



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**Thursday, October 21, 2010****Members Present**

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

The House met at 1:41 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. I welcome our guests in the gallery today. I take a moment to recognize a very special guest in the gallery, my lovely wife, Davida, is here visiting us today.

Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Ministers' Statements

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 59-16(5):
LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION**

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the past, northern residents have relied on community gardens to provide nutritious locally grown produce. Thanks to dedicated community gardeners, this practice is being revived. During our short but intense growing season this summer, Northwest Territories community gardeners harvested a bumper crop of produce ranging from potatoes and carrots to spinach and lettuce.

Mr. Speaker, reducing the cost of living is one of the five strategic initiatives of the 16th Legislative Assembly. One way to accomplish this is to increase the amount of food that is produced and available at the local level.

Gardens have been established in many Northwest Territories communities through the support of the Small Scale Foods Program under the Canada-Northwest Territories Growing Forward Agreement and the hard work of residents throughout the Territory. This is a key step in providing affordable, healthy food for Northwest Territories residents.

While it's called the Small Scale Foods Program, there's nothing small about the benefits this program is producing in our Territory. It is reducing the cost of living. It is also diversifying local economies and putting healthy, locally grown food on the table.

Mr. Speaker, there are many more opportunities for the Northwest Territories to increase local food production. The Government of the Northwest

Territories is working with communities to develop our capacity to harvest our own local resources.

We are aiming higher and we are looking to maximize the benefits of local food production for Northwest Territories residents.

In fact, with strategic investments of \$700,000 being made this fiscal year, we can expand not only the production of food to include meat and fish, but also develop the ability to process food for markets throughout the Northwest Territories.

This work will have its challenges, but they are not insurmountable and our work can be successful.

By making these investments, we can have bigger impact at the local level, reducing the cost of living, creating jobs and developing more self-sufficient, vibrant communities. There is no reason why we can't have food produced in the Northwest Territories sold in every grocery store, hotel and restaurant in the Northwest Territories.

Through initiatives like the Small Scale Foods Program, the Government of the Northwest Territories remains committed to a diversified economy, reducing the cost of living and supporting local residents in making healthy local choices.

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

**MINISTER'S STATEMENT 60-16(5):
COMMUNITY JUSTICE REVIEW**

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to inform Members that results of the Community Justice Review will be available later this fall.

Our Community Justice Program has been in place for the last 15 years and it's been one of the most successful in the country. For the past several years, almost all of our communities have entered into partnerships with our department to deliver local justice programs. They are committed to find ways to address their local justice issues with responses and solutions that they develop on their own. It's a healthy and sustainable volunteer system of alternative justice.

Not all the committees are at the same level. Some are very successful. They keep kids and adults out of court, operate crime prevention programs, and

get the whole community involved. Others are just starting to explore options on the best way to address local justice issues. We did this review because we wanted to find out what does and does not work. We want to do a better job of supporting all of our people and strengthening their role in prevention.

This review started in 2009. We did eight site visits and asked people from all over the Northwest Territories for their ideas. What's working? What's not working? What could be strengthened with our extra help? What do they see in other places that might work at home?

We heard that communities want consistent training and financial support to address their staffing issues. Some of our committees have constant turnover of their coordinators. That can make it tough to get and maintain a restorative justice program. They want standardized procedures and practices so that everyone is doing the same thing. They want enhanced communications so that they can learn from each other. They want more partnerships with the RCMP, local government and agencies. We think we can help with these things.

This is just the beginning. We are developing an action plan and will come to the Standing Committee on Social Programs with a proposal. We agree that we can do more through increasing connections with the RCMP and victim services. Community justice is a range of services, not just one thing. It supports local needs and reflects local priorities. I look forward to discussing this with the committee.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. The honourable Minister responsible for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 61-16(5):
WASTE REDUCTION WEEK

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, October 18th to 24th is Waste Reduction Week in Canada. This week is an opportunity to provide residents with information about the environmental ramifications of wasteful practices and to encourage all of us to reduce, reuse and recycle.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has organized a number of activities to celebrate Waste Reduction Week. Random acts of greenness include a clothing swap, a cell phone and rechargeable battery recycling opportunity, a litterless lunch workshop and potluck, daily waste reduction tips, and ideas on how to reduce, reuse and recycle.

The GNWT is committed to conserving our natural resources and protecting our environment. Waste reduction and recovery are a key component of this commitment.

In the hierarchy of waste management, the gold medal goes to reducing the amount of waste that we produce. Reduction is the most important action in waste management. The silver medal is for reusing and the bronze medal is awarded for recycling.

The department is finalizing plans to implement phase II of the Single-Use Retail Bag Program on February 1, 2011. Phase II will extend the 25 cent environmental fee on single-use retail bags to all retail stores in the Northwest Territories. Each household will receive two highly compact reusable bags through the mail this weekend as part of this program implementation. Revenue generated from the Single-Use Retail Bag Program will go into the Environment Fund and will be used to fund the expansion of waste reduction and recovery activities in the NWT.

As Members are aware, this program is intended to reduce litter on the land. By limiting and ultimately eliminating our consumption of single-use retail bags, we are achieving the gold standard of waste reduction and management.

The Northwest Territories Liquor Commission is also introducing its own reusable bag program next month. Liquor stores will be offering reusable bags made of recyclable materials at an affordable price. The bags will feature northern scenes that will change as supplies are reordered. The existing paper bags will continue to be offered for a few months to allow customers time to transition to the new reusable bags.

Over the past five years, ENR has implemented a number of waste reduction and recovery programs. These include the Beverage Container Program, which was recently expanded to include milk containers, the Waste Paper Products Initiative and phase I of the Single-Use Retail Bag Program. The department will also be researching electronic waste programs this winter.

Mr. Speaker, Waste Reduction Week is an opportunity for all of us to remember the importance of reducing our consumption and protecting the environment for future generations. I invite all NWT residents to reduce, reuse and recycle this week and every week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 62-16(5):
MINISTER ABSENT FROM THE HOUSE

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to advise Members that the Honourable Robert C. McLeod will be absent from the House today to attend to a personal family matter.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING AWARENESS DAY

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to recognize International Stuttering Awareness Day, which takes place tomorrow. In supporting this awareness, I'd also like to recognize a former constituent, Ms. Karen Hollett, who is with us in the gallery today, who recently published a book about a young girl who stutters. A heart-warming story, *Hooray for Aiden*, was written by Ms. Hollett, who knows firsthand how challenging life can be for a young person who stutters. It is an excellent book that shows how a young grade 2 student named Aiden overcomes her fear of speaking in class and about how people who stutter can be anything they want to be.

Mr. Speaker, stuttering affects 5 percent of young children during the years they're learning to speak. Often this disability has negative consequences on a person's self-confidence and self-acceptance. But there are effective treatments for both children and adults. Typically, the earlier a child gets help, the better the outcome. There are many resources out there, Mr. Speaker, for parents, educators and school counsellors who work with children or adults who stutter. The Canadian Stuttering Association has an excellent website at stutter.ca, and Ms. Hollett has a great website at hooraypublishing.com.

