



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Friday, May 14, 2010****Members Present**

Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Beaulieu, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Bromley, 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, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 10:07 a.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Krutko): Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of ITI, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 27-16(5):
ELECTRICITY AND NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
POWER CORPORATION
REVIEW RESPONSE

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the people of the Northwest Territories have been telling their elected leaders for some time that changes needed to be made to our electricity system so that it was more efficient, more affordable and more equitable for all Northwest Territories residents.

Today that change has come to our Territory, with the tabling later today of the Government of the Northwest Territories response to both the electricity review and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation review, entitled: Efficient, Affordable and Equitable: Creating a Brighter Future for the Northwest Territories Electricity System.

This document is a significant achievement. Through the actions the Government of the Northwest Territories will undertake, we will dramatically lower the cost of electricity for most Northwest Territories communities at no additional cost to any other community.

---Applause

And lowering the cost of electricity is a big step towards fulfilling one of the 16th Legislative Assembly's five strategic initiatives in the Northerners Working Together plan: reducing the cost of living.

The Government of the Northwest Territories response to the two reviews will also go a long way toward meeting some of the goals of the 16th Legislative Assembly set out in that plan. Lowering electricity costs will help our communities be more

competitive and remove barriers to economic development. This, in turn, will lead to sustainable, vibrant communities and a diversified economy that provides all regions and communities with opportunities and choices as envisioned by this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, other governments and legislative assemblies have tried to make changes to our electricity system. We have built on this work and have developed a response that the 16th Legislative Assembly can be proud of. This response represents real action and real change that will improve the lives of all of our residents.

Most of our communities have very high electricity rates and nine communities in the Northwest Territories currently pay over \$1 per kilowatt hour. Electricity rates of 49 cents per kilowatt hour and an enhanced subsidy program will reduce the electricity bills for families in these communities.

Businesses in communities such as Tuktoyaktuk, Fort McPherson, Fort Simpson, Tulita, and Deline will see their bills reduced by 30 to 40 percent.

Businesses in communities such as Sachs Harbour, Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte, Wrigley and Gameti will see their bills reduced in the range of 70 to 80 percent.

I would like to note that the Government of the Northwest Territories intends to monitor the impact of this substantial change on the prices of goods and services in these communities. This response is a significant achievement for the Government of the Northwest Territories and the system-wide improvements we are making to our electricity system will help stabilize costs for all Northwest Territories residents and protect us against unexpected price increases in the future.

At this time I would like to acknowledge that the Government of the Northwest Territories did not arrive at its response in isolation. We have carefully considered the recommendations of both review teams and the input we received from communities, businesses and organizations throughout the Northwest Territories. We have worked closely with the Members of this House on the response through the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning. I believe this process has been a fine

example of consensus government at work and I thank the Members for the input they have provided us.

The changes this government is making to our electricity system will have a significant impact on our Territory for years to come. The impact will be a positive one. I think we can all agree that electricity is an essential service and that this service must be efficient, affordable and equitable to all. Today we have taken a major step towards achieving this important goal. We have made a change and it is a change for the better.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 28-16(5):
NWT OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEER
AWARDS PROGRAM

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The role of volunteers in our communities is critical. Every day countless volunteers contribute to local schools, health centres, recreation programs, fire departments and cultural projects. In addition to formal volunteer roles, many individuals also help a sick neighbour, counsel a troubled youth, or share and pass on important cultural knowledge to others. Most of these volunteers work away quietly, knowing that their only compensation, if they think of compensation at all, will be a heartfelt thank you and the personal knowledge that they have helped make things a little better for their community.

Each year the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs recognizes the important work carried out by volunteers through the Northwest Territories Outstanding Volunteer Awards Program. Now in its 20th year, the program has received nominations for nearly 700 individuals and groups since it was first launched in 1991. While we all know that these individuals and groups nominated represent only a small portion of the many thousands who contribute, the awards program is still an important way of bringing attention to volunteers.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the 2010 NWT Outstanding Volunteer Award winners are:

- Ms. Cheryl Hval of Fort Smith in the Individual Category;
- Ms. Ruby Trudel of Yellowknife in the Elder Category;
- Mr. Brian Nitsiza of Whati in the Youth Category; and

- Victim Services Volunteers of Yellowknife in the Group Category.

These award winners are being recognized at a special luncheon during the Northwest Territories Association of Communities Annual General Meeting in Hay River on May 14th. Each one of the volunteer award recipients contribute in a significant way to their communities and to the North as a whole.

On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories I want to thank them and all volunteers for their contributions, for the role they play in making our communities strong, healthy and sustainable.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 29-16(5):
CONGRATULATIONS TO GRADUATES

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Throughout our Territory, graduation and convocation ceremonies are taking place to acknowledge the great and many achievements of our talented and gifted students.

We have over 8,600 students enrolled in grades kindergarten to 12 in 49 schools across the North. As each student progresses to each new grade level, they bring with them many lessons and skills to further build on and develop. We congratulate these students for their hard work and recognize their efforts in successfully completing an important educational milestone.

At the post-secondary level, 2009-2010 saw 102 Aurora College graduates in two degree programs, seven diploma programs and four certificate programs. Of these, I'm proud to say that 68 percent are aboriginal graduates. Four of the aboriginal graduates are from Behchoko. They are distinguished graduates of the Behchoko community-based Teacher Education Program. We intend to welcome these individuals into our schools next fall as teachers and hope others will follow their example.

In addition to our graduates, each year there are hundreds of people participating in other education and training programs. I want to congratulate students from the Adult Literacy and Basic Education programs and Apprenticeship and Occupational Certification programs on their achievements.

Mr. Speaker, this June everyone is welcome to attend the Aboriginal Honour Ceremony at the Weledeh River, hosted by the Yellowknife Campus. As we continue our focus on aboriginal student achievement, I am confident we will see more and

more aboriginal students celebrating graduations and pursuing further education.

In closing, I would like to recognize and thank all the educators, the tutors and the classroom assistants committed to helping our students find success in achieving their goals. From kindergarten to post-secondary, the achievements of our students are yours to share. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I would like to start today with a quote: "Education is the greatest weapon. With education you are the white man's equal, without education you are his victim and so shall remain all of your lives. Study, learn, help one another always. Remember there is only poverty and misery in idleness and dreams - but in work there is self-respect and independence." So said Chief Plenty Coups.

I have in front of me, as I speak, a picture of a proud friend and ally of the white people. He understood the future and he spoke passionately about it. He had the best interests of his people at heart.

In the past, aboriginal people either had to learn the ways of the land and hunted and trapped or you went hungry. Today, for the past couple of decades, we go to school. Education is vital for our aboriginal today; indeed, all people. Education is the way we take ownership of our destiny.

We learn how to use the old weapons, to keep them clean, respect them and use them, all for the survival of our families, and we didn't fool with them. So we must take the same serious action and conviction in our educational institutions today. They are our modern weapons. We need to use them well for the survival of our families in the modern world. It has often been said the pen is mightier than the sword. That is so true. We need to keep our pens sharp and learn how to use them well.

Remember that education has always been a big part of the aboriginal way of life. In the olden days the education was one-on-one with our parents and elders, and our university was a live-in university on the land. That is why our elders are so wise and knowledgeable. Then we got sent to residential schools. So many of our people suffered there and continue to suffer today. However, we know that healing is possible and that it is no surprise that

aboriginal people are the fastest nation of people to adapt to circumstances around them.

We need to cherish and support our educational institutions and the process of getting an education in both classrooms and on our land. When we say education is the future, I wonder if we not only talk the talk but actually walk the walk and agree that this is so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to begin today by marking the passing of a great Northerner: Archie Buckley. Many of us enjoyed the rich bounty of our fishery as a staple of our diets thanks to Archie. He was the personification of hard work and respectful, sustainable resource use. Archie Buckley lived what we talk about when we say local food for local people.

The spirit demonstrated by Archie Buckley is being carried on in the cooperative work of this community. I recently attended an event sponsored by Ecology North, the Northern Nutrition Association and the Yellowknife Community Gardens Collective celebrating the diversity and sustainability of local production. While these people grow their own food, they also grow the future self-sufficiency and health of this community.

Another example is the Food Security Advisory Group comprised of members from the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Community Services, City of Yellowknife, Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, Health and Social Services, GNWT, and Nunavut Public Health Association. The groups came together to undertake a food system assessment and community action plan for Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah. This initiative responds to findings and Championing Well-being in the City of Yellowknife's social plan and aims to strengthen program and policy action in the area of food security and chronic disease.

The Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah Food System Assessment and Community Food Action Plan has been produced and is attracting attention. There are at least two more NWT communities interested in undertaking their own community food action plans. I recommend its contents and approach to all Members. As the contents of the action plan show, we have great territorial strength to draw on in such areas as local food production, community commitment and support services, but there are great challenges in such areas as the capacity of NGOs to meet demand for food and sustain their

operations, our high food costs and gaps in policy and economic development support.

Promoting healthy choices and lifestyles is a priority of the 16th Legislative Assembly. Food security exists when all people at all times have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe, regionally produced and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. That requires a complete and collaborative government approach to meet our citizens' core needs.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: It is everything from progressive taxation to agricultural land use plans, wise wildlife stewardship and land availability, from support to local food production enterprises and our school and early childhood development programs. Our local food producers', our community gardeners' and advocacy groups' work demonstrate that much can be done to strengthen food security for all through partnership, building capacity, economic development and policy renewal. I congratulate this excellent work and look forward to full support from this government. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NEW NWT LICENCE PLATE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to wade into the debate on our redesigned licence plates today. I cannot express strongly enough how glad I am that we kept the polar bear shape. Judging by what I heard from my constituents, I suspect that there might have been a revolt amongst our residents if the shape had been changed.

