting the Peel River watershed from any developments. The greatest opportunity is for the guides and leaders of the community and the youth, to pass down the knowledge and importance of landmarks in regard to sensitive areas to the youth of Mayo and Fort McPherson.

On Monday morning 12 participants left Mayo, Yukon and tomorrow, Wednesday, the Tetlit Gwich'in participants, in particular from the Mackenzie Delta, will start their journey to the headwaters. The Tetlit Gwich'in participants are elders, community leaders, selected youth.

A number of years back, in 1992, leaders from the Gwich'in Tribal Council and members from Fort McPherson made a trip with members from Mayo

and the elders that are still alive and able to travel today, tomorrow, I should say, would like to guide the members over the traditional trails and teach the youth the importance of protecting these trails.

During the meetings both parties will express the importance of protecting our lands at the Peel River watershed and bring awareness back to our communities.

I'd like to pass on a big mahsi cho to those who prepared this trip, but, more importantly, to all the participants who will be going on this trip. May you have a safe journey and God bless. See you when you get back.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DELIVERY OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE PROGRAMS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In a report released in December by UNICEF, Canada ranked last out of 25 affluent countries in our delivery of early childhood education and child care programs. Canada failed to meet nine out of 10 benchmarks, but, most disturbingly, the NWT doesn't even meet one of the UNICEF benchmarks.

This government has a responsibility to address these unacceptable shortcomings in the NWT as soon as possible. Highlighted last year and still not fully resolved is the lack of stable funding toward daycares. Currently we fund daycares in a convoluted way that assesses them four times a year and delivers funding based on these assessments. Not surprisingly, this means fluctuating and unpredictable funding throughout the year and huge challenges to providing consistent service.

The Social Programs committee recommended last year that ECE take immediate action to ensure that child care operations receive stable and predictable levels of funding regardless of the fluctuations in the attendance of children due to sickness or family emergency. Whatever action the department has taken has not been sufficient as our daycares are still in trouble.

While Aurora College currently provides early childhood education programs, compared to the South these programs do not stack up. We need to review these programs and bring them up to national standards in order to provide the best possible education for our children.

Further to the problem of well-trained early childhood workers is the problem of wages. Because wages in the early child care industry are

so low, when people do receive proper training and become qualified, they tend to leave daycares for higher paid positions. A wage subsidy could help to ensure that daycares have qualified people to care for our children in one of the most crucial development stages of their lives.

There has been a lot of talk about the economy lately. Some world leaders are now recognizing that an investment in early childhood education is the best economic stimulus there is. President Obama has acknowledged this; his stimulus package contains large amounts of additional funding for early childhood education. According to the chief public officer in Canada it is estimated that \$1 invested in the early years saves \$3 to \$9 in the future, depending on the health and criminal justice systems, as well as on social assistance.

Let's invest in our children in a guaranteed way to ensure long-term benefits for our society and by providing for stable and predictable funding, and qualified workers for daycares and early childhood education in the Northwest Territories.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to highlight the contributions of the John Howard Society to the criminal justice system in the Northwest Territories. Incorporated in 1992 as a member of the John Howard Society of Canada, the John Howard Society based in Yellowknife is a volunteer organization that promotes just, effective, and humane responses to the causes and consequences of crime.

Volunteers at the John Howard Society take an active role in community justice initiatives by offering three core programs. Fine options and community services give youth and adults the options of settling fines through unpaid, supervised community service work hosted by local, non-profit service organizations. This is a productive alternative to serving jail time for not paying fines.

With the cooperation of the RCMP, the federal and territorial Justice departments, the John Howard Society offers the Community Justice Program; a restorative justice program that works with individuals to resolve the effects of their behaviour outside the criminal justice system. The program currently aims to handle eight hearings a month, but the RCMP has publicly stated that the potential for a caseload of 50 hearings a month if the society had the resources to meet this demand.

Combined with the Healthy Snack Program, the John Howard Society runs judo programs which promote crime prevention through healthy lifestyles, self-respect, and positive peer relationships. The John Howard Society co-facilitates the Dads after Divorce and Separation Program at the North Slave Correctional Centre. Sessions cover problem solving, relationships, parenting, distorted beliefs, lifestyle balance, anger management, grief, and loss. These are vital areas of sound mental health and this program helps to prevent further family difficulties and crime.

In addition, the society hosts weekly meetings with the Dads North Association. Dads North was formed to empower individuals to establish and maintain healthy domestic lifestyles by providing guidance and understanding in a safe, unprejudiced environment to people who experience emotional trauma and financial hardship following divorce.

I believe that the effects of crime in our communities are clear to all of us. They are costly and have lasting impacts on our people, particularly our youth. I believe it is important to take this opportunity to applaud the John Howard Society for addressing these issues and the hard work of their dedicated volunteers and staff.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY LOGGING AND SAWMILL PROGRAMS

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The communities in my constituency are very interested in creating sustainable businesses that will employ community members now and in the future. One business like this is the harvesting of logs and operating a sawmill. One example is Jean Marie River.

I spoke earlier this session about Jean Marie River's desire to operate a biomass co-generation unit using sawdust and scrap from a sawmill to produce wood pellets. The problem in communities may be getting financial assistance for logging and sawmill operations, let alone establishing an innovative and carbon neutral business.

It seems that support for economic development of this kind has decreased. One ITI fund that supported logging operations, the Western Harvesters Support Program, has been reduced significantly. Jean Marie River band has received assistance from the Business Development Fund in the past. Today there is no dedicated program for logging. There is a lack of stimulus for this industry.



I hope the government will review their funding programs and provide more assistance to communities for this type of economic development opportunity. As the Business Development and Investment Corporation states as its role on its website, "promoting and maintaining economic development and employment...has both economic and social aspects."

Jean Marie River was sustained by logging for a couple of generations. They do not want to lose this identity. They want to continue with the sawmill operations for generations yet to come. I support them on this initiative and I urge our government to do the same.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CORRELATION BETWEEN HEALTHY CHOICES AND HEALTH CARE EXPENDITURES

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to speak about the correlation between people making healthy choices today and future health care expenditures and the prevalence of chronic illness. Let me begin with a story that appeared on CTV yesterday evening. I would suggest that the Minister of Health and our government take this story and the findings of the research that was conducted very seriously.

The story was based on a research paper that appears in the latest edition of the Canadian Journal of Public Health. It was authored by Kathleen Doering and three other researchers who say Northerners weigh more and exercise less than our southern cousins. This new research suggests the growing gap between North and South could be setting the stage for the three northern territories to experience higher rates of chronic disease, from strokes to diabetes.

The most telling sign in reading the research article was that historically Northerners were getting more exercise because they included more physical work in their daily lives. However, those days appear to be over. Southern Canadians are now much more physically active than residents North of 60. From 2000 to 2005 the proportion of Northerners considered at least moderately active increased by 7 percent while in the South the increase was almost 28 percent.

We are also drinking more alcohol and smoking more tobacco in the North. Smoking has dropped 13 percent here in the North, but in the South it has dropped 20 percent. The percentage of regular drinkers grew 9 percent in the North compared to less than 6 percent in the South. And the percentage of obese or overweight Northerners

increased 10 percent as compared with only 7 percent in the South.

For all of the millions of dollars we put into prevention, the numbers are not getting any better, with the exception of our smoking rates. The bottom line is healthy choices. We need a balanced diet. We need to be exercising more. We need to avoid excessive tobacco and alcohol consumption.

The time to conduct research into chronic disease prevention is now. We must act while the problem is still relatively limited in scope. I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services at the appropriate time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORTS FOR THE BUSINESS SECTOR IN UNCERTAIN ECONOMIC TIMES

**MRS. GROENEWEGEN:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all know that we are in unprecedented times of economic downturn and nobody knows what the next newscast or next bad lot of news is going to be. We've seen what the federal government has done in terms of the economic stimulus; small things, even, like the home improvement tax rebate. We're waiting to see what the infrastructure dollars are going to actually bring to the North. Small things again on the part of our government. I want to thank the Minister of ITI for really looking at the SEED program, Support for Entrepreneurs in Economic Development, through our government. They are small things, but all together they go together to help alleviate some of the pressures here in the North.

The Minister of Housing mentioned some of the housing programs and I'm hoping that more Northerners can take advantage of those to upgrade their homes to make them more cost effective. This as a by-product does stimulate our economy because it puts contractors to work and sells lots of materials.

I look forward to the EDI committee meeting with the Minister of ITI after session here to take a look at the money that's remaining in the Opportunities Fund and again look for ways that we can be supportive to northern business as we go through these difficult times ahead. The forecast for how long this recession is going to last now vary, but certainly now we're up to predictions that have gone from a year to 18 months, to one prediction I heard last night that this could last for a decade. We need to be ready.

The businesses here in the North also struggle with getting workers. If any of these major capital projects do come to the North, too, there is going to be an issue with getting workers. When you hear of all the layoffs everywhere else in the country, it makes me wonder if there are not Canadians out there who would be interested in relocating to the North. I know we do very focused and targeted recruitment and retention initiatives as the GNWT, but perhaps we need to do a campaign to suggest to some adventuresome Canadians out there who would be interested in relocating to the North. I know we do very focussed and targeted recruitment and retention initiatives as the GNWT, but perhaps we need to do a campaign to suggest to some adventurous Canadians out there who have lost their jobs in southern Canada, that maybe the North is a place that they could look to.

I appreciate the work of ECE on the foreign workers coming in through the Nomination Program and also through the expedited labour market opinion. I know this has taken a lot of pressure off businesses in the North with being able to get foreign workers.

I do support immigration, but, Mr. Speaker, I can't believe that there are not some adventuresome Canadians out there who would like to look to the North. I do believe it still is a challenge for businesses and I would like this government to take a role in that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONCERNS OF LUTSELK'E CONSTITUENTS

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to update the Lutselk'e constituents of various items that I have been working on as MLA. I will do Fort Resolution tomorrow.

Mr. Speaker, home initiative programs of Lutselk'e has been a major issue in Lutselk'e especially for the senior homeowners. However, the NWT Housing Corporation has received an additional \$50 million to put into infrastructure and housing across the Northwest Territories. I am confident that Lutselk'e will see a positive impact from that.

Mr. Speaker, dust continues to be one of my top priorities and I will continue to come up with ideas on how this government can work with the local government on dust suppression. However, Mr. Speaker, in order to effectively deal with the dust problems, the community must first be properly drained. That is something that I will continue to work on.

Mr. Speaker, I have had some discussions with the chief and the Minister on the youth and how we may be able to work together to be able to provide a youth centre in Lutselk'e and also working on some of the on-the-land programs for youth.

Mr. Speaker, I am watching the progress made by the local DEA on grade extension for Lutselk'e and I am ready to support the DEA where necessary to make this a reality for Lutselk'e. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the Lutselk'e school will need some renovations for grade extension and to provide a proper place for students to take industrial arts and home economics.

I have had many discussions with the Minister of ITI on support towards small businesses in Lutselk'e and support for local trappers. I am happy to say that some of the local trappers have recently been able to take a course through ITI.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of living issue is also a huge item for the community and the people of Lutselk'e. The cost of power, heat, transportation and food are all items that I, as MLA, have worked on with the government in an attempt to bring these costs down.

Mr. Speaker, these are not all of the items but are the key items that I have been working for the community of Lutselk'e and thought it would be important to update them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON AFFORDABLE RENT PROTECTION MEASURES

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to revisit an issue I have raised here in the Assembly a number of times as well as I wish to acknowledge my colleague from Frame Lake who has raised the same issue. The issue is about affordable rent and protection measures for our northern residents here. Mr. Speaker, it doesn't go any further than this. It is the lack of protection and those measures to protect our citizens from unbearable rent increases that they cannot control.