Stuttering, Mr. Speaker, is a disability that doesn't get talked about very much, but it can have a devastating effect on school children who are teased by their peers. *Hooray for Aiden* is a book that belongs in all school libraries across our Territory. As a teaching tool it will inspire a child who stutters or perhaps has another disability, and will educate children who don't.

Mr. Speaker, I highly recommend the book and encourage all Members to read it and to share it with young people in their communities, and that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment look at putting a copy of *Hooray for Aiden* in each and every school across our Territory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF REVEREND ELLEN BRUCE

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to send my condolences to the Bruce family of Old Crow on the passing of their mother, their grandmother and,

more importantly, a very important figure in the Gwich'in region.

Mr. Speaker, the Gwich'in people from across the Northwest Territories will be gathering today in Old Crow for the passing of Reverend Ellen Bruce. Ellen was the first northern aboriginal woman to be ordained in the Anglican Church and also was a member of the Order of Canada.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Bruce is well known for her work with the church, but more importantly, working with the Gwich'in people and retaining the Gwich'in culture and language. She also was very easy and approachable to share her wisdom and her knowledge with everyone who knew her.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity this summer to spend time in Aklavik with Ellen, her daughter Bella, and Freddy Greenland in Aklavik, where she'd spent a lot of time over the last couple of years visiting family, relatives, and mostly her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Bruce will pass as one of those unique people that we meet in our lifetimes, who basically made you feel welcome every time you meet her, but more importantly, knowing that her beliefs in God, and more importantly, the importance of working together and retaining our culture and taking care of our fellowmen.

Mr. Speaker, with that, I would like to pass my condolences up to the people in Aklavik, for Old Crow and, more importantly, the Bruce family and for all the people who take their time to remember Ellen Bruce in her passing. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NORMAN WELLS POTATO HARVEST

MR. YAKELEYA: Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. My statement is about blood, sweat and good teamwork.

Mr. Speaker, the Sahtu is the most remarkable place. The largest lake, Bear Lake, in Canada, is the first ice hockey game in Canada, the CANOL Trail, and now due to the true grit and determination of a couple of northern farmers, Norman Wells has become the potato capital of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, it began with some discouraging results: a poor crop of small potatoes last year. Mr. Speaker, that didn't stop Doug Whiteman, owner of Green Enterprises. With some advice from PEI potato farmers, and somehow from his friend Brian Likochas, he had a great harvest this year.

Mr. Whiteman and Mr. Likochas mixed cattle manure into a soil and improved their harvesting techniques. Their reward was more than 9,000 pounds of potatoes. These are big potatoes, Mr.

Speaker, averaging about a pound each. They are 100 percent organic grown red potatoes. They are tasty and they can compete with the prices in the Northern Store.

People from Norman Wells are buying these northern spuds. People from Tulita and Fort Good Hope have been taking them home by boatloads. I think there is a song coming with that, Mr. Speaker; however, I will wait.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Whiteman received financial aid from the Government of the Northwest Territories through Industry, Tourism and Investment that helped to purchase a tractor and an industrial Rototiller. Mr. Speaker, with the success of this good news, Mr. Whiteman also has 70 turkeys -- and, no, we are not the turkey capital of the Northwest Territories --

---Laughter

...and chickens. He had a good year growing carrots too. I hope his success will encourage others in the Sahtu and people in the Northwest Territories to start producing vegetables for their families and to have a cash crop. Perhaps others will get into the self-sufficiency attitude, and this way, Mr. Speaker, communities will become less reliant on imported produce, and produce more and become more self-reliant. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON WINTER ROAD TO LUTSELK'E

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I will be talking about Lutselk'e and their desire to have a winter road to the community from Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, here in the NWT we have many communities that are isolated with no road access in and out of their community. These communities know all too well the challenges of living in their isolated communities. Lutselk'e is one such community. However, Mr. Speaker, unlike many isolated communities, Lutselk'e does not have the benefit of a winter road.

While residents in other communities can drive in and out of their community anytime they wish to in the winter road season, Lutselk'e residents must continue to pay as much as \$400 each time they leave the community and come to Yellowknife. Sometimes that is just the beginning of their journey, Mr. Speaker.

To put it another way, when it comes to Christmas shopping, a family of four coming from Lutselk'e will pay close to \$1,600 just to get here and back. That doesn't include meals and accommodation, so at the end of the day, Mr. Speaker, there is not much

left for shopping. It is just one of many examples of the disadvantages of having no winter road access.

Mr. Speaker, I know the government did consider the idea of a winter road to Lutselk'e before and deemed it too costly when compared to the status quo of using barges. Mr. Speaker, just because the government thinks it is not feasible, that shouldn't be the end of the idea. What about the needs of the people and communities? With that kind of thinking and to be really cost efficient, everybody could be living in Yellowknife.

Mr. Speaker, the government must revisit the matter at this time and exercise due diligence and fully engage the people of Lutselk'e to make this work.

For example, Mr. Speaker, they will tell you that there is some uncertainty with the barge this summer. We all know the water levels have dropped to record lows and if the water levels continue to drop over the coming summer, it will force the issue. To avoid the issue, we need to start working on this now.

Mr. Speaker, some winter roads in the NWT are as long as 300 kilometres. With a 125-kilometre road into Thor Lake on a regular basis, it would only take another 115 kilometres to reach Lutselk'e.

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

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BEAULIEU: So, Mr. Speaker, it is within reach, and with the cooperation of industry I believe we can finally get a winter road to Lutselk'e.

Later on today I will have questions for the Minister of Transportation on this issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL STUTTERING AWARENESS DAY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As Members already know now, tomorrow, October 22nd, is International Stuttering Awareness Day, and I'm going to use my statement today to talk about stuttering.

Statistics show that in the NWT alone approximately 500 children and adults could be affected by stuttering, but it's a little known, little acknowledged condition, Mr. Speaker. We don't often speak about it. Stuttering is a condition which we as a society are uncomfortable with. It's a disability that's kept in the shadows, one that nobody talks about.

For differing reasons, people with a stuttering disability tend to avoid being out in the public. They

cut themselves off from the world to avoid speaking. But when humans remove themselves from society, it has devastating consequences for both the individual and for societies. That's because we as human beings are social creatures, Mr. Speaker. We learn through socializing and personal interaction, and that means talking to each other. We preserve our history through oral stories, the spoken word passed down from generation to generation. Thankfully society has come a long way in our acceptance of people with disabilities. We now include them in our regular school classes. We welcome the diversity they bring to our communities and our workplaces.

Stuttering, however, is a disability that children still report being teased and bullied about and children can outgrow stuttering, but many do not. It's a condition which can be helped, it can be modified, it can even be cured, and any child who stutters should be assessed by a speech language pathologist. The earlier a child gets help, the better he or she is.

So what can we do to accommodate stutterers? We can accept them as valued members of our society, just as they are. We can encourage them when conversing by making eye contact and not looking away. We can encourage them by not finishing their sentence, just be patient and give them time to say what they have to say.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I want to also honour Ms. Karen Hollett, who is here with us today. Karen recently published her first book Hooray for Aiden. She is the author and the publisher of the book and, again, it's about a young girl who stutters. The book itself has received rave reviews from North American and British stuttering associations. Congratulations on your achievement, Karen, well done.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FOSTER FAMILY WEEK

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that this is Foster Family Awareness Week and I would like to use my Member's statement today to recognize foster families in the Northwest Territories.