I can accept that there was a need to modernize and update the slogan, so that change is spectacular. But I am having difficulty with the new design, the added colour and the silhouette. I have to wonder if in the dead of winter in the dark and the snow, the plate won't look anything more than a dirty white blob.

Mr. Speaker, I am most offended by the minimal -- to quote the Minister -- fee that the residents must pay for this new improved plate. Generally when there is an initiative from the government, it is paid for by the government, but not so in this case. The government is telling us that they have a new, improved, wonderful item for us and, oh, by the way, you have to buy one. We already pay a healthy fee to register our vehicles annually, \$82.60 for a car. Why are we paying these fees? I believe,

as do a number of residents, that the cost of these new plates should be covered by our annual vehicle registration fee and/or the government's O and M budget. It is not much money, Mr. Speaker, but with this new cost, the government is nickel and diming our residents.

Another aspect of this change which is increasingly annoying for me is that we are being forced to spend the extra \$10. There is no option to refuse, no option to keep the old plate until it needs to be replaced. I hate waste, Mr. Speaker, and I have great difficulty throwing out something which is still in perfectly good working order. So I wonder why we can't keep the old plate until it actually isn't in good working order. My colleague Mr. Menicoche asked the question yesterday of the Minister and I didn't hear an answer.

Last, but certainly not least, I've heard from constituents that the consultation was lacking. Where was the public's chance to provide input into the new design? If the Department of Transportation had at least posted three or four new designs on their website and then asked residents to vote for their favourite, that would have sufficed. The department certainly consulted with industry partners and some user groups, but any input from the general public was sadly lacking.

Mr. Speaker, change is always difficult and I know the government is trying to be efficient with our dollars, but I have to disagree with their approach in this case. We should be allowed to keep the old plate until it's necessary for a new one and the government should cover the cost of the new plates from vehicle registration fees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON PASSING OF FREDERICK NORWEGIAN OF JEAN MARIE RIVER

MR. MENICOCHE: Mr. Speaker... [English translation not provided]

Frederick Frank Norwegian of Jean Marie quietly passed away on Friday, May 7th, 2010. The passing of a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, cousin and friend is so profound that every one of our hearts has felt the heartache. Fred is survived by his mother Bella, his wife, Mavis, his daughters Maxine, Connie, Angela and Pamela, his grandsons Kirby, Zachary, Ethan, and his siblings Douglas, Billy, Minnie, Margaret, Andy, Gladys, Jerry and their families.

Freddie, as siblings and close relatives strongly called him, was born to Bella and late father Louie Norwegian in Jean Marie River on August 9th, 1941. He spent most of his early childhood in Jean Marie

River. He grew up in a household with hardworking parents and a community rich in their language, culture and understanding of their relationships with the land and all other living things.

At the age of 12 he spent a year at the Sacred Heart School in Fort Providence and then continued his education in Jean Marie River, Yellowknife, and later he went down to Fairview College where he took up agricultural studies. After completing Grade 12 he went to work on an experimental farm in Fort Simpson. When the experimental farm shut down, Freddie made a career change and went to work for the federal government and continued with his education at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

Freddie married his wife, Mavis, in Fort Simpson on June 26th, 1970. Together with two daughters, Maxine and Connie, they moved to Yellowknife in the mid-1970s. Freddie continued to work with the federal government as Manpower manager. While in Yellowknife, he had two more daughters, Angela and Pamela.

In 1997, upon the request of his aunt, Sarah Hardisty, Freddie applied for and accepted the position of the band manager in Jean Marie River. Freddie has worked for the Jean Marie River First Nation in many capacities: band manager, sub-chief, acting chief, and a full term as chief throughout the past 13 years.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. MENICOCHE: The greatest love in his life was his family. Freddie and Mavis had been married 39 years, just one month short of 40 years. Together they raised four beautiful daughters: Maxine, Connie, Angela and Pamela. He wanted his daughters to grow up wise, courageous, respectful and successful, and it is very evident that he achieved this. His daughters and wife, Mavis, were all there by his bedside to say their goodbyes as he took his last breath. As painful as it was to let him go, they were brave and courageous. I extend my personal blessings of courage, strength and wisdom in their time of grieving.

Freddie lived his life the best way he could. He had integrity and tremendous strength. This strength stayed with him right until the end. We are very thankful for all the special moments and fond memories we shared with Freddie. He will continue to live within our hearts and minds. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nunakput, Mr. Jacobson.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON MACKENZIE GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my Member's statement is on the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline Project. Mr. Speaker, last month the National Energy Board wrapped up final discussions in Inuvik, and hopefully if all goes well the NEB will make their final ruling regarding the megaproject within the next several months. These discussions have been ongoing in one way or another for decades.

Every time this project gets delayed it goes through another series of discussions, and the chance the program won't happen increases. This may be okay for the southern NWT, but the north needs this project. We do not have diamond mines to generate huge employment. We need these jobs. We need the businesses in the Beaufort-Delta and right down the valley. We need hope.

I'm concerned about the sunset clause extension regarding the Mackenzie Gas Project, but I'm more concerned about the lack of coordination of the government to identify this project as a major priority. Previously the Government of the Northwest Territories Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment filed comments to the National Energy Board on recommendations by the Joint Review Panel, because the National Energy Board ultimately has the final decision on further developments in the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline. These comments are very important and must be given the highest priority.

As I mentioned previously, businesses in the North have been hoping for this project and have shovels already in the ground by now. We're struggling. If this project, for whatever reason, is delayed again, many businesses in our region may not be able to hold on. That is a shame.

I urge this government to monitor these developments closely, to ensure economic interest of the Territory is maintained and that the project continues to move forward. Considering the importance of this project in the Northwest Territories, this government must be front and centre while clearly promoting the timelines and deliverables with parties including applicants, stakeholders and companies. Now it is time this government works with the federal government and the ministerial offices, such as Tony Clement, Minister of Industry, and Chuck Strahl as the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. JACOBSON: Now it is time this government works with the federal government and the ministerial offices of Tony Clement, Minister of Industry; and Chuck Strahl, the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs; and the Minister of Canadian Northern and Economic Development Agencies, to ensure getting the prioritization it deserves. This government must devote resources and attention to this megaproject that it deserves. Without this commitment we don't look very serious. I'll have more questions for the Minister at the appropriate time regarding the pipeline.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NURSES' WEEK – MAY 10-16, 2010

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to use my statement today to highlight Nurses' Week, which is the week of May 10th to 16th. Nurses have been, and remain, the cornerstone of our health care system. I want to share with you part of an e-mail that I received from a friend of mine who has been in and out of hospital the past few years.

"Hi, Dave. Just got out of Stanton. Second time this month after another bout of pneumonia. My treatment and care were, as always, first class. We are blessed with nurses and doctors who really care about people."

It is treatment like this that our residents receive from our dedicated and professional nurses across the Territories, from the small community nurse to the ER nurses at our busiest hospital, Stanton, that we are to be very thankful for. They are on duty for us 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, and we are to be very thankful for that.

My wife, Amanda, happens to be a nurse and I must say that I get to see firsthand how passionate she is about her job. That passion is something that is common and I see it in all nurses that I meet.

I believe it is very important today to recognize the contribution of all nurses, especially during Nurses' Week. To all the nurses across the Territory, thank you very much for all you do for us.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DEVELOPMENT OF A NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now we have a great opportunity for the future of education in the NWT. The last 10 years have shown some encouraging trends in terms of graduation rates. Enrolment in post-secondary programs and academic interest in the North

continues to grow. There has never been a better time to take steps to create a northern university.

Aurora College, now over 40 years old, offers degree programs in nursing and education through partnership with southern universities. Enrolment at Aurora College is increasing. There is an opportunity to strengthen linkages with colleges in the Yukon, Nunavut, and institutions in the South and consolidate our efforts towards an aurora university.

The Aurora Research Institute and the new GNWT Science Agenda come with built-in links to universities and scholars from all around the world who are interested in studying the North. University-level studies in science could evolve from the activities of both the Aurora Research Institute and the aspects of a science agenda.

This Assembly could take the leadership of developing that partnership into a pan-territorial university with our sister territories. The timing couldn't be better.

We do not need a conventional university with lawns and buildings and vines, although that would certainly be nice, but we could use the existing structure to create a uniquely northern academic program with an aboriginal focus following the unfortunate closure of the First Nations University earlier this year.

There is a void in aboriginal-focused programming that the Northwest Territories certainly could fill. University programs in the NWT would attract motivated individuals ready to make valuable contributions to our North. Somebody who came to the NWT to pursue a degree program might choose to stay here, live, work, raise a family, because we have many opportunities and possibilities for advancement for those new graduates that they would not find in the South.

I urge this government to consider the future of an aurora university seriously. We have the opportunity right now to build upon existing infrastructure and northern success to create a unique northern Canadian degree-granting post-secondary institution that could work.

In closing, I'll say that education... There is no better gift that we can give any future generation. A pan-territorial university would be a legacy and a hallmark for many generations beyond us.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
NEW NWT LICENCE PLATE AND
POLAR BEAR TRADEMARK

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With hearing all this discussion about the new polar bear licence plate, it has me thinking about the polar bear brand and how it has been for so long associated with the Northwest Territories. It took many years to create that brand and that association.

I have an idea I'm going to throw out to the Minister. Ms. Bisaro said she doesn't like to see waste and what are we going to do with those old licence plates. Since they cost \$10 to buy the new ones, I think people should be allowed to trade their old one in for a new one. Then the Government of the Northwest Territories, through their tourism, ITI, should take all of those licence plates and offer them to tourists that are coming to the Northwest Territories, for \$20; hey, not \$10, \$20. Our polar bear licence plates are so popular that people steal them off our cars when we go down south. Here's a great opportunity.