Mr. Speaker, this is truly breaking the northern family and it is certainly getting worse. Mr. Speaker, I am getting e-mails that talk about this to tell me line by line. They detail their expenses and stress how it is difficult for the working poor to get by as rents increase.

Mr. Speaker, yes, the legislation as echoed by the Minister is correct. The landlord can have one increase a year. But, Mr. Speaker, we continue to

leave our residents unprotected from what amount that may be in the end.

Mr. Speaker, I agree wholeheartedly that the landlord needs to cover their costs and certainly make a reasonable profit. I support this fully. But, Mr. Speaker, at the cost to the residents when they cannot afford their rent anymore, I start to question about what is considered reasonable.

Mr. Speaker, the rental office, it is true, is out there to hear complaints and concerns. But, Mr. Speaker, when you write or even cry to the rentals officer, it does nothing more than be a therapeutic release, because they cannot produce any results from the fact that if you cry or write or complain about what increase you have received, they just sit there with their hands tied.

Mr. Speaker, as I have said before, what the issue really comes down to is this: the ball is in the court of the landlord. How nice are they this time around? How generous are they going to be on the increase? How unfriendly are they going to be with the increase? Mr. Speaker, we can deal with this quite simply with the Residential Tenancies Act. I challenge the Minister of Justice to bring forward an amendment that protects working families, because we leave them certainly exposed to the market rents that could be increased.

Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Justice does not want to support and protect working people, I can assure you that there are Members over on this side of the House that will work to do so. Mr. Speaker, again I say, let's not call this rent control, but let's call this fair protection for working families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INCOME SUPPORT CHEQUE DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I am speaking in regards to income support cheque payments. The previous government dramatically changed the way income support was given, against the recommendation of most community governments and organizations. Furthermore, the previous government offered no support, notice or plans to help communities and residents deal with the changes.

Today Nunakput is dealing with the legacy of neglect and this government seems to endorse this legacy. Leaders and elders, support staff were all asking the government to re-evaluate the way cheques are given to recipients so bills can be made, people can put food on the table and the

continued cycle of dependency can stop. Due to these challenges, people are getting deeper and deeper into arrears to the point where it becomes overwhelming.

Recently in Tuktoyaktuk, a family of four and a baby were evicted from their home. Now they can get no support because they don't even have an address, Mr. Speaker. This government must help families with personal difficulties to end this cycle of dependency, but this government needs to go one step further to work with the local suppliers of grocery stores and to help the residents and the communities work out a system where the families can put food on the table, a program similar to food stamps.

Since these changes were made, the longer the government waits, the bigger the ticking bomb will get. We will need a true one-stop shop where people can deal with all their issues where payments and expenses can be resolved before the recipient receives a cheque. Getting the run around and the blame game when dealing with the government departments and financial problems in the communities can be exhausting. Communities in my riding especially need the government to be creative, proactive and realistic when dealing with the government income support payments, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I will have more questions for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment at the appropriate time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON DISCLOSURE OF OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES BY GNWT EMPLOYEES

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to speak about some concerns that I have with actions that we, the GNWT, the employer, require of our employees; actions that, to me, feel like an infringement on their rights. As individuals, we all have our own interests and activities that we pursue outside of our work day and our work environment. I firmly believe we are each entitled to our own opinions and beliefs, but I also firmly believe that those beliefs, activities and passions should only be curtailed or interfered with in exceptional circumstances.

As a government, we have policies in place to protect both the employee and the employer. That is a good thing. Some of our employees are in positions requiring impartiality or the perception of impartiality. Our deputy ministers, directors and senior managers should not be actively engaged in political activities, for instance. The vast majority of

our employees, however, should have free reign to take part in any activity of their choice as long as it is outside of their work environment or their work hours and as long as it does not put them in a conflict of interest position.

Imagine my surprise and disbelief when I learned that many GNWT employees are required to report their personal activities to their supervisor; activities such as being a member of a board for an organization such as coaching a sports team, such as attending a workshop honouring International Women's Day. My problem is with the need to disclose everything and every activity. My examples are activities that are unpaid, volunteer interests unrelated to an employee's work duties or job. Volunteering is healthy and has value for both the participant and the community. It should be encouraged by an employer. Yet employees must ask permission to take part. The department has to monitor the results of a membership on a board. That is not right, Mr. Speaker. How does my coaching a basketball team have any impact on the GNWT or my job performance? Does the employer even have the right to ask the employee to report his or her activities?

Our policies exist to limit the negative actions or impacts against the GNWT by an employee, but by our actions we are presuming that employees will act badly. Where is the trust in this relationship? I have said before and will say again, we have good employees with good morals and ethics with the sense to know when to report an activity which might be sensitive to a supervisor and seek advice on it.

Do we really value our employees as much as we keep saying? Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, colleagues. Do we really value our employees as much as we keep saying? If so, we need to give them the credit they are due and trust them to be responsible, not start from a position of mistrust. If my information is correct, Mr. Speaker, and we treat our employees as described, it is a small wonder we are not the employer of choice anymore. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON  
FUNDING FOR NORMAN WELLS  
BREAKWATER PROJECT

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Norman Wells has the smallest population of any tax-based municipality in the Northwest Territories.

Located on a very large river, in the spring when the Mackenzie breaks up, ice jams cause flooding and shore lands can be battered.

Since its construction about 70 years ago, the town's water treatment plant and macerator building have been at risk of ice damage and flooding and possible demolition of these very important buildings. The council requests funding from MACA to cover costs of a breakwater or seawall. The town thought the costs would come from the infrastructure funding available from the Building Canada Plan first announced in 2007 federal budget.

On February 21, 2008, the NWT was promising funding for \$185 million for a seven-year period for transportation and community infrastructure. The town applied twice for funding and had been rejected twice. The town council and residents remain puzzled as to why the applications were rejected.

Last fall the town council of Norman Wells had designs drawn up to build a breakwater to protect the facility. It was a community ready project. Completion was required before breakup and so a contract has been tendered and awarded, given the short construction window. The federal government told MACA that the Norman Wells Sea Project is not eligible for funding as the construction has already been completed. The budget for the project was \$613,000. If this wasn't done by the town, Mr. Speaker, the situation would have been disastrous, costly and catastrophic. This is a very unfortunate situation.

Here we have important work going ahead, people being employed in design and construction. How come Norman Wells can't get any money from the Government of Canada? But the Government of Canada has no shame taking money from the Norman Wells oilfield, Mr. Speaker. Shame, Mr. Speaker.

As of today, Canada has now, through Building Canada Plan, infrastructure projects for 2009-10. When are we going to find out about this funding? Miraculously, if it wasn't for a strand of birch trees opposite the sewer power building acting as a natural barrier and preventing the building from being destroyed, the town did the only thing that any community would have done for its people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. I would like to welcome everyone in the gallery today. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.

### Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am pleased to recognize Mr. Jean Francois Pitre, owner of PIDO Productions and member of the board of directors for CDETNO and Sylvie Francoeur, director general for CDETNO. Welcome.

---Applause

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 6, acknowledgements. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

### Oral Questions

#### QUESTION 292-16(3): FUNDING FOR NORMAN WELLS BREAKWATER PROJECT

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How can the GNWT help the town of Norman Wells with the seawall project that was budgeted for \$613,000? I would like to ask the Minister of MACA, how can his department help the town?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I applaud the community of Norman Wells for seeing a problem and doing something about it right away. The problem is, Mr. Speaker, that the Building Canada Fund is hoping to have projects that have yet to be started and that is the basis of this. I would advise the Member that we are still working with the Government of Canada on hopefully having some positive outcome for the project in Norman Wells. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, the town of Norman Wells only did what any other community would have done to save its sewer plant, water intake plant. Certainly we would support the Minister in terms of going forward with the Building Canada Plan in terms of the projects. What is the status of these BCP projects in terms of 2009-10 with this government?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, as I advised the Member, we are still working with the Government of Canada to try and see if there is some way we can apply some of this funding to the project that has already been completed in Norman Wells. We will continue to work on that. If we get some information on that, I will pass it on to the Member and the community of Norman Wells. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, the town of Norman Wells would be very appreciative of the Minister's response. I want to ask the Minister in terms of another source of funding under the Emergency Measures Fund, or are there other emergency funds his department has that could also help with this situation?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, again, the town of Norman Wells identified a need and they were protecting some infrastructure. I will assure the Member that MACA will explore all of our options in trying to access funding for the project in Norman Wells. Thank you.

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

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, again, the town will be very appreciative of the response here. In terms of this situation here, can I ask the Minister in terms of instructing his officials when they do meet with us, what constitutes emergency measures such as a situation like this with Norman Wells? Does this type of funding that the town is requesting fit in some type of policy that constitutes an emergency for this situation?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I would imagine that this would fit under an emergency, as this seawall needed to be built to protect their infrastructure. As I advised the Member, I will be bringing all this forward with the department and we will see what kind of options we have and I will advise the Member and the community of Norman Wells. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

#### QUESTION 293-16(3): DISCLOSURE OF OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES BY GNWT EMPLOYEES

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I mentioned in my statement, I talked about a number of policies. I have some questions in regards to the comments in my statement for the Minister of Human Resources. My first question would be to know what policies exist that apply to employees within the GNWT public service. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister of Human Resources, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a code of conduct for employees respecting conflict of interest. We also have an oath of secrecy for employees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister and those are the ones that I was aware of as well. By the way, both of those policies are quite valid and they should be there. I think they are important. Relative to some of the comments that I made in my statement that employees are required to report activities to their supervisors, could the Minister advise us whether or not there is an established practice or procedure to request activities outside of an employee's work environment from the employee? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** The code of conduct that I referred to outlines responsibilities of employees as to how to prevent themselves from getting into conflict of interest situations and the reporting requirements I am not aware of any reporting requirements for the examples that the Member used in her Member's statement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MS. BISARO:** Thanks to the Minister. I totally agree that if any employee is involved in an activity that could put them in a conflict or could leave them in a situation where they have access to confidential information, that should not be shared publicly. So I fully agree with the policies that are there, but is the Minister aware -- if he doesn't know of a practice or procedure -- of instructions that are given to managers, deputy ministers, directors, or senior managers to find out from their employees what activities they are involved in?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I'm not aware of any specific directions that are given to deputy ministers or senior managers other than I know that most employees take it upon themselves to report to their supervisors if they are involved in any organizations and so on, just to be on the safe side, I presume.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. I guess that sounds to me as though employees of their own free will are providing this information. That's not the impression that I was given when I got this information. I would like to ask the Minister if he would be willing to look into this situation and to determine whether or not there are managers who are asking for this information as opposed to taking it from the employee when they offer it of their own free will.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Certainly, Mr. Speaker, I'll endeavour to do that. Certainly we don't want employees reporting on things that we have no interest or no need to be involved with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

QUESTION 294-16(3):  
INCOME SUPPORT CHEQUE  
DISTRIBUTION PROCESS

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My Member's statement today was on the income support cheques and regarding the way they're distributed to the communities. Will the government re-evaluate the way income support cheques are distributed and how various government departments deal with residents in the small communities?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The Member did bring that to my attention a while ago about distribution of cheques into the small community, whether it be some sort of non-cash item in the stores. Some family members are not getting the actual food that they should be getting. Those are the areas we are seriously looking at, how we can distribute a certain amount, whether it be the cheques or vouchers to the stores, so that the families can certainly benefit from it. I'm glad the Member is raising this issue because it is important to us, the well-being of the children and the community.