Ideally every child would be raised in their own home by their own parent or parents in a safe, secure and nurturing environment, but, Mr. Speaker, we know that circumstances in life do not always allow that to happen. In those situations, Mr. Speaker, it's very important that we have parents and families that will come forward and take children into their home and treat them and raise them as if they are their own. Mr. Speaker, without

this resource, we as a government would be very hard pressed to provide a solution or a suitable alternative to these homes that these children are able to be placed in.

Mr. Speaker, I know firsthand the rewards and challenges of fostering and I would like to, today, extend a heartfelt thank you to the homes, to the parents, to the families who open their hearts to children who need temporary families, whether it be for a short time or a long time, and for this really working together as partners with us as a government to ensure these children are taken care of. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON FOSTER FAMILY WEEK

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is Foster Family Week and I'd like to follow my colleague's direction and thank the foster families of the Northwest Territories.

Foster families provide children with love and support all year, every year. This is truly a gift to the children and to the future of our Territory.

We heard the compassion and dedication behind this gift from many of the foster parents during the Social Programs committee's review of the Child and Family Services Act. Some foster parents take children into their homes for short stays, but some for much longer. Some foster parents are part of the children's extended family. They are filling a great need in the Northwest Territories and new foster families are always in demand from a range of cultural backgrounds.

In Yellowknife there are more than 3 percent of children in foster care. That's a shocking number when you think about it. That's the 2009 figure from our local health and social services authority. In the Northwest Territories there are more than 600 children in care, including more than 200 in permanent custody. Not all are in foster care, but most are. This shows great needs and great problems that we face in all of our communities.

We are, indeed, lucky to have so many families who open their homes and their hearts to the children in need. We are lucky to have foster parents who help the kids with their schoolwork and get them involved in sports, take them hunting and show them healthy love and respect.

From all accounts, fostering is both rewarding and challenging, and I would like to once again take this opportunity to thank the many foster parents in the Northwest Territories for their continued dedication and support of our children.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
POWER CORPORATION COMPENSATION
POLICY FOR POWER SURGES

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week I did a Member's statement on the power disruption in Ulukhaktok and how people worked together to get through the problem. I heard on the radio last week, in Inuvik the power surge caused damage to people's equipment, such as TVs, stereos, computers and other equipment.

There are probably not very many long-term Northerners who have not had equipment damaged in power surges, but you can only imagine my surprise when I heard the Power Corporation was paying compensation to the Inuvik residents for these damages. No one has ever made the offer to the residents of Ulukhaktok or Paulatuk or any other constituency I represent before. I need to learn how to get signed up for this program.

The radio announcer said the Power Corporation was apologizing for the surge and the damages that it caused and the Power Corporation will pay for the damages it has caused. I don't think I've ever heard those words come from the Power Corporation before. In fact, advertisements in the paper told me that the Power Corporation would be making compensation for damages. I guess there's a first time for everything.

I wonder if the residents in the communities could become eligible for this kind of program. I see many damaged TVs, computers and printers in the communities that I represent and handled many complaints against the Power Corporation, but nothing was ever resolved. I never knew that the residents in the Nunakput communities could get compensation.

I will have questions for the appropriate Minister at the appropriate time.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
DELAYING CLOSURE OF
WRIGLEY FERRY SERVICE

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. [Translation] Mr. Speaker, I phoned the community of Wrigley recently and told them the ferry services to Wrigley are very important to them. This is what I'm going to be talking about today. [Translation ends]

...closure of the Ndulee ferry. Tentatively, the Department of Transportation is looking at Monday, October 25th. The community has requested until October 31, 2010. The closure will have a big

impact on the residents because they do not have a full-time store. They're also awaiting shipment for their small concession store of staple items that they have need for. They're also awaiting equipment for their business arm, and residents get faced with exceptional air charter costs because of the new rule of not allowing residents to land at a temporary airstrip on the highway.

The early closure will have the most impact on those with low income, pensioners and those on social assistance. They get their monthly stipend at the end of this month.

On behalf of the residents of the community of Wrigley, I request the Minister of Transportation request his department to seriously consider the request of the community.

In Minister Bob McLeod's statement he confirms that reducing the cost of living is one of our five strategic initiatives of our government. We pride ourselves each time we do that. This small request for a one-week extension to the Ndulee ferry operation is consistent with our goal and at a very small cost.

Last year at this time the residents of Wrigley faced many challenges financially from an early closure. This time, will the Minister of Transportation ensure that the story is different and do anything he can in his power to hear the needs of the community of Wrigley?

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's also Small Business Week and I want to join in saluting these local engines of our economies and communities.

As Members know from my many statements, small business is what it's all about for a healthy and enduring economic future. Small businesses pour their benefits throughout our communities. They build the local tax base and grace our streets as a focus for not only our business but our social lives. Small businesses keep our dollars in the community to be spent again and multiply the benefits of local purchasing. Small businesses mean local jobs, providing opportunity, and allowing people to stay in their communities among their families and friends.

Small businesspeople are community-active people. They share their energy through volunteerism, contribution to local sports, cultural events and charities. Small businesses are contagious, providing customers and business partners for the growth of new firms to expand our economies.

As large projects come and go, small businesses provide the service base for the Northwest Territories workers we want living here at home and working on our major developments, not flying to their homes and provinces...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Bromley, your time for your Member's statement has expired.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to conclude my statement.

---Unanimous consent granted

MR. BROMLEY: I don't mind saying that the small business community in my riding is amongst the most vibrant in Canada, certainly in Yellowknife. Our nutritious and renewable fisheries products come to the dockside in Weledeh for everyone to enjoy. Weaver and Devore is an historical business centrepiece of the city, the oldest continually operating business in Yellowknife. The traditions of bush pilots live on in the float bases that are the transportation mainstay and a tourism charm. Deton'Cho, the economic development arm of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation, is establishing its place as a significant player in well-capitalized enterprises. Lutra Associates encompasses the meaning of progressive socio-economic policy development.

I could go on and on. They are all run by local people paying their taxes in the NWT and building our human and community capacity through their efforts.

We owe a lot to our small business entrepreneurs. Please join with me in congratulating them on their achievements and vital contributions, and thank you for your consideration in allowing me to conclude my statement.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. My apologies for that. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ON-LINE PETITIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I'd like to highlight on-line petitions in my Member's statement.

I am very pleased that the Legislative Assembly will soon be accepting on-line petitions here. It's a new form of democracy being created right before our eyes, and I intend to promote this option to all the residents of Yellowknife Centre as well as throughout the North to all our northern constituents. I certainly hope Northerners will consider using this site to submit their petitions and make sure their voice is heard in this Assembly.

I was in favour of this direction from the start of our deliberations and I think that on-line petitions are a great way to ensure that there's broad participation on democratic issues that affect the North.

Take issues like supplementary health benefits. It's polarized Northerners from tip to tip to tip of our northern territory. This way we can ensure we hear their voice collectively, in one petition.