You can't just come here and buy a licence plate if you don't need one, for some reason, except for those little dinky ones they sell to tourists with three zeros on them. I think that we should allow residents of the Northwest Territories to turn in their now obsolete licence plates in exchange for a new one and the government should then sell them at \$20 to the tourists. The tourists will go away happy and there's a whole industry that could generate some revenue for the Department of Transportation or some enterprising person through ITI.

I am a bit of a connoisseur of options and I've often been at auction sales where old licence plates come up and they very often go for a very high price. Back in the days when they had the year of them on, particularly some people are collectors and they like to get the sequence of all those years.

On another idea regarding the polar bear, I understand that we're going to be replacing the polar bear sign at the 60th parallel coming into the Northwest Territories. I would again like to suggest that this not be taken and dropped off at the local landfill. I think you should sell it to the highest bidder. That is a trademark in the Northwest Territories. Those of us who have lived here for many years have a picture every time our kids go by there. The first time we took our children out of the Northwest Territories they had to have the ceremonial picture beside that particular sign. Now, if you're going to tear it down, take it down and put up a new sign, I suggest that there will be people interested in buying that. Put it on line, auction it off, sell it to the highest bidder. There's another revenue opportunity for the department.

I think that we have lots of fond memories of our association with the polar bear. The many debates over the trademark, who owned the trademark, whether the bear should be three-legged, four-legged. I'm happy to have a polar bear diamond on my hand here. It's a great trademark.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
MEDICAL TRAVEL AND ESCORT PROGRAM

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. [English translation not provided.]

At the time of a loss, family members find their stress levels very high and their tolerance levels very low. Recently several families in Tu Nedhe had to deal with loss of loved ones and looked to the government for support. These families looked for support during the time of the illness of a family member and leading up to death, and support after the loss of a loved one, whether that be a father, mother, daughter or son.

When family members lose other family members, the support for the government should be swift and people should not be made to wait days, weeks and sometimes even months before support for travel, accommodations and, ultimately, caskets come from the government.

I had a situation where an elder over 90 years old, that communicated in her aboriginal language almost exclusively, had a very difficult time dealing with Health and Social Services to provide accommodations for family members that had to be in that community feeding her country foods, cooking for her, providing bed care and translation. Overall, these family members needed to leave their community to provide support to their mother. The Department of Health and Social Services did provide service and accommodation, however I had to deal with the Minister frequently in order for that support to be maintained.

When a family member loses a loved one, there is often an issue with the casket. Family and the community often want to put their money together to upgrade the casket to something a little better than the basic casket provided by the department. Even when families are indigent they often want to put their loved ones in a nice casket. It is the last thing they can do for that person, that loved one.

The Department of Health and Social Services does not seem to have a clear policy to deal with these issues; policies that make the lives of individuals who are already going through the hardest thing they have to deal with in their lives a little bit easier, a policy that respects the people that have to utilize this social service. Later on today I

will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RECOGNITION OF TIMOTHY RIVIERE

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to take this opportunity to recognize a very impressive young constituent from Range Lake. His name is Timothy Riviere. I know he's known to all of us because his mother works here, but he's famous in his own right because for the third year in a row he's going to be shaving his head -- well, shaving his hair -- to raise money for cancer. He is also captain of his own relay team this year called Relay Rink Rats for Relay for Life, which raised the money as well.

His personal goal is to raise \$3,500 this year. I'm sure he will meet that. There are pledge sheets all around this building, so I would encourage anyone who works in this building to make a contribution. I think this is a very impressive action for a 12-year-old young man.

I'd like to also take this opportunity to thank his other friends and people all around the city and the Territories who will be stepping up to the plate to raise money for cancer.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. Ms. Lee.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to recognize Mr. Timothy Riviere and his mother, Heather Riviere.

MR. YAKELEYA: I'd like to recognize two Pages from Colville Lake: Dakota Orlias and Corey Kochon. They are Pages in the House this week.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. At this time I'd also like to recognize two Pages I have here from my riding: Katrina Stewart and Kaylynn Koe.

I'd also like to take this time to recognize all the other Pages in the House who have served us this week. Thank you for your work and the opportunity to partake in this process. Thank you, again.

Item 6, acknowledgements. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 5-16(5): EMMA POPE NATIONAL CADET MARKSMANSHIP AWARD

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge Emma Pope from the Northwest Territories. Ms. Pope received her recognition through cadets in the national marksmanship competition in Whitehorse and she's going to represent the Northwest Territories at a national marksmanship competition in Edmonton. I want to congratulate Emma and to ask her to make us proud and to keep her eyes on her dreams. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 128-16(5): CONSTRUCTION OF PEACE RIVER DAM IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I had become quite concerned when I learned about a 900 megawatt dam being proposed on the Peace River in British Columbia. It's obvious that we've now learned there are massive impacts of previous dams to the Peace-Athabasca and the Slave River Delta and, of course, on down to the Mackenzie Basin. Apparently, according to the paper, we're only getting notified of these sorts of things. Based on the record of the impacts of these sorts of things I'd like to know if the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources thinks that's a sufficient position to be taking at this point in time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're aware of the proposed Site C project. The work has been underway for, actually, a number of years and they're moving through their environmental process. We have been registered on their list of concerned parties. I agree with the Member that there are things we have to pay close attention to. We have a call scheduled with the Minister from B.C., the Environment Minister, to discuss some of the concerns. For example, there are a lot of downstream issues.

For us, as a jurisdiction, we have yet to conclude our bilateral agreement with B.C. under the Mackenzie River Basin Transboundary Agreement, which is a critical agreement that we want to place a lot of weight on. Next week we are going to be tabling in the House our Water Strategy that is a

result of direction and strong support out of the 15th Assembly and this Assembly as a priority, that which will give us our policy base to move forward on dealing more effectively with our transboundary issues. So it is an issue of concern. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I'm happy to hear we're doing more than what the newspaper reported and officials of the department reported as a wait-and-see approach. Obviously we already know from B.C. officials that the flow of the river is being shaped through this new project, or will be shaped, to service peak need periods such as winter. So this takes us away from the natural flow, which we now understand has major impacts on river systems and basins which have evolved to require those seasonal peaks and lows to maintain diversity and so on. So I'm wondering, will the Minister commit to a more active intervention, given that this information has already been put on the table, to try and let the British Columbia government know while we're doing these other negotiations. I don't want to see us waiting for everything while these sorts of things are going ahead. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: If I can use a military term: we are going to be all hands on deck for when the Water Strategy is tabled in this House. We've got things underway to make sure that we are at the tables. The bilateral negotiations, I think, are very critical and will give us the vehicle and the opportunity to make the concern about the impact. I would suggest, in fact, that the natural flow of the Peace ceased to really exist when the Bennett Dam went in and the Peace-Athabasca Delta, for the most part, was dramatically impacted and it's never really recovered. We want to deal with integrated watershed management and cumulative impact in the Mackenzie River Basin.

Site C is one of the issues, along with the proposed dam on the Slave, a lot of the activity around Fort McMurray. We also have concerns in the Peel Watershed that we have to address. So we have many issues before us and we are going to be, like I said, all hands on deck, and we're going to be moving on these initiatives across the board. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Thanks for the comments from the Minister. That provides some assurance that we are focusing here. I'd like to know how the NWT Water Strategy will, in fact, guide us in responding to these sorts of things. We put a lot of money, time, resources and so on into that and I've been happy to participate in that. I think it's a good project. I look forward to seeing the final document, but how will that guide us in responding to projects such as this? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, the Water Strategy looks at the whole hydrological

cycle, our water concerns in the Northwest Territories, our water concerns within the Mackenzie River Basin Watershed. It's been achieved through extensive consultation and involvement with the aboriginal governments. It lays out all the elements that we want to make sure we have addressed when we talk about water issues, be it development in the Northwest Territories or dealing with transboundary issues. It's going to be an absolutely critical piece of work, which is why we have invested so much time and money, to give us that policy base so that our thinking is clear when our negotiators go to the table, we know what they're working from, and we know what they're working to protect. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Your final question, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I appreciate those comments. I'd like to know: will we be providing support for efforts to ensure that treaty rights to water are supported and are assured in this process and what is the schedule looking like for our negotiations with the B.C. government on the transboundary agreement there? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, we, within the Northwest Territories, recognize fully and have had full involvement of the aboriginal governments and respect the land claims, treaties and self-government agreements that are there. Part of the challenge is going to be to make sure that those issues come to the table when we look at transboundary issues. Many of the aboriginal governments in other jurisdictions, in fact, are very concerned about that.

As we speak, there has been planning underway, as we reach the end point of the actual development of the Water Strategy, that we have people at work, I've been briefed, we are looking at getting organized to have a table for transboundary issues not only with Site C but with the proposed dam on the Slave is another big issue. I have a call in with Minister Penner from the British Columbia government and we're going to lay out the concerns that we see and our need to have this process, and that our support is going to be predicated on some assurances that we're going to get these bilaterals negotiated so that we are not going to be negotiating bilaterals after all the projects on the river system are complete but before. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 129-16(5):
EDUCATION STANDARDS IN THE NWT

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, in the Minister's ministerial statement today he talked about the impressive number of graduates. I want to ask the Minister, in terms of the

graduates in the communities that I represent or even the Northwest Territories, I want to talk about the quality of the diplomas that these students are going to be receiving.

In a report, I understand that there are 30 percent of students operating below the expected grade level. What is the Minister doing to bring that number down and to give our students good, quality education in the Northwest Territories?

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, when we talk about graduates, over the years there has been a substantial improvement in our graduates, whether it be aboriginal or non-aboriginal students, for the Northwest Territories. It's been increasing every year. The Member is asking if those graduates are true graduates and the status of the diploma. These graduates do write the departmental exams through the Alberta education system. We use their curriculum as well. There are certain standards that have to be met, criteria that has to be met and based on that, if they pass the final examination, then they can walk the stage as true graduates.