**MR. JACOBSON:** Will the government commit to develop a true one-stop shop for all government support services?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Certainly that is one of our goals when we transfer the program, the one-stop shop that we've been talking about here in the Assembly. We continue to do so; provide various subsidies in a one-window approach. So we continue to improve in that area. However, if we can improve in certain areas, we'd like to hear from the Members as well. Certainly that will be one of our mandates to move forward, to have a one-stop approach.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 295-16(3):  
AFFORDABLE RENT PROTECTION MEASURES

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue that I raised today in my Member's statement will be the focus of my questions to the Minister of Justice. I keep raising the issue of fair rent for working families. My first question to the Minister of Justice is, what is stopping his department from looking into the issue of some type of rent control that provides protection for working families due to increased cost to the rent?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The rent control is a separate issue that we're currently talking about here. That area will definitely have, whether it be positive or negative, impacts. We realize that other jurisdictions do have rent control and we have reviewed that. We have investigated that. There are pros and cons. We can certainly share that with the standing committee if we need to move in that direction. The local contractors may not be able to build units if they can't control the rent. So those are the areas that we seriously looked at. We continue to do more research in that area.

With respect to how the rental officer deals with issues or complaints that are brought to attention on notification of rent increase given notice, those are the areas that the rental officer is in charge of. We continue to work with that.

**MR. HAWKINS:** I would like to ask the Minister of Justice if he would take on the initiative to consult with people in a public way on their feelings regarding rent control and the matter of providing reasonable protection for renters and, at the same time, provide reasonable protection for landlords who have to make sure they cover their costs and make a reasonable profit. Would the Minister take on that challenge and create some type of public discussions so that we can have some public awareness and some real, true public feedback on this issue?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Certainly this is one area we need more consultation with the general public. It will be, I guess, a bigger discussion that we need to have within this Legislative Assembly. We need to hear the input of the general public. We can certainly work towards that with the Members of the standing committee on how we can pursue that.

**MR. HAWKINS:** The Minister had said we need more consultation with the public and then he said a few other things I didn't quite write down, but he also said works towards this with the standing committee. I just want to be clear, in my experience here, that almost sounded like a commitment that the Department of Justice will investigate this issue and create some type of public dialogue. Can I get that clearly on the record today, that the Minister of Justice will create some type of dialogue framework or discussion paper, get out, speak to committee as well as speak to the public?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** As the Minister responsible for Justice, I continue to work with the standing committee and I certainly don't want to run

with the legislation without consultation with the standing committee. As a commitment from my perspective portfolios and also this government, we need to consult with the standing committee. I will continue to do so. I'm making a commitment to work with the standing committee on a moving-forward basis.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that. Can I get some clarification from the Minister when the particular committee, which would be the Standing Committee on Social Programs, when does he expect to be able to reach out and create some type of discussion with that committee before going public with the public discussion paper on the issue of fair rent for working families?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I did mention in this House that there is a business plan in process that will be underway after session concludes. That's when we can start opening a discussion with the standing committee. I'm willing to meet with the standing committee and we will continue with our dialogue on how we can improve our program.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

QUESTION 296-16(3):  
IMPROVEMENTS TO FAMILY LAW SERVICES

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister of Justice in response to his Minister's statement on improving family law services. I'm quite pleased to hear the announcement that they're going to be moving or setting up a new mediation project with a roster of five mediators. I know that a number of Members in this House, both in the House and in the back hall, have been encouraging the department to go in this direction of setting up a mediation process.

My first question is just a question for clarity to the Minister responsible. Is this mediation going to be mandatory or is it going to be optional?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister responsible for Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I think on a long-term basis we'd like to have this on a mandatory basis. I did mention in my Minister's statement that other jurisdictions do provide it on a mandatory basis. We'll continue to work towards that. This is a new program we want to initiate. We'd certainly like to look at the pros and

cons of the particular program, but that's a long-term commitment that we have within our Justice department.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** I'd like to thank the Minister for that. I think it's a great program. I'm really happy to hear that they're looking to going mandatory. I've done some research on this as well, and everything that I've seen has suggested that mandatory will save us a lot of money. To the Minister, how long do you think it will be until we can make some sort of decision as to whether or not we are going to make this mandatory for the sake of the children?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Certainly the program will be rolled out within a couple of weeks, three weeks. Certainly we will continue to monitor the program itself and how the program is going, and also looking out for other jurisdictions and how their program is doing, with mandatory or without mandatory. We can probably say late fall we'll certainly look at this as if it could be mandatory at that time. Certainly we need to have some time to deliver the program, see how it turns out. From there we'll certainly decide to move forward and we'll certainly give the standing committee an update at that time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

QUESTION 297-16(3):  
STABLE FUNDING FOR  
DAYCARE OPERATIONS

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is also for the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment. It's regarding my Member's statement earlier today. I'm wondering if funding to daycares...Well, we know it fluctuates quarterly in unpredictable ways. I'd like to know what we are doing to stabilize that funding and make it more predictable for daycares so they can provide consistent service.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Certainly I appreciate the Member's comment on this area. This is one of the priorities within our government, within our own department as well. Early childhood and the daycare facilities, the daycare funding is a priority for us. We do provide ongoing funding. We have increased our funding as well. Back in 2007 we increased our contribution to licensed, non-profit, early childhood providers by 30 percent. So through investment of \$600,000. Also, 2007-2008 we included funding to assist eligible providers with basic rent or mortgage expenses. So the subsidy can contribute a

maximum of 25 percent rental towards the mortgage expense. So those are areas we continue to improve in our programs and we continue to monitor and evaluate our programs where we need to increase funding.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thanks for the comments from the Minister. I really am appreciative of the increased funding and the help with mortgages for daycares. Specifically on the consistency and providing predictable funding, which would really help budgeting for these daycare centres, do we still penalize the daycare centres when a child is missing for five consecutive days? Do we still penalize them financially? And are we still assessing the daycares four times a year instead of providing them funding on the basis of average attendance?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The daycare funding is based on the enrolment of the children in the daycare, similar to the school operation. We continue to monitor that. We talked about it within our department how we can improve in those areas where students may be missing for up to five days. I guess you can say the organizations get less funding due to that fact. But we will continue to look at that. Certainly we continue to re-evaluate our position, our programs within our current system, again, highlighting what kind of penalization is there for an organization and how we can improve in those areas. We continue to monitor that.

**MR. BROMLEY:** I just have to comment that rather than more review and monitoring we really need actions now. Our daycares have highlighted that this is a problem. Let's not review and monitor; let's act on those problem areas.

Are we considering legislation or at least setting standards for early childhood and child care workers?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I believe the Member alluded to the Early Childhood Certification Program through Aurora College. We do certify them in that respect. Whether it be the legislation to, I'm not sure what the Member's referring to, but certainly those are the areas we need to continue to discuss. I'd like to hear more feedback from the Member on where he's going with this. Certainly we're open to ideas and suggestions within our department. As I stated earlier, we will be going through our next phase of business planning process, so we continue to look for options from the Members.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final supplementary, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On the issue of training our child care workers, it's been



highlighted in the past that we are not providing certified child care workers up to national standards. That's the basic fact. We really need to address that. I appreciate the Minister's willingness to do that. Finally, given the new recognition of the clear benefits associated with economic stimulus packages that focus actually on early childhood development and child care, what has the Minister done to increase funding this year since we've learned about the recession that is now impending on the Northwest Territories along with the rest of the globe?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Certainly early childhood and the language nests, more specifically, has been sunsetted by the federal government. We continue to pick up that program through our territorial government. That has been our commitment. We believe that it is an important piece of program that we need to continue with. New Initiatives Program increased funding in the early childhood. So those are the areas we continue to improve and increase our programming dollars. We continue to monitor those again. We will continue to work with the Members on updating them on current status and where we're going at the next level. We'll continue to work with the standing committee.

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

QUESTION 298-16(3):  
FUNDING ALTERNATIVES FOR LARGE-SCALE  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of Transportation with regard to the Deh Cho Bridge Act that was passed in this government to build a \$165 million bridge across the Mackenzie River at Fort Providence. As part of that proposal, which was to look at the design, build, and finance and own the bridge by way of the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation in which the government will be responsible for paying the cost for what the ferry operation is today with the cost of the bridge crossing, which is about \$101.8 million, and then they topped it off to about \$2 million a year going forward. We also found out we're paying for the cost of the tolls that have to be collected for that bridge. It was a proposal that was given to the Minister and Premier by the Gwich'in Tribal Council to look at the possibility of doing a similar project with regard to the Peel River. Yet in response to a letter we see back from the department and especially from the Department of Transportation it seems that they're not too enthused to do anything like that. They are saying this has to fit within the government's capital planning process. I'd like to

ask the Minister why it is that other bridges built in the Northwest Territories cannot follow what was agreed to under the Deh Cho Bridge Act.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My understanding is that the unsolicited proposal that came from the Beaufort-Delta was brought forward with a price tag and request to put it through the conventional capital process and that's what we're doing. I don't believe I've seen a request to a proposal outlining the concepts similar to Deh Cho Bridge.

**MR. KRUTKO:** That's exactly my point. Under the conventional system of putting this into the GNWT capital planning process, it ain't going to see the light of day. Yet the Deh Cho Bridge was billed for \$165 million by simply passing an act in this House. Will the Minister bring forward a Peel River Bridge Act so that we can do it under the same circumstances as the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation?

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** The Deh Cho Bridge Act was brought forward as a result of many years of discussions and a very detailed proposal. If the Member would want to bring a proposal for us to consider, we would be pleased to take a look at it. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I heard a yes there, so there is hope for this project after all. Mr. Speaker, I believe that in order for this proposal to see the light of day, we do have to find a unique way of doing it. We may have to consider tolls. We may have to consider how you finance it, the cost for the ferry operations, the cost for the ice bridge going forward and also exactly how long a term of the lease there is.

Right now, there is a proposal being developed looking at the different scenarios of a 30 or 40-year lease commitment. Will the Minister consider looking at the possibility of looking outside the GNWT capital planning process and finding ways to finance these projects?

Again, we have an act in place. There was supposed to be some legislation coming forward in regards to a P3 project. I would like to ask the Minister to consider some flexibility in regards to how we look at these projects -- this is not the only bridge that is out there -- and to be able to have the flexibility to at least make an attempt to look at what our options are, looking at these types of big capital projects.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** The Member is correct when he states we have to be creative when we

look at the projects, and that is going to be the way forward, in my opinion.

There are a number of projects. There are a number of bridges that need to be built across the Territories, five fairly large ones in all told that we need to, at some point, address. Right now, the challenge is to find the financing. If there is a way to do the work and package it up so that it is attractive, affordable and viable, then certainly we would be willing to look at that and talk to my Cabinet colleagues and the federal government or whoever the sources of funding would be arranged through.

Up to now, Mr. Speaker, the request for me to process the submission that was made through the conventional methods, that is what I am doing. That is where the project has been forwarded to for consideration among other projects, Mr. Speaker. Up to now, we have not seen a detailed proposal nor have we asked for one, actually, Mr. Speaker. Until that time, it is difficult to analyze what the concept would be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, we talked about unconventional ways of building capital. That is what the Deh Cho Bridge Corporation Act is. It is an unconventional way of building a bridge for \$165 million. All I ask from the Minister is to allow other organizations or bridges to be considered for replacement or being built under public infrastructure that we consider having that option on the table similar to what was in place with the Deh Cho Bridge in light of what is being considered for the Peel River Bridge.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I am not one to discourage good ideas coming forward. I mentioned before that we would be willing to look at any unsolicited proposal. If it makes sense, if it is viable, if there is a way that we can identify the resources to do it or whatever that means may be, I would be glad to do an evaluation on it, having our people see if it is something that is doable, have the discussion with the other Members and talk to my colleagues about the potential of projects such as this. I don't know where else I can go with it or what else I can commit. The Member has asked for something that I have already agreed that I would look at. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

QUESTION 299-16(3):  
HEALTH CHOICES AND PHYSICAL  
ACTIVITY EFFORTS

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services. It gets back to my Member's statement where I was talking about some research that has been conducted. It appeared in the Canadian Journal of Public Health in regards to chronic diseases and indicators that would suggest that the trend in northern Canada is not a good one, Mr. Speaker. We need to be doing more in the area of prevention. It is not too late to look at prevention. I would like to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services if her department is aware of the research that has been undertaken. Thank you.