In 2000 the Scottish Parliament became the first Legislature to accept on-line petitions and formally launched its system in 2004. As I understand it, many European Legislatures now offer the ability to submit on-line petitions. The National Assembly of Quebec has recently established an on-line petition service for its residents. And our very own, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories, will become the second Legislature in Canada and, as I understand it, in North America, to have this feature.

Mr. Speaker, this Assembly has taken a huge step forward in delivering democracy to its constituents and I have to assure you that even if it has low uptake, the fact is we are providing access to our constituents, which is one of the purposes of why we're here.

So I hope that this on-line service will mean that more MLAs will receive more petitions from their concerned constituents, rather than having their voice of silence because they're not sure what to do. It seems to me the likelihood is that there will be more frequent petitions come forward and hopefully this government will hear concerns of the people by the people.

All in all, I think on-line petitions are a great way to increase communication in that outreach to our constituents. I want to thank the Members of this Assembly for their support of this initiative, especially the Members of the Rules and Procedures committee.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr. Speaker, as you soon will be launching this new initiative formally here as an opportunity for Northerners to make sure they are fully in touch with their Assembly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Members.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Item 4, reports of standing and special committees. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

COMMITTEE REPORT 3-16(5): REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT: BUILDING STRONGER FAMILIES

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am going to read the report, the Child and Family Services Act review.

Overview: The Way Forward

The grim legacy of residential schools continues under the current child and family services system.

From Fort Liard to Ulukhaktok, members of the Standing Committee on Social Programs heard these sentiments hundreds of times. Families lose their children instead of getting help to cope; children are sent away to distant foster parents instead of to the homes of extended family. Alcohol and other addictions ravage families and communities but there are few practical avenues for treatment, and little or no local support for those who do strive to break free.

The stories are all too real. Families across the Northwest Territories have suffered incredible tragedy and heartbreak in the past 80 years. First, severe flu epidemics took a terrible toll. Then, as families struggled to rebuild and recover, their children were taken away and sent to residential schools, often hundreds of kilometres away, with no way to get there but dog team. Communities emptied of young children were left to mourn; the children grew up without parents, missing the love and knowledge they deserved. This devastating practice went on for decades. The effects, spanning four generations, are still being felt today.

Testimony from our communities is supported by the shocking fact that more than 90 percent of child welfare cases involve aboriginal children. The causes are rooted in a long history of discrimination, assimilation, trauma and cultural loss in residential schools, social inequality and poverty, poor housing, and the lack of focus on prevention and support for families in need by child welfare services.

Community input is also consistent with the evidence of professionals in the field, which shows that many parents involved in child welfare cases are victims themselves. A comprehensive 2003 study found that in 88 percent of cases, the female caregiver suffered from a physical, emotional, cognitive or behavioural issue, and was the victim of domestic abuse 73 percent of the time. In 38 percent of cases, the female caregiver disclosed that she was herself maltreated as a child, as did 23 percent of the men. The male parent in child welfare cases is a perpetrator of domestic violence in 41 percent of cases. Alcohol and drug abuse are prevalent among both parents.

But that is not the end of the story. In its review of the Child and Family Services Act, the committee heard that changes must be made both to the legislation and to the way it is delivered. Many objectives of the act are simply not being met. However, Members also heard that there is hope, that the communities want to take responsibility for their children, that a new relationship can be built with the Department of Health and Social Services. It is in this spirit that the committee offers its recommendations for change. In fact, committee members believe change is already underway. In the interest of building stronger families, the

Minister of Health and Social Services assigned child and family services' staff to tour the communities with us to hear directly from the people.

The committee came away from the tour with great confidence in local leadership and the communities' ability to play a key role in improving the child welfare system.

We were given a great deal of excellent advice, and there is more of it in the pages that follow. Here are the essential recommendations, from which the rest flow:

Recommendation 1

Focus on prevention and early intervention, helping families stay together and heal; including expansion of the Healthy Families Program into every community.

Recommendation 2

Take the least intrusive measures possible to deliver child welfare services, with increased emphasis on collaborative processes to solve family problems.

Recommendation 3

Set up and fund child and family services committees in every community, as set out in the act, providing resources to communities taking more responsibility for child welfare.

Recommendation 4

Provide alcohol and drug treatment, readily accessible and convenient to all communities.

Recommendation 5

Extend child and family services to youth aged 16 to 19, with provisions to assist young adults to age 23.

Recommendation 6

Improve the administration of child and family services by updating procedures, with particular emphasis on increasing extended family placements, custom adoptions and community-based solutions.

Recommendation 7

Develop a comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy that includes coordinating the work and policies of the departments of Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment; Justice; and the NWT Housing Corporation in areas related to child welfare, such as social assistance, legal aid and housing.

Recommendation 8

Develop a strategic plan at the Department of Health and Social Services, incorporating the recommendations of this report, starting with a response to this report within 120 days.

Mr. Speaker, prevention and early intervention have traditionally been given low priority by the Department of Health and Social Services, but some positive steps have been taken in recent years to support families needing help. The Healthy Families Program is available to families, beginning with pregnancy and extending to children up to age five. The program features home visits to promote positive parenting, healthy childhood growth, and parent-child bonding as well as referrals to other community services. This is an excellent example of the direction child and family services should take. Unfortunately, the Healthy Families Program is only running in four large communities. The program is under-resourced and must be expanded and available in all communities.

Only the community of Fort McPherson has ever had a local child and family services committee, although provisions for them were made in the act in 1998. By setting up these committees, the department can rebuild its relationship with the communities, put local knowledge to good use, and shift its focus to prevention and early intervention with troubled families. Extended families will be more likely to be involved in solutions to family problems; some communities will likely work to restore the traditional role of elders. To be effective, child and family services committees must be properly funded and supported.

Current practice has focused much of child and family services' work on families embroiled in crisis, and on the legal steps necessary when children enter custody of some kind. Far too often, apprehension becomes a permanent "solution," removing the child from his or her family and community. More than a third of the 600 children receiving child welfare services in the Northwest Territories are in permanent custody. Adjusted for our population, we place more children in out-of-home care than any jurisdiction in Canada. This can, and must, change. Less intrusive measures can keep more families together and keep more children in their home communities.

Time and again, the committee was told that child neglect and maltreatment are rooted in alcohol and drug abuse. When children are removed from a family, it is common for the Plan of Care Agreement to require parents to complete an alcohol or drug treatment program. It is almost a guarantee of failure. Treatment often involves significant waiting times for centres that are far from home, and those who do succeed find little organized support for continued sobriety once they return home. In addition, the disparity of service and support is too great between large and small communities. This too must change.

It is well known that the years of young adulthood can be among the most challenging of our lives. Young people in the child welfare system, from age

16 to 19, are disadvantaged in our current system, to the point that their human rights are compromised. The gap in services for this age group was first raised in 1977 and remains to this day. In this instance, the act must be changed to require the director of child and family services to offer the same services to young adults as children receive, and further, to extend the director's parental responsibility for permanent wards to age 23.