Mr. Speaker, we have heard concerns from the communities. We are working on a strategic plan on aboriginal student success area, student achievement success initiative that will deal with enrolment, deal with the status of the education curriculum that we deliver and the standards. Mr. Speaker, we continue to improve in those areas. Those are the strategic initiatives that we will continue to make improvements in those areas. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, the Minister has indicated that these certain points within the education system are measured against a certain function level. The assessments of the Alberta achievement tests that we take indicate that 30 percent of students are operating below expected levels of education. certainly that raises alarms, it raises a lot of concerns for people in my region. I want to ask the Minister in terms of his initiative, the Sahtu did indicate that they would like a symposium to really talk about education and the seriousness, as I mentioned in my Member's statement, in terms of the livelihood of our nation of people and anybody to make a contribution to that, but also to know that they are getting a good quality education that would get them into a career of their choosing. I want to ask the Minister in terms of what he talked about, some educational forms in terms of what he is expecting in terms of accomplishing by having these forms that he is proposing to the House.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, our goal and mandate is to provide the true quality

education here in the Northwest Territories along with the partnership with the various southern institutions so they do accredit our programs as well. We deliver high school programs, not only that but post-secondary as well. We have been successful in that degree.

I did a Member's statement, 102 graduates out of the post-secondary. We are pushing the students through the venue through post-secondary level and through the Aboriginal Student Achievement Initiative. That is an area that will be the prime focus on the education quality, the enrolment, how the students are progressing through our education system and working with the parents, working with the school boards and across the Northwest Territories. We have representatives on there that deals and also provides input. We made some recommendations already and we will be receiving our report I believe at the end of June. We are going to the communities in the regions starting in September, fall time. We are going to be visiting all regions and highlighting what we have found and inputs from the region. I would like to get their inputs, as well, at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, we are moving forward on this. This fall will be a busy schedule for us, along with the MLAs. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the Minister's initiative in terms of improving the true quality of education in the Northwest Territories, because the last several years of my experience, we have not been receiving that in my region. I do have people leaving this institution in Grade 12 that cannot get into a post-secondary education or a university even, let alone a job, Mr. Speaker. I would ask the Minister in terms of this mandate here, if he is willing to work truly with the leadership in the Sahtu communities to look at major changes into the Education Act, the system that can deliver true quality education in our communities, which may require additional dollars that we can get to have a proper standard of education, teachers, classrooms in the Sahtu.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, that is what we are doing this fall. We are consulting with various aboriginal groups, leaders, the school board members, the MLAs of the particular ridings, highlighting what we have found, what we have heard from the communities, what we have heard from the committee members, what we have heard from their representatives.

Mr. Speaker, those will be laid out in the communities and I think to honour that, it will certainly be a greater improvement into our programming. Basically what I am looking at is building on our strength. We do have an education system that is very successful to date. Yes, there is always room for improvement; I am willing to accept

that. I think this package will give us direction as well. It is coming from the people of the North so, Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward to that. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The question I have for the Minister, in terms of one small initiative that the Minister and I have talked about, is including the elders into our educational system. It has been three years since I have been bringing this up here, and yet we have not seen the light of day in terms of having the educational system open up our doors to the elders. We have been offering them solutions on this side. When is the Minister going to say as a step in the right direction for providing quality education in the classroom, on the land, that the elders would be included into our education system? There will be room for them. There will be elders in our educational system.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I do agree that elders are valuable and the importance of their presence in the schools I fully support. Along with this strategic initiative, that will be part of the discussion as we move forward. We need to get around a system of how we pay them. That has been a very controversial issue lately because of their pension claw-back from the federal government. We certainly don't want to have any impact on their pension, so we are trying to work around a system how it is feasible to do. We are currently discussing that. I did have feedback from the Sahtu MLA on how we can manoeuvre around the system, around the challenges. Mr. Speaker, those are the areas that we continue to focus on. This fall we will deliver key messaging. We want to expedite the process to having the elders in the school. That is one of the commitments that I am making. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

QUESTION 130-16(5):
ELECTRICITY AND NTPC REVIEW RESPONSE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to ask the honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment questions on his announcement on the electricity Power Corporation review. It certainly is good news. Members on this side of the House applaud his statement here this morning. I just want to get some more details as we move along. It looks like some great reductions across our Territory. When would such an implementation take place? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of ITI, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We will be working with the Public Utilities Board. Right now, our timelines are that we will be introducing these changes for implementation in October of 2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have that as a date to move forward. I know that recently in the newspaper the president of the NWT Power Corporation had indicated that the minimum rates would remain the same, but the Minister made an even better announcement that there will be some reductions across the board in many communities. Can he explain if there is a communication strategy as a result of this announcement today that will go out to the communities and throughout the NWT? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, this morning we had a technical briefing with the media. We will have a press conference this afternoon at two o'clock. We also will be attending the NWTAC meeting in Hay River where we will be doing further briefing of the communities. We will also be sending out information to all of the interveners and it includes all of the communities that participated in this process. Certainly, as we go forward, we will provide detailed information to our clientele. I think it's also important to note that we will be working a lot closer with the utilities and they will also be providing information. As we go to implement the rates we will be using our PUB process, that's the Public Utilities Board process. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much. It is incredibly good news. I'm glad to see that work finally rolling out. Just in terms of my riding alone, Mr. Speaker, how would that communication strategy roll out to many of the small communities? Especially like Nahanni Butte, which the Minister had mentioned had one of the highest rates around. Will they be sending a package, as well, to all the smaller communities or just to all the communities? Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. We see that as part of our public education process. As well, utilizing the PUB process we'll make sure that every community or municipality will have the basic information that will explain how these rate changes will be undertaken and, certainly, they'll have an opportunity for input at that level as well. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. These changes are huge. Maybe the Minister can tell me how many rate zones we'll be reducing. I don't know if he mentioned it in here at all. Then, of course, Mr. Speaker, one of my

election... When I first got elected I always aimed to move towards a one-rate zone, but I see that at least we're consolidating some zones. Maybe the Minister can explain that. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you. As the Member knows, up until this point we've been operating with 33 different rates for the Northwest Territories. What we are doing is we are moving to seven rate zones and on that basis we have simplified the system significantly. We're also moving to territorial-wide rate riders so that in the interest of fairness, we have a more balanced approach with regard to costs. So on that basis we have simplified the system. We have also committed to working with those communities that have power provided by NUL so that we can work out similar arrangements there as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

QUESTION 131-16(5):
NEW NWT LICENCE PLATE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I spoke about the new redesigned licence plate in my statement and I have a few questions for the Minister of Transportation this morning. In answer to Mr. Menicoche the other day, he spoke about the intent of this program, this implementation program for the new plates, and I understand the intent that they want to get people using the new plate, but I'm having difficulty with the fact that we are being forced to buy the new plate. So I'd like to ask the Minister why the Department of Transportation is forcing residents to buy this new plate. Why can't we keep the old one until it falls apart and then get a new one? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't believe we're forcing anybody to buy a new plate. If you need a plate, you're going to have to pay for it. That's the cost recovery that's required for this program, and we can't keep the old plate because the old plate does not meet industry standards or national standards. The size is not what it's required to be and there's also visibility issues with the old plate. There was also the issue of safety. So we are now moving forward as one of the last jurisdictions to do so and we're meeting the national standards that all other jurisdictions in North America are required to. Thank you.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Minister and I must have missed something in that translation. I didn't realize that we weren't meeting industry standards. I thought it was a matter of reflection and so on. I have a hard time when the Minister says that the

people aren't being forced to, if you need a new plate. I don't need a new one, I need a sticker, I don't need the plate, but we'll leave it at that.

I'd like to ask the Minister what is the cost to the government. What was the cost? What is the cost going to be for us to find a new manufacturer and to produce these new plates? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you. The cost for the new plate and the manufacture and associated paperwork is \$10, Mr. Speaker.

MS. BISARO: Gee, \$10 for 30,000 plates. That is pretty cheap. What I was looking for was the cost to the government. I know the Minister, yesterday I think, said that this is going to be cost neutral, but I was looking for a total cost. I mentioned as well in my statement that we pay a vehicle registration fee, some \$82.60 if you're registering a vehicle. So I estimate that amount for 30,000 plates or vehicles to be about \$2.5 million or more annually. I'd like to ask the Minister what that money is used for. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you. I'm assuming the Member is asking about the plate costs, \$10, which is required to recover the cost of what it costs to produce it, associated paperwork. There is going to be 30,000 plates that will be replaced and a further 10,000 a year annually. It's a fee that we are not marking up to recover any, or to make any money on it. Other jurisdictions charge more. For example, B.C. charges \$18, Ontario charges \$20, and New Brunswick charges \$25. So we feel we're below the national rates or at least on par with other jurisdictions. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't hear an answer to my question. I heard an answer to the second question, not the third one. But I'd like to ask the Minister now, Mrs. Groenewegen had a wonderful suggestion of which would actually generate revenue for us, so I would like to ask the Minister if that would be a consideration that when people come to register their vehicle in this next 18-month period, will they be allowed to, (a), keep their plate and pay \$10, or will they be allowed to hand their plate in for zero dollars? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We are right now advising the public that they can turn their plate in and we'll dispose of it for them, or they can keep it. We have no other options available to the public. We are not planning to try to put them on the market. There is a concern from the environment as these older plates were dipped in some toxic chemicals that were required to prevent corrosion that we are concerned about. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Kam Lake, Mr. Ramsay.