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

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Member for the question as well as providing me with a copy of the research. Mr. Speaker, I can advise the Member that this is an issue that is on top of the minds of everyone who is involved with Health and Social Services system. There is a lot of research done on that and the need for work that we are all aware, Mr. Speaker. In fact, one of the writers, Dr. Kue Young was in my office last month because he is very involved with the research in the North, especially aboriginal health. He is pursuing a multi-year, multi-million dollar grant program to do further research. He asked me and the department for support. I was glad to do that. The research is important. There is a lot of research in the books already. All of the previous Health Ministers have been talking about how, and including myself, we need to make a lot more advances on this. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. RAMSAY:** I am glad to hear that the Minister has been in contact with one of the researchers. Getting back again to my Member's statement, the government spends millions and millions of dollars on prevention but the numbers just don't seem to be corresponding to the investment that we are making there. How do the Minister and the department suggest that we get Northerners more physically active? What is the game plan going forward to try to get people who live in northern Canada more physically active? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I think the Member should be aware that this is part of our everyday work. There is staff in the department. We spend about \$2 million. We could use more, but we spend about \$2 million within the department to promote active living and healthy living. That is what our front-line staff work on. We work with other departments like

MACA and Education that work on that. I think the article that I read in Hill Times talked about the importance of investing in prevention.

In my meetings with the federal Minister of Health, we need federal Health to do a health prevention strategy and make some investment in this area because, ideally, you would want to spend at least 3 percent of your health budget on health promotion. We don't have as much funding, but we do a lot of work with the money that we are spending. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Mr. Speaker, I have been here for five years. I know we do a lot of work each and every day on prevention. I know that work happens. What I am suggesting is that I don't think things are getting much better. What I would suggest to the Minister and the government is we need to take more of a policy look at what we are doing. And I agree with something that the Minister said: it starts early. I think we have done a disservice to our youth by allowing curriculum to be taken out where it pertains to physical activity. Children today in the classroom or in a school in the Northwest Territories don't get the physical activity that I had when I was in school. I know that. They get a half hour. They get 45 minutes a week. It is not enough, Mr. Speaker. Kids need to be more physically active. How is the Minister going to get children more physically active in this territory? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** More sporting events in schools, I know that the Minister of Education works on that area, but I think that the Member would agree with me that we need our people to eat healthier, exercise more, drink and smoke less. Our people drink more, and more heavily. We know the prevention strategy does work and the government has spent money on a non-smoking campaign that has worked. I think it is important to note that there are people in our community clinics who work on prenatal, on children, on healthy families, on Diabetes Strategy, even FSC is a preventive disease. That work is being done. I could update the Member on exactly what we do in that area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The numbers that I suggested are made in my Member's statement. They don't lie. The numbers are there. The thing I like about this research is that it is done over a five-year period. It is not just a snapshot; it is the whole nine yards, Mr. Speaker. Again, in terms of policy, what is the government going to do in terms of policy to get people more physically active in the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

**HON. SANDY LEE:** I realize this is a longitudinal study over five years. I can tell the Member that I just talked to someone with Healthy Food North who is actively engaged. We have groups in the North, health care professionals, who are involved in communities who are talking to the people, doing a study actually as things happen, not five years ago, an academic study, but working with the communities to see what their eating patterns are, what their exercise patterns are and what they can do in their everyday life with the traditional food and things they can do around their communities that could help them. There is work being done. I think the Member could benefit from some of the profiles. I think I should provide that. I would like to really thank the Member for raising this issue, because we all understand that it is an important issue. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Member for the Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 300-16(3):  
COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS ON  
SAHTU HOUSING CONCERNS

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question for Minister McLeod, Minister responsible for the Housing Corporation. Mr. Speaker, in light of the recent announcement of the housing funding that is coming to the Northwest Territories, I wanted to ask the Minister in terms of future plans going ahead. Would his Crown corporation look at sitting down with the regional bodies in the Sahtu or any other region and look at how they can design and make use of these units that are coming into the Northwest Territories? Would the Minister be able to look at some future consultation with the Sahtu region?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Minister of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The new funding has not been decided upon, as we all know. The agreement has not been signed yet. We are anticipating that these new dollars will certainly assist us in the area of housing needs across the Territories. We would like to have something brought forward fairly quickly. I don't believe that is going to give us an opportunity to meet with all regional leaders. Certainly we don't have a budget to travel across the Territories and set those up. Our plan was to have our allocations based on some of the needs assessments that have been done, and have a discussion with Regular Members and my Cabinet colleagues and see if we can have everything in place for the new fiscal year as that is just around the corner. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, I say this in terms of the uniqueness and challenges in the Sahtu to construct houses. I am very happy. Yesterday the Minister had some positive exchanges with Mr. Menicoche in terms of the threshold communities like Colville Lake or Fort Good Hope. They need to come together and look at some of the challenges in terms of land and buildings, in terms of reading requirements to obtain a house here. That is why I asked the Minister if he would consider from his department to bring people together in the Sahtu and look at some of the unique challenges of constructing these homes here and see where people can actually build the houses that are empty right now in the Sahtu.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, right now our biggest challenges in the communities, especially in the area of public housing that has been raised in this House many times, is having our units brought up to a better standard, having our units a lot more energy efficient and to place a lot of these units so our targets or intentions are to focus on doing some of that work in the public housing area, and also to look at the programs we have so that we can deliver more opportunity for private houses in the communities. Those are the two areas that I have been really looking at for the last while. Along with that, of course, we are doing some evaluations, some tweaking on our programs in terms of changing our thresholds and looking at providing a better forgivable mortgage if that is possible. There are a lot of things that we need to do that I have raised in this House and that Members have brought to my attention. Those are the areas that we are focusing on. Thank you.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Mr. Speaker, the challenges that we have in our region is the short construction period by the time the materials get to our region. Again, in terms of going forward, if the people from the Sahtu could somehow sit down with the district office and list some of the concerns from the 2008 Auditor General's Report -- the inspection, the construction, the material -- this would be very beneficial to the corporation. Again, I would ask the Minister in his reviewing of this budget, would he be able to get the leaders and people from the Sahtu to sit down in the district office and say this is how we see things, housing in the Sahtu?

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Again, I don't know if there is going to be opportunity for me to do that. I am sure the Member has heard all the concerns from his leaders and his visits in his communities. He probably could package that up just as well and deliver it to us for consideration, Mr. Speaker. I would certainly be open to hearing anything that the community leaders want to bring to my attention.

I have heard from most of the community leaders over the last while. We have had opportunity to

have some discussions around housing with some of the aboriginal governments, the Beaufort-Delta. The visit gave us a chance to talk to the Gwich'in on some of the issues and also the Inuvialuit. We have had discussions with the Akaitcho people also, Mr. Speaker. I would be glad, if there are other aboriginal governments that want to provide input, we would certainly be open to have that discussion.

I don't think time is going to give us that opportunity between now and the time we need to have our houses on the ground, Mr. Speaker. We have two years to deliver \$104 million worth of projects. We need to be able to hit the ground running and have them on the ground over this two-year window that we have in front of us. We understand the direction is use it or lose it. So we want to be able to spend all the money. We want to be able to put them into where the projects across the Territories have the needs in the area of housing lessened. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. A final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly I will be sending over a housing package to the Minister in terms of the needs here. Again, Mr. Speaker, because of the uniqueness of the challenges in the Sahtu, hoping that over time here the Minister will be able to look at some of the unique challenges in the Sahtu. I think he needs to hear from the people in the communities who are actually right on the ground in terms of what challenges are faced here. Yesterday I received a call from an elder whose house was frozen up. They wouldn't give any service because he was in arrears. This is an old man in Deline that Housing had a hard time with. Again, it would be more beneficial for the Minister to have a regional meeting with the leaders.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. I don't think I heard a question there. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 301-16(3):  
STABLE FUNDING FOR DAYCARE  
OPERATIONS

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was listening very attentively to the questions raised by the Member for Weledeh. I certainly support the issue of trying to support our daycares in any way possible. The fact is the support that they need is certainly a very worthy effort that they do taking care of our youth as well as providing education. Mr. Speaker, when I was listening to this, it kind of made me think of the argument municipalities used or often the argument that the territorial government uses which is when they go to Ottawa and they talk about base plus. I am just wondering in the context

of providing stable funding that it is really important to help keep the lights on and the staff paid, has the Department of Education, Culture and Employment ever put a lot of work into developing a new formula based on base-plus funding for these types of agencies. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. The funding we do provide, the contribution agreements to the daycare centres are to cover the operation and maintenance costs and also the rental costs and the mortgage. Those are the expenses that we cover for ongoing daycare operations here in the Northwest Territories. We do continue to provide the funding and whether it be the capital or base plus, that is the area of discussion that we can certainly have.

As I stated earlier, wherever we can improve our program, we are always keeping our options open. We are always improving our programs. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I'm very pleased with that answer from the Minister that they're always looking for ways to improve their programming. I'm sure the Minister in some way will agree, in his own ministerial way, that is, that disruption in funding causes real problems. I'm sure in his own way, through Cabinet approval, he'd like to find new ways to ensure that financial disruption doesn't become a reality. The fact is, it is the reality that if a couple kids start missing for one reason or another, if they're out on the land with their parents or they're sick at home here in Yellowknife, those types of things, that creates financial disruption to that agency for trying to provide services. When the Minister says they're open to new ways, how serious is this Minister interested in taking a look at this base-plus formula and perhaps taking it to the Standing Committee on Social Programs and saying let's fund them a new way, let's create a stable market for these agencies so we can provide good education programs for our kids?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** This Minister is very serious on this particular matter. It's not only us that deals with the programming dollars. We deal with the federal government. We deal with our own internal FMB as well. They're doing cost analysis. We continue to work with that. As I stated earlier, we continue to improve our programming dollars. This is one area we are seriously looking at on how we can continually provide important services without any disruption. We will continue to have the dialogue.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Those are excellent answers from the Minister because I can really hear his desire to make sure that they're successful. Is there any philosophy based in the funding principles of these agencies that some of this money will be lost or lapsed, or is the program designed from the philosophy to make sure that they get as much money as possible that we put on the books for them?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Our goal is definitely to look out for the children at hand. We want them to succeed at life. Certainly throughout the North that's our goal, the primary goal; to look after those children and their well-being and so forth. Certainly this area that the Member is alluding to, we continue to have the discussion on again improving our program. On a going-forward basis, those are the discussions we will be having during the business planning process and having dialogue with the federal government and FMB on improving our programs.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I certainly hear the willingness of the Minister who wants to take charge of this issue and certainly solve some of the technical problems, which are stabilized funding. When can this side of the House, be it Social Programs or all Regular Members, see some work done on this issue that I've described as stabilizing the funding, perhaps through the method of a base-plus funding formula that would ensure that if an occasional student misses once in a while, it doesn't fully disrupt the funding of that agency and put them into a tailspin of havoc and unable to pay their staff and certainly keep their lights on? When can we expect some type of paperwork and some decision and leadership through the department? I know the Minister wants to do that. I'm just curious from this point of view.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** The Member can look at it as a technical problem, but I see some challenges there. Through challenges it creates opportunities to work with. Certainly we will be presenting to standing committee once we work out the logistics within our Department of ECE, because there is federal funding as well. We need to work with FMB as well. Once that has been developed, I am more than willing to commit to the standing committee to present to them.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 302-16(3):  
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR COMMUNITY  
LOGGING AND SAWMILL OPERATIONS

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Member's statement on sawmills, particularly Jean Marie River. Perhaps I'll ask the Minister of ITI, as he had the Western Harvesters Fund. Are there existing sawmills that are funded within his department right now or is there a specific program to fund sawmills?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoché. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to point out that the Western Harvesters Assistance Program was not intended for forestry operations; it was intended for people who live on the land.