There are other barriers affecting children and families, falling under the departments of Education, Culture and Employment, Justice, and the NWT Housing Corporation. Many of these barriers can be reduced with coordinated action guided by a comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy. It is important that social assistance augments child and family services' work; that families facing court hearings have good access to legal aid; that a family temporarily losing custody of children has a home to live in when they are reunited. An alarming proportion of child welfare cases arise among tenants of public housing, telling us that we need to look at the circumstances and supports available to families in public housing. The committee heard about problems in all these areas and they must be solved.

The hard truth is that many problems with our child welfare system are decades old, and we have not done enough to address them or their causes. A review by the Child Welfare League of Canada in 2000 is still instructive today: too little was being done to help families, through prevention and early intervention; families were forgotten after children were removed; staff caseloads were too high; there were problems with recruitment and training; and there was a lack of aboriginal staff, especially in management.

That said, without the amazing dedication and good-heartedness of many individual social workers and foster parents, our system would be far worse. These people regularly go beyond the call of duty, and find ways to help children and families. This group of people will be invaluable in improving child welfare in the future. In a small system like ours, even a handful of people can make a huge difference.

Mr. Speaker, most of the changes we advise can be made or started immediately. That is the recommendation of the committee. We also recognize that some of our most important recommendations will require investment. The committee believes very strongly that the future of NWT children and families warrants this investment. Services to protect and build strong families will benefit our children and our communities. As legislators, we must set priorities to see this through. That is what our constituents want and expect.

We thank everyone who assisted us in this review. Thank you to all those who attended the community hearings, who shared their stories and experiences, to those who made written submissions, to the department of child and family services staff who worked with us, and to all those who enabled our work. It is now our aim, and our duty, to begin making the changes required to build stronger families and communities. The people of the NWT deserve nothing less.

Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker, and now Mr. Bromley will continue reading our report. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MAKE PREVENTION AND FAMILY SUPPORT A CORE COMPONENT OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES' OPERATIONAL

Overview

The persistent high rates of child maltreatment in the NWT are a cause of great concern. The reactionary, crisis-response mode that child and family services operates in has not, and is not, solving child welfare problems, nor will it be able to in the future without serious changes.

Maltreatment is damaging children's health and development, with dire consequences to our society. Maltreated children are more likely than others to suffer from physical, psychological and social problems that continue well after maltreatment has ended; for most, into adulthood. Victims of maltreatment often enter the child welfare system, which is very costly in itself. If we consider all the costs of case management, administration, services to families and children, foster care, adoption services, hospitalization, mental health care and law enforcement that stem directly from maltreatment, the expense is alarmingly high. The cost to children and their families, in human terms, is beyond calculation. In that light, child and family services must make proactive prevention and family support a core component of its Child Welfare and Protection Strategy.

The Child and Family Services Act not only allows the director to provide prevention services to children and families, but emphasizes this approach. Although there are currently a few prevention programs supported by child and family services, such as the Healthy Families Program, these programs are starved for resources and lack capacity to take on more clients. The unfortunate reality is that crisis cases eat up the lion's share of child welfare resources. This crisis-response mode is not sustainable.

Alcohol and drug-related child neglect, followed closely by domestic violence, is the number one

cause of children being referred to child and family services. The majority of the parents involved live in poverty and struggle with mental health issues. To address those issues, it is important that government develop a stronger and more effective social safety net as part of its Anti-Poverty Strategy, considering child welfare programs in the process. There is a great need for better coordination of government services.

Although prevention of child maltreatment requires a government-wide approach, child and family services plays the key role. During the committee's visits to the communities, members heard how many parents, especially young parents, would benefit from counselling and support groups. We need to vastly improve pre- and post-natal care and parenting skills, offer respite services and child care, plus in-home supports and home visitation programs. Investing in these prevention programs early will reduce the demand for protection services in the near future.

Prevention Services and Supports

1. Amend the act to:
 - a) mandate prevention and early intervention; include a presumption of prevention and early intervention in the principles of the act;
 - b) include the presumption of working with and providing support to the whole family to address protection concerns and develop policy and standards to support this change;
 - c) mandate community-based services that must be provided by the director in all communities;
 - d) oblige the director of child and family services to consider first local, then regional, and finally territorial treatment options for cases requiring alcohol and drug treatment or rehabilitation;
 - e) require the director to provide adequate timely support to parents requiring alcohol or drug treatment or rehabilitation so that they are able to complete terms in the Plan of Care Agreement within a reasonable time frame.
2. Develop a comprehensive strategy to provide resources and capacity for prevention and early intervention programming.
3. Work with departments and organizations such as Education, Culture and Employment; NWT Housing Corporation; Justice; Health and Social Services; and the RCMP, to improve coordination of services and supports, at both the policy and delivery levels.
4. Ensure funding for prevention and early intervention programming in every community,

- and present a budget for it to the Legislative Assembly in the 2011-12 budget session.
5. Expand prevention services at the local level by delegating responsibility and providing support to community agencies.
 6. Expand the Healthy Families Program to all communities with high priority.
 7. Develop policy to allow the director to provide financial support to families in emergency situations.
 8. Encourage self-referrals and early intervention by providing more voluntary services.
 9. Develop policy that encourages the use of supervision agreements and plan of care agreements before apprehension.
 10. Provide in-home supports and services as a means of keeping children safe in their homes.
 11. Develop public education and community-based parenting programs.
 12. Develop services for collaborative crisis planning with families at risk of developing protection concerns, with particular focus on families with infants and youth (because these factors coincide with a high level of stress in the household).
 13. Develop more resources for alcohol and drug treatment and rehabilitation in each region and support local program alternatives.
 14. Develop a policy regarding victims of domestic violence that includes:
 - a) providing services and supports that allow them to keep their children safely in their custody;
 - b) advocating for victims and supporting them in criminal proceedings against the perpetrator;
 - c) providing temporary shelter and support to allow victims and their children to leave their homes where abuse is taking place.
 15. Provide grants and resources to community organizations to provide community-based services and supports, including shelters, food banks, counselling resources, treatment programs, healing camps, on-the-land, et cetera.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to pass the baton to my colleague Ms. Bisaro to continue with the recommendations. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

TAKE THE LEAST INTRUSIVE AND MOST EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO DELIVER CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES

Overview

The legacy of the residential school system and the historically poor relationship between the communities and the department responsible for child protection continue to colour people's present-day experience with child and family services. Their relationship is marred by lack of confidence and trust in the staff, the policy and procedures, and the administration of the Department of Health and Social Services.

In every community visited by the Social Programs committee during the review, there was unanimous agreement that child and family services' interventions are too intrusive and damage children, their families and their communities. One reason for using intrusive measures such as apprehension, the committee found, was that when communication breaks down between families and child protection workers, the workers feel powerless and are inadequately trained to use alternative solutions to protect children.

The most effective way to reduce the number of children being taken into care, and to ensure that only those who absolutely must be taken from their parents' custody are removed, is to use collaborative processes that focus on communication and alternative approaches to dispute resolution.

In order for parents and families to participate and communicate effectively with child and family services, it is necessary to use the least intrusive measures possible, develop advocacy tools to ensure that parents' rights are protected and allow them to participate more equitably, and engage the community in building the foundation for a new relationship with the department that is meant to serve them.