QUESTION 132-16(5):
NEW NWT LICENCE PLATE

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up with my colleague Ms. Bisaro's questions to the Minister of Transportation on the new licence plate. First off I must say the licence plate itself is very nice, but it's the process that I think people are taking issue with. As the chair of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure, the Minister came to Members and told us that the department was in the process of developing a new licence plate. At no time were we given any opportunity to provide input on what that design would look like. Not only does the public not get an opportunity to provide any input, Members of the House didn't have an opportunity to provide input into the design of the new plate that was given to us. I'd like to ask the Minister about the process that allowed us just to come up with this one design. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, we've been writing to committee since 2009. The Member, as the chair, could have requested a briefing at any point.

Mr. Chairman, we should also clarify that we didn't change the design of the plate. We upgraded the plate to meet national standards that require some safety, there were safety concerns. There was also a size that needed to be incorporated into this new plate, and while we were at it we wanted to be able to be consistent with the government's slogan, which is "Spectacular," and incorporated that as a way to promote the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I agree with the Minister on all those points but the fact is the design of the plate itself. I know the department came back to the committee and told us this "Spectacular" slogan would end up on that. We agreed with that. However, there is some design on the bottom of that plate that was never discussed with committee.

I'd like to ask the Minister why the committee, why the public wasn't given some opportunity to comment on proposed options for the new design of the plate.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I guess the committee didn't provide feedback because we didn't have an opportunity to brief them. There was no opportunity to go in front of committee to present on the licence plate. We did talk to North America's leader in licence plate design, 3M Corporation, who provided us some advice. We talked to the NWT Tourism Association, who provided us some advice. We also talked to the veterans, the Legion, the

municipal officers, the RCMP, and we also consulted with other jurisdictions.

We didn't go out and do a full-blown consultation process because we were not planning to change the design. It was one design and we wanted to incorporate safety factors into this plate. We wanted to deal with the environmental concern. We also wanted to meet industry or national standards and work with NWT Tourism and our government to promote the NWT. I think we did all these things.

The reality, and I respect that change is always hard to accept, especially with a new fee incorporated, but the reality is that we would have had to replace the licence plate in any event and if we had tried to maintain the old plate, the old design, I guess we could have, but that's not the advice we got. The cost would have been a lot more than what we are incurring right now.

MR. RAMSAY: I thank the Minister for that. The bottom line is that there is a new design on the plate. We can agree to disagree on whether there's a new design on the plate, but anybody looking at the new plate will certainly see that there's a new design on the bottom portion of that plate. I'll leave it at that.

I'd like to ask the Minister of Transportation, for example, if somebody had personalized plates with the old plates, they pay a specialized fee for getting personalized plates. If they've just done that in the past six or eight months, now they're going to be expected to not only pay the \$10 for the new plate but also \$25 to keep that plate after having already paid a fee for a personalized plate. I'm wondering if the Department of Transportation has any ideas in mind when it comes to folks like this, if they're going to be paying twice within a short period of time for what in essence is the same plate on their car.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct; there are instances where individuals have recently purchased personalized plates and they will now incur a new cost to replace them. It's not the full cost. It's \$25 for the personalized plate plus \$10 for the new plate. That doesn't seem to be stopping people coming forward. We've already had up to 200 people come in and request new plates or replacement personalized plates. We think it's a cost that's fair and we'll be sticking to the price that we are trying to take.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Getting back to the question Ms. Bisaro had and that Mrs. Groenewegen raised in her Member's statement, the utilization of existing plates. If folks could go into the Department of Transportation and give them their old plate -- and I know the Minister talked

about there being some kind of toxic paint or something on them. People aren't going to eat them. They're going to put them in their rec room or have them as a memento of their visit to the Northwest Territories. What's stopping the Department of Transportation from collecting the plates from residents, giving them to ITI or some other agency to sell to tourists when they come North?

AN HON. MEMBER: Great idea.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: We are collecting the plates right now. As this moves forward, we will be collecting plates. People will be coming forward with the plates for disposal. ITI has already requested to see if we can recycle them. We've turned them down. We don't want the plates going back on the market and being utilized in any other form, especially as souvenir plates on the front of a vehicle.

We are creating souvenir plates for the public to use, for the public to do whatever they want to do with it. They're free to do that. That will go out to consultation, and Members, people across the floor can have input on that if they want to change the design or format of how it looks, colours, that's open for discussion. As for recycling the plates, the public can retain their licence plate and do what they feel they want to do with it. But for the plates that are turned in, we are not putting them back on the market. We will be finding a way to dispose of them.

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

QUESTION 133-16(5):
MACKENZIE GAS PIPELINE PROJECT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my Member's statement was regarding the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline and the government's stance on going forward. I just want to ask the Minister if the government is devoting the resource and attention to this megaproject and if the government will involve the MLAs up and down the delta, up and down the valley, community leaders, to push forward from an all-inclusive campaign group to work with this project.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With the release of the Joint Review Panel report, governments have had to spend their time and effort on dealing with the recommendations, and legal advice we have been provided is that we should let the responsible Minister deal with the pipeline. As such, we have been limiting our remarks to just talking in general terms about the

pipeline. That's the approach that we've been taking.

MR. JACOBSON: The Minister said keeping on the timelines. Last year they took almost five years for this. I really hope that the federal government and our government don't take that long regarding hearing back from the NEB. Will we be working with the federal Minister and our Minister regarding keeping the timelines and keeping them on track on the date that is set already, and when is that date?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: The responsible Minister for our government is working hand in hand with the responsible federal Ministers. The timeline that everybody is working towards is to finalize the final reports by September 2010.

MR. JACOBSON: This report took five years from the JRP to get handed in. We have businesses in the delta that you know of in Inuvik and Tuk and Aklavik that are relying on this project. Not only this project, the people are having... There's no work up there, no economic benefits and nothing going on right now other than building, if you're a carpenter. No roadwork or anything. At the end of the day, this government has to take a step.

I thought we were too lax on not pushing this thing forward as hard as we should have. The Minister is doing a good job on working with the federal Minister, but I think the timeline, we have to get more concentrated in pushing them now to make this project happen. We need this project to go. We need the work. There's nothing going on up in the delta. We're going to have to wait another two years or three years before something happens.

Will the Minister commit to me today to work with the...to get this project off the ground and get the shovel ready?

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We will continue to do what we can in this area. It's very important for us, or critical for us, to wait until the final reports so that we can work from there. I think one of the very important factors is the sunset clause that was discussed at length. We would have to wait for the final report on that. Also the federal government has, through the consult to modify process, we will have to wait until that process runs its course and everything is geared to when we get the final report in September of this year.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Final supplementary, Mr. Jacobson.

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to the Mackenzie Gas Pipeline, I just want to make sure that our government is taking the proper steps in pushing forward this project so the people of the Territories... This is probably going to be the biggest project ever for us in Canada. Everybody wants to do it right. We have to find some stimulus

to get people working up in the delta. Just want to make sure there are timelines and we have to stick to them.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: We are working very diligently to make sure that all of the timelines are met and that when the report comes out in September 2010 we'll be able to deal with the recommendations.

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

QUESTION 134-16(5):
NEW NWT LICENCE PLATE

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to belabour this licence plate issue, but I am not understanding why the Department of Transportation wants to dispose of the old licence plates. There are non-profit organizations, youth groups, sports associations, all kinds of people that if you won't trade a new plate for an old plate, understood, but people can turn their old plate in to the Department of Transportation. You could in turn, instead of disposing of them, give that to some organization. They're light as a feather, you can mail them out to people, and somebody could make money off these things. I need to understand why you wouldn't give them to your brother's department there.

I don't know what he was going to do with them, but I think they have value and I don't want to see them going into a landfill. Tell me again, if the Minister could, please, why we could not recycle these plates and earn money from them for some good cause. People would probably even bring them and trade them in and drop them off and pay for their new one if they thought the money was going to a good cause.

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are two reasons, I guess, that we are reluctant to try to recycle these plates. Our preference would be to collect all the plates. We know that's not realistic. People want to keep their plates as souvenirs. Some have personalized plates or numbers that they want to hang on to. Some want to keep it because the plate is not going to be in production any further. So we've made allowance for that. People can keep their licence plates. Organizations can do a drive to pick up licence plates. However, we have a concern about disposal of plates that are out on the market. These plates have a toxic dip that was required to prevent corrosion. We also would like to have all the licence plates off the market by December 2011 so that we

can try to alleviate some of the concern of having unregistered vehicles out there with plates so that all vehicles will have new plates by then. We'll also eliminate the temptation to put the old plates on the front of a vehicle, which is also illegal. There are a number of things that require us to move forward in keeping the plate off the market. Those are the reasons.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: People put all kinds of things on the front of their vehicles. I didn't know it was illegal to put a valid driver's licence on the front of the vehicle. That's news to me. I'll have to make sure I don't ever do that.

So the Department of Transportation is not willing to be the receiver of these plates to be recycled for any organization. So I guess it's just, I think the whole idea of them being dipped in something is a bit of a red herring. I don't think that's going to stop people from collecting or reselling or doing anything. I guess all we can do is throw it out there that if somebody wants to mobilize or organize, that there could be some other way of collecting these and reusing these. I thought a good way would be to trade an old one in for a new one, but I guess the Minister doesn't really have any appetite for that.

Just to be clear now, this chemical that these plates are dipped into to prevent or retard erosion, how worried should we be about that, handling these plates? Have they always been like that? I mean, let's quantify that problem. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, the Member shouldn't be driving with decorative plates on the front of the vehicle with any kind of numbering or any indication that it's a legal plate. The plate is required to be on the back of the vehicle.