There are no existing sawmills except for one in Hay River, mainly because of the difficulty in getting access to forest resources.

In terms of business programs, business programs are available to any business and it's all based on feasibility. I'm very pleased to point out that in conjunction with the Minister of ENR, there is Biomass Strategy funding that's available to the tune of \$5 million over three years.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Indeed, the community of Jean Marie River is very excited for the Biomass Initiative because that is something that they are pursuing as well. The community is also concerned about their existing sawmill operations because the sawmill operations are good. It produces the fuel, the need for biomass co-generation, et cetera. Can we look at stand-alone or project-specific dollars within ITI or maybe...I think the Minister is also leading the energy committee. Can we look at something that can take up the stimulus needed for the forestry industry?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** This is an area that government would really like to see developed. We would like to see pilot projects established, particularly in the area of wood pellets. But I think that my colleague the Minister of ENR, as members of the Ministerial Energy Coordinating Committee, we would certainly like to see that developed. As I said, part of our problem has been the difficulty in accessing forest resources. With our business programs and the Biomass Strategy funding, I'm sure that this is a good way to go forward.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Certainly everybody in the North and throughout the world is interested in following up on alternate energy supplies. I think the key industry for Jean Marie River is the forestry

industry. Is there a fund for a sustainable forest harvesting study that the Minister is aware of?

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Most of our funding in ITI is business related. We could assist with funding to establish a business plan or to do some market research along those lines.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Menicoché.

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Certainly I think Jean Marie River is eligible to access that type of funding. I think the key message here is that right now our government is not concentrating on the forestry industry. I know we have some business planning coming up. I'd like to ask the Minister and even government on the other side of the House to ensure that it's part of our strategy in the upcoming business planning cycle. It's a complementary strategy to our Biomass Strategy.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** As part of our planning, there's been some considerable research done into the Biomass Strategy and part of that is looking at what would entail having a feasible and sustainable industry. That information is available to all communities.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 303-16(3):  
STABLE FUNDING FOR  
DAYCARE OPERATIONS

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up as well on Mr. Bromley's questions and some of the questions asked by Mr. Hawkins relative to funding for daycares in the NWT. I'll go back. I spoke to this issue at least a year ago, I think. At that time, the Minister indicated that there was some possibility to look at different possibilities of funding for daycares. I'd like to ask the Minister now, and I apologize if it's already been answered, but what is the basis for the funding that daycares currently get? He mentioned that they're funded for O and M, that they're funded for staffing, et cetera, but on what is that based? Is it per child or is that a lump sum payment contribution?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. There are different pots of funding that we provide to daycare establishments, whether it be for profit or not-for-profit organization. I can certainly share that information with the Members on the criteria of the funding. I don't have that information

with me right now, but I can certainly provide the detailed information on the program, the criteria, the funding distribution to the organizations.

**MS. BISARO:** When I spoke to this issue last, I asked the Minister if there was a possibility to look at a different funding model. At that time I asked the Minister whether or not it was possible to look at a model similar to the way that we fund our schools, where schools are funded based on the population from the year previous. I'd like to ask the Minister, since I seem to remember at that time that he said they were going to look at that, whether or not any changes have been made to the way that daycares are funded in the last 12 or 13 months.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** I did highlight the additional funding that's included to provide for base rent and mortgage expenses. That's new programming dollars that we've offered to the daycare establishments. I would reiterate that we are continuing to work with FMB to work with NGOs in the communities because we need to continue working with them in this respect. The Member has talked about similar funding or contributions we provide to the schools based on enrolment. Those are the types of discussions that we're having currently with FMB. Although it's taken some time, we want to have a good model that we can certainly continue to live with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Short supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the answer from the Minister that they're looking at this. I guess it goes to the question which I think Mr. Hawkins asked, but I didn't really hear an answer. If the Minister is looking at alternative models, when might we be able to see some sort of proposal? If they've been working on these models since 13 months ago, is it going to take another 13 months before we get a proposal?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Certainly, as I stated, we are discussing this with various departments and within our own department and other departments as well, that we're expecting to see some results based that we can certainly share with the standing committee after session. Probably, we're hoping that before next session or springtime, or even at the earliest the summer, that we can certainly have a draft documentation saying that this is what we can probably pursue with and then share that with Members of the standing committee.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Final, short supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thanks to the Minister. Summer, I guess if that's what it is,

that's what it is. I wonder if the Minister could advise how much of a priority this change in funding model is for the department. I would appreciate an answer on that. I would also like to know, if it is a priority for the department, how many staff are working on this particular change to the funding for daycares.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** We do have dedicated staff within the department that we have specifically for early childhood. Dealing with the daycares, whether they meet the funding criteria that's based on, the contribution agreement, we need to relook at the whole mechanism for a number of past years and where we are today. How can we move forward on how we can improve in those areas? Certainly we don't want to see any disruption in the operation of a daycare establishment in the Northwest Territories. We will continue to discuss the various models that we can certainly deliver. We'll do that and provide that information to the standing committees on a going-forward basis.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The time for oral questions has expired. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.,

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 3, Members' statements.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** Item 3, Members' statements. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.

### Members' Statements (Reversion)

#### MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize an extraordinary constituent. In the past, she has received the Queen's Jubilee Commemorative Medal for her tireless work on breast cancer awareness and health. I am speaking about Ruby Trudel, who is still very active on community issues.

---Applause

In March 2008 she attended a homelessness forum where various representatives expressed their difficulty in keeping up with increased costs, including food, which were eroding their grant funding. In her desire to help, she focused on providing food for the needy. She, along with her husband, Laurin, approached several local

businesses for donations of food that were still edible but about to be thrown out for various reasons. Because of liability concerns, some of these businesses were hesitant to take part.

Her desire to help the homeless and the poor with donations of food led her to research on food wastage and how other jurisdictions were grappling with this issue. She pushed for legislation with the help of our colleague, Ms. Wendy Bisaro. This legislation, the Donation of Food Act, came into effect October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008, and the Food Rescue Program was created. There was an explosion of donations from businesses. Food Rescue is a group of volunteers who retrieve food products from warehouses and stores that is considered unsalable by the commercial establishment. Product may be past its best before date or be in a condition that needs refreshing.

In its first 117 days of operation, Food Rescue received 26,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables. The recovery rate has been over 86 percent, meaning that more than 22,000 pounds of perfectly edible fruits and vegetables have been donated to some 15 organizations and saved from the landfill. This is an astounding success and the results are amazing.

In addition, Food Rescue also received more than 4,400 litres of dairy product, 1,000 litres of juice, and 2,300 pounds of meat. The Trudels, along with Grant Pryznyk, Werner and Michelle Klinger, Margaret Henderson, Lorne Schollar, Carol Givson, Toon Pronk spend a lot of their time collecting, sorting, cleaning, and chopping donated food. Chopped food made into applesauce and a number of other creative solutions are donated to shelters, drop-in centres, the Food Bank, and struggling persons identified through word of mouth.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** The benefits of Food Rescue are many. Besides saving the landfill from tonnes of waste, the vegetable trimmings are being composted and cardboard is recycled. Beneficiaries include the Salvation Army, Centre for Northern Families, YWCA Rockhill Apartments and the Alison McAteer House, Yellowknife Food Bank, the SideDoor, the John Howard Society, and the Weledeh School Lunch Program.

Food Rescue not only addresses food access issues of the homeless and the disadvantaged, but also addresses environmental issues by making the maximum use of food products shipped to the North.

This program is being run out of the Trudel home as they have yet to find a suitable location. The Food Rescue Program is an innovative solution that helps the homeless and those in need, and a testament to these volunteers' continued dedication and commitment.

Please help me to congratulate Ms. Trudel and the Food Rescue Program volunteers on their success. This is a clear demonstration of how one person can make a difference.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to go back to Item 7.

---Unanimous consent granted

**MR. SPEAKER:** Return to item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

### Oral Questions (Reversion)

#### QUESTION 304-16(3): PUBLIC TENDER AND MARKET DISRUPTIONS PROCEDURES

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister of infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, a constituent of mine from Aklavik who runs a plumbing and gas fitting business is having a tough time sustaining his business in Aklavik because of competition from Inuvik by way of contracts. Mr. Speaker, I received an e-mail from this individual this morning, which basically is a tender for the community of Aklavik is being put out in regards to a gas fitting service in Aklavik, with no consideration for local businesses that can basically provide the service and not have competition come from outside the community.

Mr. Speaker, this government has a Market Disruption Policy which calls on not disrupting businesses in communities by putting tenders out from other communities. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Public Works and Services exactly why is it that your department continues to put out tenders in communities without considering the local entrepreneurs or businesses that are already established there?

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



**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would have to see the situation that the Member is raising. Is it an as and when tender? Is it an infrastructure tender? I am not familiar with the issue he is raising. We have an MOU that we are obligated to follow and our department is also involved in that. I would have to see more information, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, if the government was following the MOU, the contractor would have had an opportunity to see what tenders are available and have an opportunity to either consider negotiating contract, sole-source contracting or as and when services. I would like to ask the Minister, why is it that you are not using contractors who are established businessmen in our communities by way of as and when contracts than simply having people walk into your office in Inuvik?

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the government has an MOU with the Gwich'in and the MOU process clearly outlines some of the requirements. Our contracts and tenders are to be viewed and supplied to the Gwich'in government. That in return is supplied to all their different contractors. Mr. Speaker, if there is no tender request for negotiations, then the contract is tendered publicly, and in this case I am assuming that is the situation. I am not familiar with the actual document he is talking about. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, as we heard here in the House yesterday, the Premier clearly stated that the information for the existing contracts this government has out there has not even been sent to the Gwich'in or to the local business community so they can see what contracts are available. Mr. Speaker, we have a policy in the government by way of a Market Disruption Policy so that if the government is giving out any contracts that have an effect on a community, is that taken into consideration when contracts are being given by way of the cost to maintain a business in the small communities? If anything, we should be supporting these businesses to remain in these communities rather than competing against them and running them out of our communities.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, the responsibility for the MOU oversight falls under ITI. I am sure I could raise that for the Member if he requires. The budgets were passed in the fall, Mr. Speaker, for the capital. The budget for O and M has just been recently approved by this House. Mr. Speaker, the Member has requested from the Premier as to the status of the report that is required as part of the MOU. I believe that has been responded to by the Premier and he has indicated that it has been sent to the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Mr. Speaker, provision of the projects is a different process. I don't believe that is part of the project report that is being delivered. Mr. Speaker, I certainly can find out in greater detail if the Member is asking me to do that. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister can also assist me by way of the community businesses and also finding ways of why they are not being considered when it comes to tenders, which could be either sole sourced or basically as and when tenders, where these businesses are already existing. You don't need somebody driving from Inuvik or flying from Inuvik to provide a plumbing job where you have a plumber in the community. Why is it that you are not considering local tenders? If you are not doing that, I would like to ask the Minister, can he talk to the people in the Inuvik office? Why are they not considering local contractors for those tenders to be given out locally in those communities for those tenders who are going to be providing that service?