Least Intrusive Measures

16. Amend the act to:
 - a) add consideration for the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and the Rights of Aboriginal Peoples to the Principles of the Act;
 - b) include the presumption of least intrusive measures with special focus on prevention, early intervention and mediation;
 - c) include the presumption of working with the whole family;
 - d) include the presumption of keeping families together and reunifying separated children and families to the extent possible;
 - e) to allow the establishment of an early intervention team for self-referred cases and cases where a referral was investigated and the child is not currently

in need of protection, but where protection concern exists. The early intervention team should be made up of:

- i. the child protection worker,
- ii. immediate and extended family members,
- iii. a member of the child's band council administration, and
- iv. any professionals with sufficient interest in the child.

17. Change the threshold for apprehension to include:

- a) a child should not be apprehended if the protection concern would be alleviated by providing financial support or other social services to the family;
- b) confirmation that the child protection worker has considered and/or attempted to provide services which were ineffective in alleviating the protection concern.

18. Develop policy and practice that is culturally appropriate for the NWT, with special emphasis on consideration for aboriginal culture, extended family support systems and a community-based approach.

Collaborative Process

19. Amend the act to include a presumption of using collaborative processes, mediation and dispute resolution, from early intervention and throughout the protection process.
20. Integrate collaborative methods into policy and standards, including dispute resolution, participatory planning and other tools to improve communication.
21. Include in the policy and procedures a meeting with parents and families for the purpose of outlining all of the options available to them in the child protection process.
22. Language used in the act, in policy and in practice, should be non-adversarial and contribute to a collaborative process, and building understanding and better communication.
23. A formal conflict resolution policy should be developed by the Department of Health and Social Services that includes the use of dispute resolution techniques and third-party mediators, negotiators or arbitrators.
24. Use dispute resolution to allow placement or return of the child to non-custodial parents, relatives and extended families as a means of avoiding apprehension.

Advocacy and Legal Process

25. Amend the act to:

- a) revise Section 85(1) and 85(2), to allow the participation of advocates in all meetings between the child and/or parents, and staff of child and family services, court proceedings and case reviews. An advocate may include:
 - i. a legal professional or lawyer,
 - ii. a member of the extended family or a friend,
 - iii. a member of the parents' band council administration,
 - iv. a member of an organization active in the individual's community, or
 - v. a professional with sufficient interest in the individual.
 - b) Include that if the child is an aboriginal child and belongs to a band council, notice should be served to the band council prior to both the apprehension hearing and the protection hearing;
 - c) make the affidavit available, with the consent of the parents, to the band council of an aboriginal child, if a representative of the band council administration requests it;
 - d) formalize the child and parents' rights to legal counsel at all stages of the child protection process;
 - e) require full disclosure of the director's files for the purpose of the court process;
 - f) revise Section 8(4) to provide meaningful access to legal recourse for victims of false reports, and consider other consequences for knowingly making a false report.
26. Establish a mechanism to ensure that every child's voice is heard, and that the child understands what is happening to them at every level of the child welfare system.
 27. Develop a program for training child and family services committees in such areas as human rights, the child protection process, and advocacy.
 28. Encourage band administrations to participate and advocate at all levels of the process and include them in training activities.
 29. Work with the Department of Justice to address gaps in services provided by Legal Aid, by:
 - a) making lawyers more accessible early in the child protection process;
 - b) providing resources for assessments and expert witnesses;

- c) extending the billable case management time lawyers are allowed to work with clients.
30. Start dialogue with lawyers, courts and the Department of Justice to:
- a) integrate dispute resolution and collaborative processes into court processes;
 - b) build awareness of child welfare issues and best practices.

Community Engagement

- 31. Develop a client service approach at the department and authority levels, supported in policy and procedure, as well as client service training for staff.
- 32. Enhance child and family services' relationship with the public by conducting more public education, training and workshops in communities, for both the public and staff.
- 33. Rewrite the act in plain language, with special effort to avoid use of adversarial language and concepts.
- 34. Develop plain language policy and procedure documents for public information; such as guides, "how to" resources, a website, and pamphlets for parents, families and children involved with the child protection system.
- 35. Develop policy and guidelines describing who and under what circumstances information from case files may be shared.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would like to ask my colleague Mr. Abernethy to continue reading the recommendations. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PROVIDE QUALITY INTERVENTIONS AND SERVICES IN RESPONSE TO CHILD AND FAMILY WELFARE CONCERNS

Overview

It became evident during the review that the department and its authorities face several major administrative challenges, including human resource management, supervision and oversight, monitoring and evaluation, data collection, technical support, and policy development. New approaches and strategies are required.

Case management and social work practice are also challenging the department, authorities and individual workers, reinforcing the need for regulation of social work practice, capacity building, and the development of new policies and procedures.

One of the primary functions of the department is to provide services that lessen the suffering and hardship of children, families and communities. The committee's findings show that poor program management and failed implementation of the act contribute to the challenges and hardships of residents of the North. To address this, the department must be able to provide, as a minimum, adequate services to children and youth in care and, ideally, services that help these individuals to thrive.

One key finding of the review is that youth are under-served by the Department of Health and Social Services, and other departments, and are falling into poverty, homelessness, violence and crime. This gap must be addressed, as unequal government services and supports for youth is a violation of their basic human rights.

To reduce child maltreatment and abuse across the territory, quality interventions and support services are required in every community. In the long term, quality interventions at an early stage will replace the volume of crisis-response interventions, which will eventually reduce both the human and financial costs of child protection.

Child and Family Services Administration

36. Amend the act to:
- a) require the Legislative Assembly or a committee of the Legislative Assembly designated or established by it to review the provisions and delivery of the Child and Family Services Act at the next session following each successive fifth anniversary of the tabling of this review in the Legislative Assembly;
 - b) require the director to develop a monitoring and evaluation framework, reviewed and updated on a regular basis;
 - c) ensure regular reviews and updating of policy and standards.

Required policy updates include:

- i. apprehension guidelines;
- ii. guidelines for collaborative processes, collaborative planning and dispute resolution;
- iii. requiring the supervisors to approve interventions;
- iv. policy and guidelines for using least intrusive measures;
- v. guidelines for using supervision agreements, voluntary services agreements and plan of care agreements as part of early intervention;