The disposal of the plates is not a red herring. It's something that we have to do due diligence on. As the plates are turned over to us, we have to ensure proper disposal. We can't afford to let 30,000 plates go into the landfill. That would collectively be of concern. So that's what we have to do. The opportunity is still there for people to keep their plates. The opportunity is still there for organizations to collect them, if they so wish. It's just that if they come into our hands, we want to make sure the disposal is done properly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

QUESTION 135-16(5):
MEDICAL TRAVEL AND ESCORT POLICY

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during my Member's statement I talked about the difficulties that people face when they have members of their family that are sick or

members of their family who have passed away. I want to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services questions on some of the policies that these people have to deal with. Would the Minister direct her staff to develop a policy on accommodation support for family members that are supporting the sick when they are outside of their home community? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is correct in his concern that we do not have a policy or program funding to accommodate a family of our people when they are dying or when they are sick for any length of time. The only thing we have is a medical escort to medical travel. It's limited to one person and usually for a very specific period of time. If the Member is interested in working as a committee chair to pursue this further, we could analyze that and see what the cost implications are and what the scope and breadth of that program might be. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, would the Minister then re-examine the Medical Travel Policy so that common sense decisions can be made quickly by the government to support individuals when the elderly or when the sick are involved and medical travel is required for family members? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I believe the challenges and the problems that families have to go through has to do with the fact that we do not have a separate pot of money or program to accommodate families who want to be near those who are in care. All of the health authorities try to do their own way to accommodate them. Sometimes they get help from local bands or they look at every bit of money they have to do this, because we do not have a program and funding for that. So if the Member and the committee are interested in pursuing this, I'd be willing to... The Member knows that any changes to policy or establishing of a new program goes through working with the committees. So I will commit to working with the committee on those. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, also, in situations leading up to when an individual passes away in the community, there's always the issue of providing a casket. As I indicated in my Member's statement, the individuals and communities like to pull together to support families who have lost loved ones. Would the Minister review that policy of providing a casket -- I think it's mostly for indigent people that they are providing -- so that there is some certainty when family members have a loss, some certainty to family in these trying times when they don't have to deal with complex issues? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: The program we have now for providing for a casket is for the indigent only, which means people on income support. There is a very specific amount of money that is allocated for that. The problem is when the families want to go with something more costly, because they want to, as the Member said, do the best for their families. We currently do not have a program that would do that. Lots of back and forth that goes on is that staff are clear about what they are able to purchase. It's the people who want to do more and we do not have programs for that. If the Member wants to pursue that and work with committee, I will be prepared to look at that. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Your final question, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps there's a requirement for an expansion of the policy outside of just purely indigent people, as well, considering the cost of living in the communities, even with individuals that have jobs. The cost of travel, especially if several family members have to go to Edmonton, even Yellowknife or even Hay River, for that matter, but especially when many members of the family have to travel to Edmonton, and then on top of that the cost of the casket adds to the expenses and a lot of the people can't afford that. Like I said, communities do pull together, but I'd like to know if the Minister would also look at the policy again. I recognize what it's for. Look at the policy again and maybe consider expansion of the policy to reach other constituents that may need that assistance. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: The policy is there now. Any expansion of the policy would require additional money and that would have to be the decision of the Legislature as a whole and the government as a whole.

Mr. Speaker, we spend lots of time talking about the sustainability and affordability of our health care and health care related costs. Obviously if we want to expand that and try to find new money, it would have to be done as a partnership between this side of the House and that side. Certainly, I'm willing to explore that, but at the end of the day, it would have to be a decision of the entire Assembly. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

QUESTION 136-16(5):
DEVELOPMENT OF A PAN-TERRITORIAL
NORTHERN UNIVERSITY

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my questions will be to the Minister of Education today and it will be a follow-up to my Member's statement regarding the potential of a pan-territorial university, perhaps an aurora

university, that could be either based out of the Northwest Territories or in certainly some partnership with our two other sister territories. Mr. Speaker, my question is: has the Minister of Education given any consideration to the creation of a northern university? Thank you.

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

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think we have to keep in mind that we are delivering university courses right now. We currently deliver degree programs and masters programs at current stages right now, but we are exploring further to delivering more of university-type programs to our schools, into our institutions, the three main campuses that we have. I just recently met with my colleagues in Nunavut, in the Yukon, on exploring options and how it's going to look, a university of the Arctic. We realize that more work needs to take place.

At the same time, I just recently met with Minister Strahl as well. It is under his jurisdiction. We talked about the vision of the North and the three main campuses and also the three territories as a united approach. We did agree that we need to expand on our campuses. We are exploring those options right now, Mr. Speaker. We will continue to update the Members as we move forward. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, if I understand it, our college presently offers university courses, but it is not necessarily university based. It works in partnership with other universities. I will let the Minister correct in the record if that is not quite accurate. Mr. Speaker, I would like to hear what the progress milestones are that we could achieve. Are there any types of roadblocks stopping the potential of an Arctic university emerging here in the Northwest Territories? As I said in my Member's statement, education is the best gift we can offer any future generation. Certainly, I would like to see us plant the seeds on a project like this. Again, Mr. Speaker, what progress to date really has been made? Are there any substantial roadblocks bowing this evolution down towards a northern university? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I do agree that education is the best gift that we can provide to the Northwest Territories. I did provide to the Member that one can look at it as not a university base, but we are delivering university core courses and we are graduating teachers with degree programs. A Member can look at it as not a base but we are expanding on our programs.

The three main campuses that we have, the goal is to expand further so it is recognized as a university of the north or the university of the Arctic. That is the vision that we have with Minister Strahl. The

three jurisdictions, Territorial Ministers' Meeting, we met on this. We are making progress in this area. Some may question the bricks and mortar if we are going to have an established university in the North. Due to the economy, it may not be feasible at this time, but we are focussing on what we can do now, expanding more partnerships or approach the universities across the country, the Northwest Territories, across Canada and also internationally.

Mr. Speaker, we are doing what we can to be recognized as a university institution so we can access federal funding on scientific research through the federal government. That has been a discussion at the federal level and we will continue to discuss that. Mahsi.

MR. HAWKINS: Mr. Speaker, just working in this direction, I am not necessarily sure bricks and mortar needs to be our first stop on this future goal to bring in a university to the Northwest Territories working in a pan-territorial way with Nunavut and the Yukon. I think when you have excellent examples like Athabasca University, I think that shows that you can create courses and a system that works well for everyone. It is really about the designation and the quality of education that we can provide people to the next step. As the Minister is quite correct, we are aiding people in their pursuit through a nursing and Teacher Education Program through university designation, but the designation seal doesn't come with the university of the Arctic because we are a college.

Mr. Speaker, the last point I just want to say is, with the gap created by the loss of the First Nations University, this could be the opportunity for us to seize that brass ring to bring that education level to the Northwest Territories, that type of education level to the three territories in a pan-university style. Would the Minister look at it from that perspective and tell me what he sees as roadblocks in taking advantage of this and does he see the opportunity I am presenting? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, I did touch on that. That is our vision with the federal Minister for the territorial jurisdictions. We see this coming. Definitely that is an area of vision that we have in our target, is to establish an Athabasca University type here in the Northwest Territories and supporting the other two Nunavut and Yukon campuses as well. Mr. Speaker, those are the ongoing discussions that we are having.

I think we definitely will see a light because what we are discussing here, there is a university of the Arctic funding flowing through Saskatchewan. Of course, yes, the money has been scaled back by the federal government, but I don't see any obstacles. I see challenges, but at the same time, there are opportunities for us to move forward with the federal government. That is why the federal

government met with us and discussed opportunities. We will be following through the federal Minister, probably in the beginning of the summer, and discussing further on the action plan on where we need to go, develop a business case scenario. Mr. Speaker, we are developing a business case scenario between the three territorial jurisdictions and present that to the federal Minister. We will update the Members as we move forward. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister started to ask my last question, which is simply and ultimately the obvious question, which is when can we see something? I think that is an important factor for the public trying to follow this issue, because there are a lot of people in the public who would like to see this go forward. I think the timing couldn't be better, especially on the sad news that another university is no longer in existence. We could fill that gap.

Mr. Speaker, does the Minister of Education have anything he can offer and share to Members, be its vision, be it timelines and certainly in the area of public engagement on this particular issue? Does the Minister have anything he can provide us to show this initiative is certainly moving forward and that demonstrates that the federal government is interested in this concept? I know I am very interested. I know other Members are very interested and it is very important. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: I would just like to recognize the clock. Time for questions has expired, but I will allow the Minister to answer the question.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I will be more than happy to present the current status of what has been happening to the standing committee. They can certainly share with the general public as well. We can certainly do that, too, and put it on our website. Just updating on where we have been, Mr. Speaker, this is all preliminary at this point. I am not sure how far we will be, but certainly what we have talked about is still in the preliminary stages. We need to develop a business case scenario between the three jurisdictional territorial governments. We will be meeting with the federal Minister as we move into the summer months. That is the plan as it is now. Mr. Speaker, yes, I will be more than happy to present to the standing committee. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Item 8, written questions. Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 7, oral questions, on our orders of the day. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Hawkins.

Oral Questions (Reversion)

QUESTION 137-16(5): NEW NWT LICENCE PLATE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, colleagues, for allowing this to continue. Mr. Speaker, I would like to weigh in on this driver's licence plate issue quickly, especially because it is such an important topic and it has been raised today in various perspectives.

Mr. Speaker, a number of my constituents are concerned about the \$10 fee. To the Minister that may not be a big deal, but as I understand it, there are 18,000 passenger vehicles on the road today and that is just the passenger vehicles, mind you. Of course, people are now forced to pay the \$10 fee. It shouldn't be described as anything else because the option is either have your vehicle on the road or not have your vehicle on the road, so I think people made substantial investments. This can't be really seen as anything but a cash grab.