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I am not sure the Member is making the assumption that we don't support local contractors. We provide a lot of contracts to companies that indicate their interest. Failing any indication that we have come to our attention, those contracts are put to public tender. We have a process. It has been signed off. There has been extension to a Memorandum of Understanding. The information goes to the tribal council and that is dispersed. If there is somebody that has slipped through the cracks, I would be glad to hear about it. But I have not heard of the company that he is talking about that has requested negotiating contract and didn't get it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 305-16(3):  
ELIGIBILITY UNDER THE  
BUSINESS INCENTIVE POLICY

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The BIP policy, as many of us well know, was established to help grow, foster, develop northern business and development. I think, in many cases, it has worked quite successfully to demonstrate that there is a real genuine interest in developing the northern economy and establishing southern businesses here in the North. Mr. Speaker, sometimes, though, when a company is listed under the BIP policy, they get sold and basically all that is left is the storefront and the actual business that does the work vacates the Northwest Territories but they keep their

storefront name just for the context of staying involved under the BIP policy. Mr. Speaker, I see that as wrong. It was brought forward by a constituent of mine that believes it is wrong. My question to the Minister who would be in charge of this would be our Honourable Bob McLeod for ITI. What type of demonstrated measures does his department do and investigate to make sure that when a company qualifies for BIP, they actually are a northern business doing northern business? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We actually have people right on the ground that can go and investigate the business to make sure that there are products that are being sold, that they are sold here from an establishment in the Northwest Territories. As well, we do a check on the individual's involvement in the business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, to avoid naming the specific company, the Minister knows the one I am referring to, because I actually brought it to his attention a couple of months ago. The fact is that the storefront exists but it was in the context of a manufacturing business that could be described as...Once the business was sold, the business moved all of its manufacturing to Edmonton to the company that does it. So they just filtered through the Yellowknife office. Mr. Speaker, by the definition of this Minister for ITI, in his view, would this still qualify as a northern business although it is sold to a southern company and the only thing they really keep is just the storefront and the phone number in the phone book? Does that still qualify under this Minister's definition? Thank you.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** I would like to point out to the Member, as he knows, that we are undertaking a review of the Business Incentive Policy and certainly that is a perfect opportunity to address these kinds of concerns. We also have a Senior Management Preference Policy that is set up specifically to look at these kinds of issues. The whole premise behind the Business Incentive Policy is to benefit northern businesses. If there are no benefits to the North, then it would be of concern. I don't have all of the specifics of the business that the Member is referring to. I think it is a rule of thumb that there would have to be benefits to the North and it would have to be based here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Mr. Speaker, I think the answer there is the willingness to look at this issue. I want to get assurance from this Minister, because my constituent has brought this issue forward to me

and wants to continue to make investment in the North. You don't have to go too far to see their investment; it's quite significant. The investment by this company that I'm referring to, I'd be more than pleased to refresh the name to the Minister after this question period. The fact is, they don't represent northern business anymore; their name, maybe. Would the Minister be willing to reinvestigate this business I'm referring to, to make sure they stand up to the standards of the BIP policy, that they are providing benefits to the North, and be prepared to perhaps disqualify them for using their BIP name when they're not really a northern company doing northern business? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When we investigate these types of complaints or businesses, we use spirit and intent. The whole spirit and intent of the Business Incentive Policy is to provide for northern preference. Certainly we would investigate and our normal practice is if they don't meet the criteria, then they wouldn't be eligible. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

**MR. HAWKINS:** Is the Minister willing to, if I was to refresh the Minister with that name here later today...refresh his memory, that is; I said refresh the Minister...

---Laughter

...I'll leave that up to his own discretion. Mr. Speaker, if I remind the Minister later of this name, would he be willing to send someone down tomorrow morning to make sure that this business that I would describe as a mock northern business, to make sure that they, sort of, get the treatment that they deserve when we have true northern businesses wanting to make further investment but they don't believe that there's a true level playing field provided here and they just want to make sure ITI is providing that true, fair playing field? Would the Minister be willing to do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**HON. BOB MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would be pleased to investigate it. The BIP policy does provide for non-resident-owned businesses that qualify for the Business Incentive Policy. If the Member would refresh my memory, I would check it out. However, the last business that we checked out indicated that that business was BIP-able. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 306-16(3):  
CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE WORKERS' SAFETY  
AND COMPENSATION COMMISSION

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is directed to the Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Board. As we all know, the term of the present chair of the Workers' Compensation Board is coming to a close. I'd like to ask the Minister, when are you going to be advertising for the replacement of the existing chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Robert McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is very well aware that the chair's chairmanship is coming up in April. We are putting an ad out in the paper and it should be coming out very shortly seeking nominations for the chair. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, as we all know, this is a joint appointment. I believe the last time it was advertised in the papers here. Would it also be advertised in the Nunavut papers? Also, would interested groups be able to take part by way of aboriginal organizations being notified about this appointment?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we have had discussions with the new Minister, my counterpart in Nunavut, and it was agreed to that we would put an ad out and seek nominations. Anyone interested would just follow the nomination process. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Mr. Speaker, are there any board appointments coming up here in this short while and are those going to be advertised in the papers?

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, we have our board, I think the earliest one is going to be a year from now. I would be able to provide the list to the Members so they can see exactly which board appointments are going to be up. The earliest one, I believe, would be about a year from now. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

## Written Questions

WRITTEN QUESTION 5-16(3):  
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AT  
NORTH SLAVE CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My question is for the Minister of Justice.

1. Would the Minister provide historic data on number of inmates on remand at North Slave Correctional Centre by month for the past five years, with the length of stay for each of those inmates on remand?
2. Why is there no day-to-day mental health services at North Slave Correctional Centre?
3. What happened to the other clinical psychologists that were employed at North Slave Correctional Centre?

Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Item 9, returns to written questions. Item 10, replies to opening address. Item 11, petitions. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

## Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 25-16(3):  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION NO. 1  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES) 2009-2010

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Minister responsible for the Status of Women, Ms. Lee.

TABLED DOCUMENT 26-16(3):  
STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL OF THE NWT  
ANNUAL REPORT 2007-2008

**HON. SANDY LEE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Status of Women Council of the NWT Annual Report 2007-2008. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Lee. The honourable Minister responsible for the Workers'

Safety and Compensation Commission, Mr. Robert McLeod.

TABLED DOCUMENT 27-16(3):  
WORKERS' SAFETY AND COMPENSATION  
COMMISSION 2009-2011 CORPORATE PLAN

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission 2009-2011 Corporate Plan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

TABLED DOCUMENT 28-16(3):  
YELLOWKNIVES DENE COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
REGARDING GNWT RENT SUBSIDY  
PROGRAMME - REVERTING INCOME  
ASSESSMENTS TO YELLOWKNIVES DENE  
FIRST NATION HOUSING DIVISION

**MR. BROMLEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a Yellowknives Dene Council resolution dated March 9, 2009, entitled GNWT ECE Rent Subsidy Programme - Reverting Income Assessment for the Yellowknives Dene First Nation Housing Division. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

### Notices of Motion

MOTION 17-16(3):  
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE  
TO MAY 27, 2009

**MS. BISARO:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 12, 2009, I will move the following motion: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on March 12, 2009, it shall be adjourned until Wednesday, May 27, 2009.

And further, that any time prior to May 27, 2009, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MOTION 18-16(3):  
REMOVAL OF GST FOR CERTAIN GOODS  
AND SERVICES NORTH OF 60

**MR. HAWKINS:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 12, 2009, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Kam Lake, that this Assembly signify its commitment to work with the governments of Nunavut and the Yukon Territory in lobbying the federal government to remove the GST from the cost of home heating fuel, electricity and the cost of transporting goods to and within the Northwest Territories;

And further, that a copy of this motion be provided to the federal Minister of Finance, Members of Parliament of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and the Yukon; and the governments of Nunavut and the Yukon Territory.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MOTION 19-16(3):  
PRESENTATION OF FINAL REPORT  
ON THE REVIEW OF THE  
OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT

**MR. MENICOCHÉ:** Mr. Speaker, I give notice that on Thursday, March 12, 2009, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, that notwithstanding Motion 1-16(2), the Standing Committee on Government Operations shall table a final report on its review of the Official Languages Act during the May/June 2009 sitting of the Legislative Assembly;

And further, that the Standing Committee on Government Operations be authorized to share its findings and recommendations with language groups and affected stakeholders in advance of their presentation in this House, in the interest of public accountability and transparency.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MOTION 20-16(3):  
APPOINTMENT OF LANGUAGES  
COMMISSIONER

**MR. JACOBSON:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Thursday, March 12, 2009, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that pursuant to Section 15 of the Official Languages Act of the Northwest Territories, Sarah Jerome of Inuvik be appointed as the Languages Commissioner;

And further, that the appointment be effective May 11, 2009.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Jacobson. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty

### First Reading of Bills

BILL 15:  
MISCELLANEOUS STATUTE LAW  
AMENDMENT ACT, 2009

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009, be read for the first time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 15 has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister of Justice, Mr. Lafferty.

### Second Reading of Bills

BILL 12:  
SECURITIES TRANSFER ACT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill enacts a uniform Securities Transfer Act to govern the transfer and holdings of securities and the interests in securities consistent with legislation currently enacted or being enacted in all provinces and territories. The bill provides for consequential amendments to the Business

Corporation Act, Personal Property Security Act and Seizures Act. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Bill 12, Securities Transfer Act, has had second reading and will be referred to a standing committee.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Mr. Robert McLeod.

BILL 13:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
COMMISSIONER'S LAND ACT

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill includes amendments that would provide the Residential Tenancy Act does not apply to Commissioner's land under a lease authorized under the Commissioner's Land Act, designate the Minister or a person authorized by the Minister as the person responsible for initiating court proceedings regarding wrongful or unlawful use, possession or occupation of Commissioner's land, limit the liability of the Commissioner as an occupier of Commissioner's land, include a regulation-making power respecting the posting of security when Commissioner's land is leased for a commercial or industrial use and make other minor amendments. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 13, An Act to Amend the Commissioner's Land Act, has had second reading and is, therefore, referred to a standing committee.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

BILL 14:  
AN ACT TO AMEND THE  
MOTOR VEHICLES ACT

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill amends the Motor Vehicles Act. A new short-term permit is created and an application for a driver's licence may now be made based on a licence that has been expired for up to two years. Nurses are required to report medically unfit drivers in the same manner as is required of a

medical practitioner. A person is prohibited from operating a vehicle with obscure or damaged lights or reflective devices and drivers are required to reduce their speed when close to emergency vehicles with flashing lights. The registrar's duties are clarified with respect to sharing disclosure use and protection of records and personal information. Access to accident reports are enhanced for persons involved in accidents and drivers and employers are held liable for intervention in operation of commercial vehicles. The authority for a demerit point system is expanded as is the Commissioner's authority to enact regulations for repair, maintenance and inspection of vehicles. Reference to jurisdiction is given greater precision and other minor improvements are made throughout the act. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 14, An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act, has had second reading and will be referred to a standing committee.

---Carried

Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy; Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act; Bill 9, Northern Employees Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act; Tabled Document 25-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009-2010, with Mr. Bromley in the chair.

### Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole together. We have before us Tabled Document 7-16(3), Bill 5, Bill 9 and Tabled Document 25-16(3). What is the wish of committee? Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Committee wishes to proceed with Tabled Document 25-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009-2010, and then Bills 5 and 9, if there's time, in that order. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Very good. Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. We'll be starting with Tabled Document 25-16(3) after a short break.

---SHORT RECESS

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. The committee has agreed that we will deal first with Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009-2010. I'd like to ask, first, if the Minister has opening comments. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

I am pleased to present Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009-2010. This document outlines a reduction of \$300,000 for operations expenditures and additional appropriations of \$8.5 million for capital investment expenditures in the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

The items for capital investment expenditures include:

1. \$2.5 million for the costs associated with the installation of wood pellet heating systems in GNWT facilities;
2. \$6 million to advance construction of the all-weather access road from Tuktoyaktuk to Gravel Source 177, a Building Canada Plan project.

Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to review the details of the supplementary appropriation document.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses into the Chamber?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

I'd like to ask the Minister to introduce his witnesses.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have with me Margaret Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance, and Sandy Kalgutkar, deputy secretary to the FMB. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. General comments. Mr. Ramsay, did you have general comments?

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just wait until we get to the detail and ask the question on that page. Thanks.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Does the committee agree that we go to detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** We'll start on page 5, Education, Culture and Employment, operations expenditures, education and culture, not previously authorized, negative \$300,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Total department, negative \$300,000.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Page 6, Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$2.5 million. Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I guess at the onset I'm very happy to see the government looking at biomass and the installation of wood pellet heating systems in GNWT facilities in both Hay River and Fort Smith and in other communities around the Northwest Territories. Just a couple of questions, though. I don't know if the Minister has the answers for me today, but it takes a certain kind of distribution system, storage, you need a truck to deliver the wood pellets on a bigger scale like this. You can't just buy bags of pellets at the hardware store and expect somebody to throw them in the hopper. I mean, it's going to take some infrastructure on the ground. Is there a distribution system in both Hay River and Fort Smith? Is there a company in both of those communities that could look after the distribution of the wood pellets? Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. The Member is correct; for volumes of this nature we'd be looking at moving to a truck. There are suppliers in both communities, and once, if this money is approved, part of the planning is going to be for the suppliers to be prepared to upgrade their delivery capacity. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank the Minister for that. For the procurement of those services, is it just going to be how we procure other services or is it going to go out to tender or is there only one in each community? I'm thinking it may be a business opportunity for people in both those communities to get into business. I'd like to see a

competitive type of process take place. I'm just wondering if that will happen.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I anticipate that there would be a public process given that they're both larger communities with potentially more than one supplier.

**MR. RAMSAY:** That's good. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It's in regard to these type of projects I think that we have to seriously start implementing these type of projects in high cost communities. No offence to Fort Smith; we've made a major capital investment last year in regard to electric heat, putting electric heat in a bunch of public facilities and a lot of infrastructure dollars went into that, and also into the heating systems we see here in Yellowknife, now Hay River, Fort Smith. But I think we have to do something in regard to the high cost communities in the northern part. I mean, the northern part, north of the Arctic Circle. I think it's important that we start seriously looking at implementing those type of projects. I'd like to ask the Minister when we can see these type of projects, either residual heat or improving our heat systems, in the northern part of the Northwest Territories where there are high costs to maintain public infrastructure in that part of the Northwest Territories.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Projects planned for 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 are going to be on the reserve. We're looking at Fort Simpson, Aklavik, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Buffalo River, Enterprise, Deline, Fort Providence, Lutselk'e, Tuk, Norman Wells, Fort Good Hope, Whati, and Jean Marie River. There will be more communities added as the detailed energy audits and plans are completed.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I noted the Minister mentioned Aklavik, but I'm not too sure what type of project you're talking about. You were talking wood pellets. It's going to be very expensive not only to get it in there, but to store it and have the...because it's an isolated community in which you have to take into account large storage facilities. Maybe you can elaborate on that.

One thing we also have to keep in mind is out of the energy plans that were done by communities, there are only three communities that have done their energy plans. The majority of those are large communities. There are 30 communities out there

that still have not even gotten around to developing their energy plans. I think in order to access a lot of these capital projects, you have to have that concluded. I'd like to ask the Minister what efforts are being made to ensure that the work is being done in communities so that they're able to develop these energy plans to find ways to reduce the high cost of energy use in a lot of our communities and also reduce our consumption of fossil fuels in those high cost communities.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** There are over the next two years, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011, \$450,000 in this particular Alternative Energy Fund to work with communities to complete their community energy plans so that we'll have a clearer idea of the projects that may make the most sense and fit in with the priorities, including Aklavik.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Maybe the Minister can elaborate on the Aklavik project, since you mentioned it. What project is it?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I'm not in a position to give many specifics other than we want to work with every community to look at the type of alternate energy project that makes the most sense. If it's biomass, if it's wind, those are things that have yet to be determined.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Again, I'd like to ask the Minister, in regard to reducing the high cost of fossil fuels, that there are motions coming forward by way of trying to get us off certain types of fuels. And for myself I think that in a lot of our diesel communities where we have a high dependency on diesel fuel, it's finding ways to break that dependency. I know for a fact that we have a residual heat system in Fort McPherson and the government has done everything in its power to not use that system. It's already in place, it's there, but there are no real plans to expand this project to other community facilities or to look at ways of doing that in other communities. I think in regard to Aklavik they have to replace the existing shop facility for the Housing Corporation or the local housing authority, which is right next to the new power plant. I'm wondering if that can be considered as something going forward for residual heat in that housing shop, which is right next to the brand new power plant that was put in place in Aklavik last year.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** There are plans to work with communities that are appropriate for residual heat. I know Fort McPherson -- the Member has raised the issue -- is one of the communities that there is an interest in commitment to looking at making sure the residual heat not only is working, but if there is a possibility for expansion to other buildings, we want to look at that as well. We want to leave no energy saving stone unturned

here in our quest to get off fossil fuels or to be as efficient as we can.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Last question. In regard to this project coming forward by way of a supp, why was it not built into the capital planning process you're talking about developing the Energy Plan, looking at the different plans that have been put in place by the government so you actually have a plan of how we're going to lay out this infrastructure and not just pick out a couple projects at a time? I still feel this government has to make more investment in the northern part of the Territories. All the projects to date have been south of Yellowknife, around Yellowknife and Hay River and Fort Smith. I'd just like to know what this government is doing to ensure these are part and parcel of the overall capital planning process. It doesn't have to come through by way of a supp. I'd just like to know what we are doing to ensure that these projects are part of the budgetary process that we follow and not have to come forward by way of a supp, which again is not previously authorized. It should have been planned out through the capital planning process.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** In the normal course of events that is what the plan will be. But if the Member will recollect, when we came forward to brief committee in September it was basically in the concept stage that we thought that we could reorder the capital planning process, identify \$20 million a year over three years with a proposed list of projects. The commitment was that while it was coming in after or at the same time as the capital planning process was being approved and we hadn't had a chance to look at this collectively that we would, for the first go around, come back during this particular budgeting process to finalize the detail on some of the projects, which is what we've done. From here on in it should be built into the regular planning process.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I lied. It's not my last question. You mentioned that it's going to be coming forward by way of the capital planning process. Like I say, there's been a lot of capital infrastructure, especially in Fort Smith where I mentioned the electric heat. I believe there's also a project at the college. I'd like to know, can you give us a breakdown of exactly how much of these type of dollars by way of unique projects like electric heat, wood pellets are in place and where those capital expenditures are being spent to date and why is it all focused in the south of the Northwest Territories?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Out of that \$20 million a year, this is \$2.5 million. We have about \$6.9 million that looks at a whole host of other projects. For the first year, Lutselk'e, Whati hydro, that Fort Providence transmission line, Bear



River feasibility, natural gas conversion feasibility, the Hydro Strategy, in-stream hydro projects, we're looking for some money for the electricity review. We have another \$3.8 million for different biomass and wind energy in the Beaufort-Delta. We've tried to be as comprehensive as possible. As well, we have the \$3 million a year for the commercial power subsidy for the small communities. I recognize the Member's concern, but I just want to make sure that everybody is aware that there are a broad range of areas that we're trying to address.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. We are on page 6, Public Works and Services, capital investment expenditures, asset management, not previously authorized, \$2.5 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Total department, \$2.5 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Finally, page 7, Transportation, capital investment expenditures, highways, not previously authorized, \$6 million. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, this project is a community access road project. There was also a motion passed in the House regarding the Aklavik access road to their gravel source. I'd like to ask the Minister if there is going to be any capital dollars available for that project to go forward in the next fiscal year.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I understand there is planning work underway, but possibly I'd ask Minister Michael McLeod if he wanted to just speak to that project on the Aklavik project, what's happening with the gravel source in Aklavik.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd have to ask the Member to repeat the question. I apologize.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Michael McLeod. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As I mentioned, there was a motion passed in this House supporting both the Tuk access road project and the Aklavik access road project. I'd like to know if there are any capital dollars allocated in next year's budget for the Aklavik access road.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I don't have that information with me to be able to say with any certainty.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I thought that question was going to get referred to the Minister of Transportation, who seemed to know where the capital dollars are coming from.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** The way this new process is unfolding with capitals, at least the first go around, as Finance Minister I was at the table addressing issues. I know there is work underway in terms of a study. There were some dollars identified under the Build Canada money. I don't know the results of that work and I don't know at this point what's being brought forward.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Anything further, Mr. Krutko?

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The point I'm trying to make is we have supported two capital projects in this House, yet one's going ahead and the other one they're doing a study right now. After the study is done there is going to be capital dollars needed to do the project. I'd like to know if there are any plans regarding our business planning process where there will be an opportunity for capital dollars to be approved either through a supp or the basic capital planning process for the Aklavik access road.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** I believe at this point the Minister responsible for Public Works and Transportation can provide some more detail.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. Mr. Michael McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The source 177 gravel access road project has been on the drawing board for some time. For many years it has been discussed in the House with many different MLAs. A lot of planning has been undertaken to develop this project that would allow us to source gravel from this site. That was taken forward for consideration through the Building Canada. We are now looking for dollars to move forward. Rather than doing this over a five-year program, we're now looking at doing it over a couple years. The Aklavik gravel source study or gravel source project is really early in its assessment. There are a number of routes that were brought forward for discussion. There is consideration about doing an assessment on the actual gravel and the amount in that area. It's not

ready for consideration for capital at this point. We have not started putting our capital budget together for next year, so it's difficult to say whether it will be included. It's really depending on the amount of capital dollars available and the results that are going to be accessed and looked at with the work that's being done.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** This project's been on the books as long as I've been here. We've been spending dollars over there on the community access road funding of \$250,000 a year. I think we have two kilometres of road built. It's not as if this is something that this government isn't aware of. You can go all the way back to, I think, former Members of this House with regard to Richard Nerysoo. He brought that issue up to this House going back before the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly. For the Minister to make the comment that it hasn't really been a priority of this House or an issue of this House, what does it take to get a project on the government's wish list in order to go forward with this stuff? I'd just like to get some assurances here that this project will actually get the support like this project here that we're dealing with right now on the same basis of actually having governments put capital dollars in it. We've built community access roads from the Mackenzie Highway into communities using the Community Access Road Project, which has basically cost us millions of dollars a year. Yet for this project, it's been nickel and dime to where it is right now. I'd like to know exactly what this government is going to do to give me some assurance that the people of Aklavik will actually see some fair treatment in this House when it comes to these types of projects.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Mr. Krutko, I'd like to remind you that we need to stay on topic here. This is straying quite a ways from this topic. We're looking for approval for fairly specific dollars here. There is another floor for that. I'll give the Minister an opportunity to respond. Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This issue has been given serious consideration, as Mr. McLeod indicated. There is work being done. There is determination of the most appropriate routes, assessment of the gravel source, the quality of the gravel, all those technical issues that have to be resolved. This is on our list and it is being given due and appropriate, serious consideration and as the work is completed, we'll collectively be in a position to be able to determine the next steps that are possible within the resources available.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Krutko, anything further to access road 177, \$6 million?