- vi. guidelines on privacy and information sharing that clearly indicate when, what and how to allow access to case information;
 - vii. guidelines for the provision of services and supports for prevention and early intervention, after apprehension and after the child has been returned to the care of the parent(s);
 - viii. policy and procedures that minimize the number of moves experienced by children in care.
37. Develop policy and guidelines that prevent inappropriate and potentially harmful placements.
38. Develop a human resource strategy that includes:
- a) reducing caseloads;
 - b) hiring more child protection workers and social workers, with special focus on aboriginal recruitment;
 - c) using more lay workers where possible;
 - d) retention planning;
 - e) providing regular and ongoing training and support to child protection workers and social workers;
 - f) using legal clerks to assist staff with court documents.
39. Make updating the policy and standards manual a priority by assigning staff to lead and manage the project, and complete it within a reasonable time frame.
40. Improve supervision and oversight by requiring regular meetings, supervisory approval of interventions, and increasing visibility of supervisors.
41. Develop policy and standards for monitoring and evaluation activities.
42. Replace the Child and Family Information System (CFIS) with a computer program that is up to date, user-friendly, and able to assist the department in improving case management, monitoring and evaluation, data collection, and planning.
- a) building practical understanding of the act and familiarization with the policies, procedures and regulations;
 - b) training on human rights, the law, legal processes and court documentation;
 - c) focus on understanding the options and processes available under the act;
 - d) how to refer clients for prevention and support services;
 - e) practical training in communication, collaborative process and dispute resolution;
 - f) cross-cultural training relevant to the NWT;
 - g) case management and lease intrusive measures;
 - h) training on the implementation of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPP) and how to share information within the limits of both ATIPP and the Child and Family Services Act.
46. Improve case management by developing policy that includes:
- a) regular meetings with clients, case review and progress monitoring;
 - b) regular visits to children in care;
 - c) providing early intervention and prevention services and supports for clients.
47. Ensure that expertise in mediation and dispute resolution is available to both the department, and at the community level.
48. Create a "Best Interests Assessment" for use by child protection workers during intervention planning to ensure that interventions are done in the best interests of the child.
49. Instead of the child protection worker, another HSS staff person with training in collaborative processes and dispute resolution should have the responsibility of informing parents about the child protection process, their rights and responsibilities, and generally to provide assistance to parents and families.

Placement Services

Social Services Practice

50. Amend the act to:
- a) allow the judge overseeing a protection hearing to consider returning a child to a non-custodial parent or an extended family member who has regular care or contact with the child;
 - b) allow short-term extended family foster placements with an expedited community screening process;
 - c) allow assisted fostering by extended family, and develop policy to carry it out;
43. Amend the act to mandate cultural training for social workers and child protection workers.
44. Finalize the social work regulation process; once complete, all designated child protection workers must be certified social workers.
45. Training for child protection workers should be expanded, regular, and ongoing, and should include:

- d) include the consideration of custom adoption as a placement option and develop policy to implement it;
 - e) allow assisted adoptions;
 - f) include that the court can consider placement and make a non-binding recommendation to the director;
 - g) require the child protection worker to consider consulting the child's extended family on placement arrangements and options.
51. Develop a database that flags case files when children become eligible for adoption.
52. Enhance the foster family placement and recruitment program to include:
- a) a focus on aboriginal recruitment;
 - b) a more appropriate vetting process;
 - c) greater placement flexibility;
 - d) greater financial, social and other supports for foster families;
 - e) emphasis on local placement.
53. Create more short-term non-foster placement options, allowing flexibility for community input.
54. Develop therapeutic placement services that include regular counselling and supervision, proper assessments and treatment of disabilities and special needs, and provide the special care that children in care generally require and deserve.
55. In policy, allow foster families to maintain contact with children and, where possible, place children with the same foster families they have been placed with previously.
56. Develop policy and practice to keep siblings together in placements to the greatest extent possible.
57. Develop policy and procedures to provide financial, respite, training, and other services and supports to foster families.

Protection Services for Youth

58. Amend the act to:
- a) require the director to offer the same services to youth as to children;
 - b) define youth as a person from age 16 through 18, who may opt out of services and supports offered by the director, and opt back into services at a later time;
 - c) extend the director's parental responsibility for permanent wards to the age of 23 years;
 - d) require the director to provide services and supports to children and youth

transitioning out of care and develop supporting policy.

59. Develop policy and standards that include following up on children and youth after they have left the care of the director.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pass the reading on to my colleague, Mr. Krutko. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

CREATE POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES

Overview

Positive outcomes will result from combining quality social services and interventions with activities that encourage community participation, ownership and empowerment. As an important step in developing better relations with the community, the department and its authorities must work with communities on all levels: project planning, implementation and evaluation. Empowering the communities to take responsibility for their own child protection and family services and supports would go a long way towards effectively managing cases of maltreatment and abuse in a culturally and contextually relevant way.

One of the key ways to empower a community is by developing community agreements, establishing local child and family services committees, and delegating authority. These provisions currently exist in the act, but major challenges prevent their implementation. These include the department's fear of risk and liability, gaps in community capacity, resource constraints, lack of public information and awareness in the communities, and lack of initiative at the department and authority levels to engage communities effectively.

Community Empowerment

60. Amend the act to:
- a) require the director to actively pursue the delegation of responsibilities to aboriginal and community organizations, as defined in the regulations;
 - b) require the Minister to enter into a community agreement in each community, even if the agreement simply states that the community does not wish to acquire responsibilities from the department of child and family services.
61. Develop capacity for monitoring and oversight at the department and authority levels that would be required with delegation of authority to community organizations.

62. Develop policy and standards for delegating responsibilities and services to community organizations.
63. The department should develop a plan and policy guidelines in preparation for devolution by working with the authorities and communities, including both aboriginal and non-aboriginal Northerners in the planning process.
64. Support and encourage interagency meetings and coordination of services at the community level.

Community Agreements and Child and Family Services Committees

65. Amend the act to:
- require the director to provide funds, including a salary for a committee coordinator position and per diems for members, training and support to child and family services committees;
 - allow flexibility of mandate and function for the child and family services committees so that communities can create a model appropriate to their culture and situation;
 - allow and encourage child and family and services committee members to participate in all child protection processes and develop the supporting policy.
66. Assign one or more staff members to pursue and administer the development of community agreements, community standards, and child and family services committees; provide public education and capacity building services to communities.
67. Community agreements should be designed to develop understanding and consensus on contextually appropriate definitions of neglect, harm and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I'll pass the reading onto Mr. Beaulieu.

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

Overview

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The committee recognizes the health and welfare of families are influenced by a great many factors, many of which fall under the control of other divisions of the Department of Health and Social Services, or other GNWT departments altogether. Much can be achieved by taking a unified approach to improving services that often have a profound influence on child welfare.

68. The Department of Justice must increase its support for legal aid, and ensure access to

legal aid for children and families involved with child and family services.

69. The NWT Housing Corporation must:
- develop and implement policies to ensure that child and family services' clients are not prevented from reuniting their families due to loss of adequate housing under the control of NWTHC or local housing authorities;
 - ensure that its housing stock is fully utilized, particularly in communities with shortages of public housing;
 - ensure flexibility in dealing with child and family services clients.
70. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment must review its income support and assistance programs, and ensure that:
- support is sufficient for a family to live on;
 - support is delivered rapidly and efficiently, as called for in current policy;
 - applications and enrolment are simple and efficient;
 - renewals and updates of financial and personal information are required in a reasonable time frame.
71. The Department of Health and Social Services must expand its addictions treatment programs to include alcohol treatment convenient to every region, and a basic level of treatment and support in every community.
72. The Government of the Northwest Territories must develop and implement a comprehensive Anti-Poverty Strategy, involving all appropriate departments, that includes full consideration of child welfare issues.
73. The Department of Health and Social Services must develop a strategic plan incorporating the recommendations of this report, starting with a response to it within 120 days.