I am just trying to understand. If I can compare playground investment in camp parks, we don't raise camp fees. When we are forced to upgrade our health care cards recently to a modern one, we weren't charged a fee there, and finally airport improvements, when we do those, we are not charged extra fees when we put an airport in. Why did the Minister feel that it was necessary to charge an additional fee of \$10 regardless of how small it may appear to be? Why did the Minister feel that it is an important direction to start charging those types of fees when what truly is the responsibility of the government and we are already paying for it in our road licence fee that we do update every year? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Minister of Transportation, Mr. Michael McLeod.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is always encouraging us to level down the jurisdictions and try to stay on par with what they do. The Auditor General has also indicated that our fees are too low, especially in the area of airport development and parking fees and things of that nature. We are also encouraged by our government to recover any new costs. The cost of \$10 is what it cost to produce the new licence plate.

It's probably by far lower than most jurisdictions. Other jurisdictions are charging quite a bit more, even for the personalized licence plates. Some jurisdictions are charging up to \$50. Our fees are

intended to recoup what it costs to produce the plates and we needed to change the plates to meet national standards in safety areas and reasons of that nature. So that's what we're doing.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. New Brunswick updated their plates and gave people the option if you wanted a new style plate you could pay the fee and take the new plate.

Mr. Speaker, a couple of years ago the government wisely listened to the ideas that came from this side of the House about upgrading drivers' licences and they didn't pass on an additional fee when they modernized the territorial driver's licence. Mr. Speaker, this can't be viewed as any more than nickeling and diming the average northern resident when the cost of living continues to be an issue.

Finally, if they needed the money and felt that the \$80 fee was not substantial enough to cover the normal costs of registering your vehicle, why wasn't that publicly debated and explained why the whole fee is inappropriate and they're just going to add on a \$10 extra fee to cover the licence plates? So, Mr. Speaker, I think the real question is, is the fee the problem, the whole registration fee, and why isn't that fairly publicly debated by our Finance Minister who would bring it forward in the next type of budget? Why wasn't it addressed as a package as opposed to let's nickel and dime people one at a time? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: The Member raises the fee that New Brunswick is charging. They're charging \$25. If you want us to stay on par, I guess we could consider that, but at this point we're looking at recouping what it costs to produce the licence plate. That is our requirement that has been put in place by our government. The Auditor General has raised concern about our department not meeting and matching other jurisdictions. So we are required to do a number of things and that is to ensure that we recoup the costs of this new plate.

In any event, whether we kept the old plate and had a supplier reproduce them, which we could find we would have had to incorporate a new fee. So I think it's a fair fee. Ten dollars is not a lot for a licence plate that could last up to 12, 13, 14 years and I think we're getting value for money. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you. Very respectfully, but yesterday we heard the Health Minister talk about Ontario and Alberta and whatnot. Today we hear about the Transportation Minister leaning on what New Brunswick and B.C. do. It's odd how we seem to want to govern by other provinces and what they do, because, I mean, if Quebec decided to drive over the cliff, would our government start lining up behind them?

MR. SPEAKER: Excuse me, Mr. Hawkins, could you please ask your supplementary question and keep it short?

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue really comes down to this: just because they do it, why does it mean we have to do it? I believe this is a capital cost within our system that rightly belongs on the Department of Transportation's normal capital budget. Why didn't the Minister take it from that point of view? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you. If Quebec drives over the cliff I would encourage the Member not to follow them. Mr. Speaker, the Member raises examples from other jurisdictions then wants to bow out when I retaliate and show him that he is wrong in his answers. Mr. Speaker, the reality is we're doing as well or better than other jurisdictions and we should recognize that.

MR. SPEAKER: Final supplementary, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The last question about the licence plate issue is quite an obvious one, although I would not necessarily encourage significant and prolonged public input when it's on an unnecessary cause, but in this particular case it's quite evident that they only asked NWT Tourism and the Legion, outside of a few other professionals. Why didn't the Minister of Transportation, in some form, even via newspaper ad, radio ad or information on their website, explain to people what their plan is and seek any type of public engagement or input on this particular issue? Does the Minister of Transportation not appreciate the input from the public? Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you. We did do a consultation process with the public. We were not intending to change the shape of the plate. We were only trying to upgrade the plate first of all because the manufacturer was pulling out and was not going to be able to produce the identical plate anymore. It was an opportunity for us to update our plate because the plate did not meet national standards and didn't for some time. It would be unfair, it would be very frustrating for the public to go embark on a consultation process where there was really not going to be a lot of changes, except for safety, visibility and size. So would we go out there and pretend that we're going to change the shape of the plate and all these things that the Member is expecting the public to provide input when we were not going to do that? No, I think we had to meet national standards, we were one of the last jurisdictions, and we've done that. We have now a licence plate that is the envy of Canada. We're hearing it from across the country that this is a plate that's in high demand and they wish their jurisdictions would do that. I think we should

applaud ourselves for the great work that's been done.

MR. SPEAKER: The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

QUESTION 138-16(5):

FACILITY ISSUES AT COLVILLE LAKE SCHOOL

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask questions to the Minister of Education and Culture. Several weeks ago I went to Colville Lake. I did a tour of the school in Colville Lake and I was reminded with the school of a program that I used to watch one time called Little House on the Prairie. Mr. Speaker, it reminded me because when I went to the school there were 36 children in this one classroom. It was one room and the parents are very concerned because there are 36 children in one classroom, kindergarten to Grade 6. They're concerned because of the different grade levels that are being taught there; there are many distractions. So I want to ask the Minister in terms of this type of schooling that we have in the Northwest Territories, how many schools are still present today that will teach children in these types of situations?

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

MR. LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. It was a spectacular trip to the Sahtu region and we did visit the school as well, toured the school there. Yes, it is a small school for the size of the population, but at the same time we are discussing, as part of the capital planning process, we need to reassess, we need to re-evaluate the school status. There may be other schools similar to that, but those are ongoing discussions that we do have with the district education authorities or council. It will be at their request, as well, if they are concerned or they want to have an extension on their school or a new school. So that should be the planning stages. So, Mr. Speaker, we are discussing this, because it was brought to my attention as well. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I would like to ask the Minister to go a step further in terms of providing what he says is his mandate was to provide quality education in the Northwest Territories, specifically for Colville Lake, Mr. Speaker. That school that I talked about still has no running water, it has a honey bucket for a sanitary facility. I want to ask what things can bring Colville Lake School up to a quality education standard in the Northwest Territories, like any other school in the North. Again, if I could ask the Minister, how many schools like this in the Northwest Territories are under similar teaching conditions for the mandate that he is supposed to be working on?

MR. LAFFERTY: Part of the discussion that we've had in the community was also... At times it is the wish of the community not to have running water, but at the same time we are pursuing with the school to put in a piping system for running water because we feel that we need to have students healthy in the school so the germs don't spread around. So, Mr. Speaker, we are committing \$225,000 to deal with that matter. At the same time we need to look forward at how we can work with the community on expansion down the road. So, Mr. Speaker, again, we need to work with the DEC and DEA at the community level. They're the ones who the schools are under and we need to work closely with them. The visit to the community was a good opportunity for us to get into the community with my staff and just to see the school, the size of the school, how compact it is and so forth. So, yes, we will be putting in the piping system this year.

MR. YAKELEYA: I do want to say that the community certainly appreciates the Minister's tours in the Sahtu region that we had. I want to ask the Minister about his consultation and discussion and if he will come back in time on his review and if his review reviewed the adequacy against school capital standards and criteria for the Colville Lake School.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Once we identify assessment that needs to take place in that particular school, again, DEA -- sorry, DEC -- we need to work with and to identify as a capital project as well, either for next year or the following year. It depends on the space required.

I realize that, visiting the school, the space was maxed out. That is a concern to me, as well, having visited the school. We'll continue to work with the DEC on identifying what is a priority for the community of Colville Lake and for our Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Item 8, written questions. Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to return to item 5 on the Order Paper, recognition of visitors in the gallery.

---Unanimous consent granted

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was remiss earlier as I didn't have the names of two Pages from the riding of Frame Lake who have been working here this week. I'd like to thank them for their service and welcome Mikaela Tuccaro and Branden Horn.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. 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 responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 41-16(5):
EFFICIENT, AFFORDABLE AND EQUITABLE:
CREATING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR THE
NWT ELECTRICITY SYSTEM, MAY 2010

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Efficient, Affordable and Equitable: Creating a Better Future for the Northwest Territories Electricity System.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

TABLED DOCUMENT 42-16(5):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 1,
2010-2011 (OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES)

TABLED DOCUMENT 43-16(5):
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES NO. 3,
2010-2011 (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES)

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following two documents entitled Supplementary Estimates No. 1, 2010-2011 (Operations Expenditures) and "Supplementary Estimates No. 3, 2010-2011 (Infrastructure Expenditures).

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: First reading of bills.

MR. SPEAKER: Notices of motion for first reading of bills. Ms. Lee.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

BILL 8:
SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION ACT

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Monday, May 17, 2010, I will move that Bill 8, Social Work Profession Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 17, motions. Item 18, first reading of bills. Mr. Ramsay.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 7:
AN ACT TO AMEND THE ELECTIONS
AND PLEBISCITES ACT

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, that Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act, be read for the first time.

MR. SPEAKER: Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. Item 20, consideration in Committee of the Whole of bills and other matters: Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project; Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits; Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits – What We Heard; Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Veterinary Profession Act; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act; and Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010, with Mr. Abernethy in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole to order. Matters for consideration are: Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project; Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits; Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits – What We Heard; Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Veterinary Profession Act; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act; and Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee wishes to consider Bills 1, 2 and 3 today.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Is committee agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): With that, we'll take a short break and return to review Bills 1, 2 and 3.

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to the break, committee agreed to review Bill 1, An Act to

Amend the Veterinary Profession Act; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act; and Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010, in that order. Does committee agree that we proceed with Bill 1?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay. Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Veterinary Profession Act. Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Veterinary Profession Act. The proposed amendments to the act will ensure the legislation complies with national licensing standards. This will enable the Government of the Northwest Territories to better meet its obligations under the Labour Mobility chapter of the Agreement on Internal Trade.