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. In regard to an all-weather access road, basically it's a capital project of this government to gravel sources. Every community should have access to their gravel sources. I'd like to point out that in regard to the \$6 million here, why is it that communities who are trying to get dollars to get to their access for gravel are having such a tough time, yet we're able to approve this budget here? How many communities are out there that have built roads to their gravel sources and used other capital projects, regardless of if it's a community access road project or in regard to this project which is identified as an all-weather access road to the gravel sources? I ask the question, why is there no consideration for capital dollars knowing that there is actually a study in place now that will need capital dollars to implement the road from Aklavik to its gravel source, which is 20 kilometres? That should be a straightforward answer, which basically you're going to build a road for 20 kilometres, you're going to have to do some preliminary work. Exactly how much money is this government willing to put forward? Do we have to be on that side of the House to get whatever you want?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I'll allow this final response on this to the Minister.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There is work being done on this project. We have to come forward when we have the facts, figures and clear estimates. It is very difficult to book a figure on a project that has not been quantified or technically fully assessed. We also collectively know that we have far more needs than we have resources. Aklavik road is there. Work is being done. The commitment has been made. We fully intend to honour the commitment and conclude the work so that we can move this project forward. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Committee, we are on highways, not previously authorized, \$6 million. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Does the Minister have a final cost of exactly what this project is going to cost?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, we do. I would ask Minister McLeod to give you the full detail of the estimates. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Minister McLeod.

**HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am assuming we are talking about service 177 still. The final cost we are anticipating is going to be around \$18 million for this project.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Michael McLeod. Anything further, Mr. Krutko?

**MR. KRUTKO:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. If we are talking about access road 177 which I believe is 20-odd kilometres, same as the road to Aklavik's gravel source -- I think it was 22 kilometres -- can we use a rough ball estimate for these access roads? Are we talking \$1 million a kilometre? If that is the case, could that be the basis of building a road from Aklavik to the gravel source in regards to the gravel source based on that estimate of \$18 million for 20 kilometres?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, the Member is asking me as a Finance Minister if I were to agree the rough estimate would be the figures he has quoted. I have no reason to disagree with that rough estimate, but there is still the planning and technical work to be concluded, but yes. We know how much the Tuk road is costing. We know what the construction costs are and that in the region that we have a ballpark idea of the amount of money we are talking about. Yes, it will be an expensive road. Thank you.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I just want to get some assurances that you are talking \$1 million a kilometre. I believe using that estimate, that road from Aklavik to its gravel source shouldn't be any different than the road from Tuk to site 177 based on \$1 million a kilometre. I think that makes economic sense. That is what it is going to cost. I don't know why Aklavik can't be considered for \$20 million in regards to its gravel source and put that on your books and basically develop it into your business plan.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. I didn't detect a question there. Committee, once again, highways, not previously authorized, \$6 million. Mr. Krutko.

**MR. KRUTKO:** I will try to rephrase my question. My question was, can the government consider putting into its business plan an estimate for gravel road source to 177 costs about \$1 million a kilometre where to Nahanni Butte we are spending \$500,000 a year to build that road to that community? I would like to know exactly using that ball park number, would the government consider putting forward in its business plans that it is going

to cost \$1 million a kilometre to build roads to gravel sources in our communities?

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Again, a final response on this topic, Minister Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Minister McLeod indicated, the work on the capital plan for 2010-11 is in progress. We will be looking at the progress of the work that Minister McLeod indicated is being done and where it will fit in terms of the planning process. It will be given full consideration within that process that is underway. We will soon be picking up speed. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Once again, committee, highways, \$6 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Total department, not previously authorized, \$6 million.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Does the committee agree that completes Supplementary Appropriation No. 1, (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009-2010? Mr. Abernethy.

COMMITTEE MOTION 15-16(3):  
CONCURRENCE OF TD 25(16(3),  
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION NO. 1  
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES) 2009-2010  
CARRIED

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that consideration of Tabled Document 25-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009-2010 now be concluded and that Tabled Document 25-16(3) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in a formal session through the form of an appropriation bill. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is on the floor and is being distributed now. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Question has been called.

---Carried

That completes consideration of Supplementary Appropriation No. 1. The Minister may excuse his witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the

witnesses from the Chamber. Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that we will now move on to consideration of Bill 5?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. Does the Minister have opening remarks?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to speak to you about Bill 5, the Professional Corporations Act.

This bill would allow self-employed members of regulated professions to incorporate where they are not now permitted to do so; provided that the member's professional responsibilities are not affected.

Lawyers, accountants and most health professionals may not currently incorporate, as the limited liability of an ordinary business corporation is inconsistent with their professional responsibilities. While members of these professions accept that liability for professional errors or misconduct should not be diminished, the ability to incorporate can provide tax advantages for individuals in business that are not currently available to members of these professions.

Mr. Chairman, in order to remove this disadvantage, this bill allows for the creation and recognition of a different type of corporation, a professional corporation. Such a corporation should be treated the same as all other corporations, including for tax purposes, except that its voting members must be members of a designated profession and it would not have the limited liability that other corporations have.

This legislation was requested by the legal, accounting and medical professions. The development of the bill has been a joint effort. Justice staff worked closely with officials from the Department of Finance, responsible for legislation in respect of the accounting professions and the Department of Health and Social Services, in respect of the health professions. The bill was completed after consultation with the professions that might be affected.

This bill supports the principle of fairness in the taxation system, creating the same choices for professionals as for other businesses in the Northwest Territories and the same choices professionals would have if they resided and practiced in most other Canadian jurisdictions. Attracting and retaining professionals is currently a challenge in the NWT and the absence of legislation to permit them to operate within a professional corporation may be one factor.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its review of Bill 5 and members of the various professions for their input into the development of this bill. I would be happy to answer any questions that Members may have. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you very much, Minister Lafferty. I would now like to ask the chairperson of the Standing Committee on Social Programs which reviewed this bill to make comments. Mr. Beaulieu.

**MR. BEAULIEU:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act, on January 16, 2009. The committee thanks the witnesses, Ms. Linda Whitford of the NWT Law Society and Mr. Robert O'Rourke, for their participation. The committee also thanks the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

Mr. Chairman, the bill allows members of certain professions to incorporate. In addition, the governing bodies of these professions are enabled to create bylaws or rules regarding the professional corporations. Members of a profession who are shareholders in or employees of a professional corporation are subject to the same professional and ethical responsibilities as other members of the profession in respect to their dealings with their clients and their governing bodies.

Mr. Chairman, non-substantive amendments have been made to the bill by committee motion and with the concurrence of the Minister. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act, to the Assembly as ready for Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted. This concludes committee's opening comments on Bill 5. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. I would now like to ask the Minister responsible for the bill if he would like to bring witnesses into the House.

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. I will now ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Would the Minister please introduce his witnesses?

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. To my left I have Mark Aitken, director of legislation, and Gary McDougall, director of legal registries. Mahsi, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. I will now open the floor to general comments on Bill 5. Does the committee agree that we will move to detail, clause by clause?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act, we will start with Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 18 inclusive approved

Thank you, committee. To the bill as a whole.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Does the committee agree that Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act, is now ready for third reading?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, committee. Bill 5 is now deemed ready for third reading.

---Bill 5 as a whole approved for third reading

Thank you, Minister and your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses from the Chamber. Thank you.

Committee, we have agreed to consider Bill 9, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act. I will ask Minister Miltenberger, responsible for Bill 9, to introduce the bill.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to present Bill 9, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act.

The purpose of Northern Employee Benefits Services, or NEBS, is to administer the pension and group benefits of participating employers residing in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

This bill provides protection from creditors for the pension entitlements of Northwest Territories members of the NEBS Pension Plan and restricts the ability of members to pledge as security their pension entitlements under the plan.

Mr. Chairman, that concludes my opening remarks. Thank you.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister Miltenberger. Would the Minister like to bring witnesses into the House?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Yes, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. Does the committee agree?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Sergeant-at-Arms, will you please escort the witnesses into the House.

Minister Miltenberger, could introduce your witnesses?

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have with me Margaret Melhorn, deputy minister of Finance, Mr. Rob Taggart, director of policy and planning, and Mr. Ian Rennie, legislative council. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Minister. I will now open the floor to general comments on Bill 9. Mr. Ramsay.

**MR. RAMSAY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just wondering about current plan holders under the NEBS Pension Plan that have pledged security. Are creditors going to be able to go after it once this legislation is passed? Are creditors going to be able to go after pension plan holders that have already pledged their plans as security? Thank you.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Mr. Chairman, I will let Mr. Taggart respond to that.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Minister. Mr. Taggart.

**MR. TAGGART:** There is no retroactivity associated with this.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Taggart. Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. Are there any further general comments? Does committee agree we move to detail?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Committee, Bill 9, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act, clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 6 inclusive approved

To the bill as a whole.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Agreed.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you. Does committee agree that Bill 9, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act, is now ready for third reading? Bill 9 is now deemed ready for third reading.

---Bill 9 as a whole approved for third reading

Thank you to the Minister and witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, please escort the witnesses. Thank you, committee. Mr. Abernethy.

**MR. ABERNETHY:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley):** Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is on the floor. It is not debatable.

---Carried

I will now rise and report progress.

### Report of Committee of the Whole

**MR. SPEAKER:** Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Bromley.

**MR. BROMLEY:** Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 25-16(3), Supplementary Appropriation No. 1 (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2009-2010; Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act; and Bill 9, Northern Employee Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act, and would like to report progress, with one motion being adopted, that Bills 5 and 9 are ready for third reading, that consideration of Tabled Document 25-16(3) is concluded, and that the House concur in those estimates and that an appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Bromley. Motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder? The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

### Third Reading of Bills

#### BILL 4: PUBLIC LIBRARY ACT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, that Bill 4, Public Library Act, be read for the third time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 4, Public Library Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Mr. Lafferty.

#### BILL 7: AN ACT TO AMEND THE STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ACT

**HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY:** Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, be read for the third time. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills (Reversion)

#### BILL 16: SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 1, 2009-2010

**HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues. I give notice that on Thursday, March 12, 2009, I will move that Bill 16, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2009-2010, be read for the first time. Thank you.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

### Orders of the Day

**CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer):** Orders of the day for Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements

- 
4. Returns to Oral Questions
  5. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
  6. Acknowledgements
  7. Oral Questions
  8. Written Questions
  9. Returns to Written Questions
  10. Replies to Opening Address
  11. Petitions
  12. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
  13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
  14. Tabling of Documents
  15. Notices of Motion
  16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
  17. Motions
    - Motion 16-16(3), Low Carbon Fuel Standard
  18. First Reading of Bills
  19. Second Reading of Bills
    - Bill 15, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009
  20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
    - Tabled Document 7-16(3), Ministerial Benefits Policy
  21. Report of Committee of the Whole
  22. Third Reading of Bills
    - Bill 5, Professional Corporations Act
    - Bill 9, Northern Employees Benefits Services Pension Plan Protection Act
  23. Orders of the Day
- MR. SPEAKER:** Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Wednesday, March 11, 2009, at 1:30 p.m.
- ADJOURNMENT
- The House adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