The proposed amendments will require that all veterinarians who apply to be licensed to practice in the Northwest Territories hold a Certificate of Qualification upon successful completion of examinations set by the National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. This new requirement will not apply to veterinarians already licensed in the Northwest Territories.

Another minor amendment includes an increase to the maximum fine for offences under the act to better reflect the seriousness of the offence and make the fine consistent with other NWT health profession legislation. Also, the language of the act was modernized and terminology relating to the profession was updated. For example, "veterinary surgeon" was substituted with the modern title of "veterinarian."

That concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Would the chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs, who reviewed the bill, like to make some comments on the bill? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review and clause-by-clause consideration of Bill 1 on May 12, 2010, in Yellowknife. The committee heard no concerns from the public during this review. The Members thank the Minister and her staff for presenting the bill.

This bill amends the Veterinary Profession Act to provide an applicant for registration in the veterinarian register who is not already registered as a veterinarian in the province or territory. They must have been granted a certificate of qualification upon successful completion of examinations set by

the National Examining Board of the Canadian Veterinarian Medical Association.

In addition, this bill amends some provisions about registration fees to ensure consistency, and updates terminology relating to the veterinarian profession to reflect contemporary usage. There are also some small changes to clauses to conform to prevailing drafting practices. Finally, the bill includes consequential amendments to the Herd and Fencing Act, the Pharmacy Act and the new Medical Profession Act.

During the clause-by-clause consideration, the committee and the Minister agreed to a minor non-substantive amendment to the bill. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 1 to the Legislative Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and printed.

This concludes committee's opening comments on Bill 1. Individual Members may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Lee, do you have witnesses you'd like to come in?

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Sergeant-at-Arms, please let the witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister Lee, can I please get you to introduce your witnesses to the committee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Mr. Mark Aitken, director of legislation. To my right is Ms. Lisa Cardinal, director of policy and planning. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Are there any general comments on Bill 1? Ms. Bisaro.

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just have one quick question. I recognize that the changes to this act don't apply to veterinarians who are currently licensed in the NWT, but we do have, certainly, small communities where we don't have a licensed veterinarian in residence and there are people within the communities who do do some semi-veterinarian work. I'm just wondering whether or not any of these changes to the act are going to infringe on the work that some of these people do in the absence of a licensed veterinarian onsite or anybody who comes in from time to time. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Minister Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. No, it would not have an impact on the work that they do. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Does committee agree that there are no more general comments?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that we proceed with clause-by-clause on Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Veterinary Profession Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay. Let's begin on page 1 of Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Veterinary Profession Act. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 to 16 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that we have concluded clause-by-clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that we have concluded consideration of Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Veterinary Profession Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Veterinary Profession Act, is ready for third reading?

---Bill 1 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Sergeant-at-Arms, escort the witnesses out, please.

Does committee agree that we proceed with Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does the Minister responsible for Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act, Minister Lee, have any opening comments?

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to introduce Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act. The proposed amendments to the act will ensure the legislation complies with national licensing standards. This will enable the Government of the Northwest Territories to better meet its obligations under the Labour Mobility chapter of the Agreement on Internal Trade.

The proposed amendment will require that all applicants for registration as a dental hygienist in the Northwest Territories must have graduated from an accredited program in dental hygiene and have successfully completed the National Dental

Hygiene Certification Examination set by the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board. The amendments will not affect dental hygienists already licensed in the Northwest Territories.

Other proposed minor amendments include increasing the fines for offences under the act and modernizing the language to be more consistent with other health profession legislation.

That concludes my opening comments. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Mr. Beaulieu has chaired the Standing Committee on Social Programs who reviewed the bill. Would you like to make some opening comments on the bill?

MR. BEAULIEU: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted its public review of Bill 2 on May 12, 2010, in Yellowknife. Committee members would like to thank the Minister and her staff for presenting the bill.

The bill amends the Dental Auxiliaries Act to provide that an applicant for registration in the dental hygienist register who is not already registered as a dental hygienist in a province or territory must have both graduated from a program in dental hygiene accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada and have successfully completed a national dental hygiene certification examination set by the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board. The bill also amends the provisions relating to fees to ensure consistency. Several small changes were made to some clauses so that the wording conforms to the prevailing practices. Following committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 2 to the Legislative Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes committee's opening comments on Bill 2. Individuals may have additional questions or comments as we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Lee, do you have some witnesses that you would like to bring into the Chamber?

HON. SANDY LEE: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. Does committee agree that we allow the witnesses into the Chamber?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Sergeant-at-Arms, if you could please escort the witnesses into the Chamber.

Thank you. Minister Lee, can I please get you to introduce your witnesses to Committee of the Whole.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To my left is Mr. Mark Aiken, director of legislation, and to my right is Ms. Lisa Cardinal, director of policy and planning for the Department of Health and Social Services. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lee. They look familiar. Are there any general comments on Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act? Does committee agree that there are no general comments on Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Detail. Does committee agree that we move to the clause by clause of Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Okay. It begins on page 1 of the bill. Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 through 11 inclusive approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act is ready for third reading?

---Bill 2 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, committee. Bill 2 is now ready for third reading. Thank you, Minister Lee. I would like to thank your witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please get the witnesses escorted from the Chamber.

Does committee agree that we proceed with Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Can I get the Minister responsible for the bill, the Minister of Justice, to please introduce Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. The purpose of Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010, is to amend various statutes of the Northwest Territories for

which minor changes are proposed or errors or inconsistencies have been identified.

Each amendment included in the bill had to meet the following criteria:

- a) it must not be controversial;
- b) it must not involve the spending of public funds;
- c) it must not prejudicially affect rights;
- d) it must not create a new offence or subject a new class of persons to an existing offence.

Departments responsible for the various statutes being amended have reviewed and approved the changes.

Most amendments proposed in Bill 3 are minor in nature and many consist of technical corrections to a statute. Other changes have the effect of repealing certain enactments or statutory provisions that have expired or have otherwise ceased to have effect. The amendments are of such a nature that the preparation and legislative consideration of individual bills to correct each statute would be time consuming for the Government and the Legislative Assembly.

This bill is structured differently than the miscellaneous statute law amendments bills Members have reviewed in previous years, in that it is divided into two schedules.

Schedule A resembles a "conventional" miscellaneous statute law amendment bill, making a variety of minor amendments to the statutes. Schedule B is a new device, listing transitional provisions that are obsolete or expired, and providing for their repeal. This schedule will likely only make an appearance in a bill this once, as it results from a comprehensive review of all acts that have come into force since the December 31, 1988, cut-off date of the last statute revision.

I would like to thank the Standing Committee on Social Programs for its review of this bill. I will be pleased to answer the committee's questions on Bill 3. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Mr. Beaulieu is the chairman of the Standing Committee on Social Programs that reviewed the bill. Do you have any comments on the bill?

MR. BEAULIEU: Yes, Mr. Chairman. Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010. The Standing Committee on Social Programs conducted a public review of Bill 3 on March 24, 2010, in Yellowknife. Committee members thank the Minister and his staff for presenting the bill.

The bill amends 39 NWT laws to correct inconsistencies and errors. It also formally repeals provisions which are no longer in effect in 31 additional laws. The amendments only respond to matters of minor non-controversial and non-complicated nature of these laws. Following the committee's review, a motion was carried to report Bill 3 to the Legislative Assembly as ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

This concludes committee's opening comments on Bill 3. Individual Members may have additional questions and comments after we proceed. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Minister Lafferty, do you have any witnesses you would like to bring into the Chamber?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Does committee agree that we allow the Minister to bring in his witnesses into the Chamber?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you. Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please escort the Minister's witnesses into the Chamber.

Minister Lafferty, if I could please get you to introduce your witnesses for the record.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. I have Mark Aiken to my left, director of legislation, and Bronwyn Watters, deputy minister of Justice. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. Welcome to the witnesses. Do any Members have any general comments on Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010? Detail. Does committee agree that there are no further general comments and that we proceed with clause by clause of the bill?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Before we proceed with the clause by clause, we need to defer that and go to Schedule A. Are there any questions? Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Are there any questions on Schedule A? Does committee agree that we have completed Schedule A?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): We need to proceed, then, to page 27, Schedule B. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Are there any general comments or questions on Schedule B? No questions. Good. Does committee agree that we have completed review of Schedule B?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Let's return to the clause by clause on page 1. Clause 1.

---Clauses 1 and 2 approved

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that we now reviewed the bill clause by clause?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): To the bill as a whole.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Does committee agree that Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010, is ready for third reading?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

---Bill 3 as a whole approved for third reading

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): Thank you, Minister Lafferty. I would like to thank the witnesses. If I could please get the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort the witnesses out of the Chamber. I feel the trees on my feet.

What is the wish of committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that we report progress.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Abernethy): I will now rise and report progress.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, please, Mr. Abernethy?

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Veterinary Profession Act; Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act; Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010, and would like to report that Bills 1, 2 and 3 are ready for third reading. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. A motion is on the floor. Do we have a seconder for that? Mr. Bromley.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Orders of the day for Monday, May 17, 2010, 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
18. First Reading of Bills
 - Bill 8, Social Work Profession Act
19. Second Reading of Bills
 - Bill 7, An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
 - Tabled Document 4-16(5), Executive Summary of the Report of the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project
 - Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits
 - Tabled Document 38-16(5), Supplementary Health Benefits - What We Heard
 - Tabled Document 42-16(5), Supplementary Estimates No. 1, 2010-2011 (Operations Expenditures)

- Tabled Document 43-16(5), Supplementary Estimates No. 3, 2010-2011 (Infrastructure Expenditures)

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

- Bill 1, An Act to Amend the Veterinary Profession Act
- Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Dental Auxiliaries Act
- Bill 3, Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2010

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, May 17, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 12:58 p.m.