Mr. Speaker, that concludes the overview and recommendations contained in the report on the Review of the Child Family Services Act – Building Stronger Families.

On behalf of the committee, I wish to thank everyone who helped us in our review of the act and its implementation. I thank all those who shared their stories with us, the communities that spoke of their struggles with these issues and experts and professionals that provided invaluable information and contacts.

We would also like to thank the Minister and the department for their assistance over the last year. The Standing Committee on Social Programs views the presentation of this report to the House as just a

first step and we look forward to working with the Minister to implement these recommendations.

People spoke very strongly, Mr. Speaker. We cannot forget that. It's long past time to deliver on years of promises to the people of the Northwest Territories. Together we can build stronger families. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**MOTION TO RECEIVE
COMMITTEE REPORT 3-16(5) AND MOVE
INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE,
CARRIED**

Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Great Slave, that Committee Report 3-16(5) be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Committee Report 3-16(5) will be moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration. Item 5, returns to oral questions. Item 6, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize in the gallery today two professors of social work from Alta, Norway. Jan Erik Hendrikson and Nina Hermanson are here with us today. These individuals work with the indigenous Saami people in Norway and are travelling to the Northwest Territories and Nunavut hoping to meet aboriginal groups and leaders to gain further understanding of the social services. They are accompanied by Dawn McInnes, manager of NWT victims' services with the Department of Justice. Welcome. Mahsi.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my pleasure today to recognize two constituents, a newly published author, Ms. Karen Hollett, and Bettylou McIlmoyle, who is up behind me somewhere. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. The honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Mr. Bob McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize Mr. Ian Burkheimer, who is the director of Partnerships with the Pacific Northwest Economic Region and accompanying him is Linda Ecklund, senior economist with ITI. Of course, I

have to recognize my constituent from Yellowknife South, Dawn McInnes.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize all the visitors that we have in the gallery today and especially Ms. Karen Hollett, who I spoke of earlier for all the advocacy work she does on disability awareness. Thank you, Karen, and good luck with your book. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Thebacha, Mr. Miltenberger.

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It gives me great pleasure today to recognize Ms. Betty Villebrun, president of the Northwest Territories Metis Nation; Ken Hudson, president of the Fort Smith Metis Local; and Paul Harrington, president of the Hay River Metis Local. Welcome and thank you for coming to the Assembly. I don't often get a chance to recognize folks. Thank you.

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

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize my constituent, Mrs. Davida Delorey, the closest thing to the first lady of the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. I'd also like to recognize a constituent of mine, Mr. Paul Harrington in the gallery. If we have missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the Chamber. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience in here.

With that, colleagues, I'm going to call a short break for a press conference in the gallery and invite all our guests to join us in the Great Hall to mix with the committee. Thank you, colleagues.

---SHORT RECESS

MR. SPEAKER: We will return to orders of the day. Item 7, acknowledgements. Item 8, oral questions. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

Oral Questions

**QUESTION 239-16(5):
DELAYING CLOSURE OF
WRIGLEY FERRY SERVICE**

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Member's statement regarding the concern of the residents of Wrigley and the impending closure of the Ndulee ferry. As I indicated, my constituents are very concerned. Last year at this time when the ferry

closed early, residents were faced with extreme additional costs. This time the residents are asking for an extension to the end of this month, October 31st, only because they have low-income people, pensioners, people on social assistance that want to get out during that time to stock up on groceries for the two to two and a half months the crossing will be closed.

I would like to ask if the Minister of Transportation would give this year's consideration and what is the plan for the Ndulee ferry at this point?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've listened very carefully to the Member's statement, like I always do. I have to point out a couple of things that the Member raised.

First of all, he mentioned that there are new laws restricting the landing of airplanes on the highway. That's not a new law. That's something that's existed for quite some time now.

I'm not sure what gives the Member any indication that we're pulling out the ferry. There has been no notice that we'll be pulling out the ferry. The ferry will operate conditions permitting.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I did receive the memo from the Minister that I wrote last week. They did use the date of October 25th, that's Monday, as a potential date. Residents are concerned because they did get the same message from the Department of Transportation regional office in Fort Simpson. I just want to advise again that the residents have advised me that conditions are good and they don't see the need for closing October 25th. I would once again, on their behalf, ask the Minister to do everything in his power to see that we can run the ferry until October 31st.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: I'm glad the letter referenced the letter that we sent him, because I thought he didn't get it. In the letter we indicated that the probability would be that the 25th was the date that weather would force us to close by. Weather conditions are what are going to dictate the operation of the ferry.

The ferry historically has run from anytime, or closed anytime from the 19th of October right to November 1st and we're going to make every effort to keep running. Of course, the weather will dictate how long we can run. Ice conditions, of course, are going to be what's going to factor in this and decide for us when we have to shut down.

I know that some members of the community of Wrigley and in the area are getting a little excited because there is some work going on at the slipways. That's all preparation work for when the ferry is due to get pulled out. I wouldn't translate

that as indication that we're pulling out the ferry anytime right soon.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: What type of plan is in place if shutdown is imminent, and how much warning can the community get? I know that sometimes they give 48-hour notice when they shut down in 24 hours. I'd like to ask the department to try to guard against that and try to give the community as much notice as possible. October 31st, if we can get it to that date it will be an extreme benefit to the residents of the community.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Of course, the longer we can run it, the more benefit it will be to the travelling public that utilizes that ferry. We expect that we're going to have a warm spell here in the next couple of days and that will probably help us with the weather conditions. We still think the 25th is going to be a date that we will probably be challenged with the weather and ice. We will follow normal protocol for notifying the community and the general public. Normally we advertise that there will be periodic closure well in advance, then we start giving the 48- and 24-hour notices that we will be pulling the ferry out. So everybody is aware, we'll make sure that the Member responsible for this riding is notified along with the community leaders.

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

QUESTION 240-16(5):
POWER CORPORATION COMPENSATION
POLICY FOR POWER SURGES

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today my Member's statement was regarding the power outages in Inuvik and the implementation of purchasing different microwaves, TVs and that for the community. Can the Minister tell me about the compensation policy at the Power Corporation that provided residents of Inuvik with payments for these damages?

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

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Power Corporation does have a claims policy in place that is available to every community as different things affect outages or problems. There have been many claims put in from different customers across the North. The reason that Inuvik is one that has been publicized is because it hit a large part of the community as a result of the outage and an overvoltage situation that fried many of the power bars and so on. In fact, when I was up in Inuvik it occurred and I happened to be in my office when my office one went out as well. Because it hit such a large part of the community and it wasn't isolated to one subdivision or another, it was a large part of the community, that's the only

reason it has gone as public as it has. I will get a copy of the claims process and provide that to all Members.

MR. JACOBSON: Can the Minister tell me that the residents of other communities all across the Territory, such as Paulatuk... I mean, we had the same issues over the last few years and once they did try to claim, they went so fast and persistent in giving the same service into the communities. Can the Minister tell me the residents of communities that are able to participate in this program?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: The residents of the Territories are eligible for this program if there is a claim or something that has occurred that caused the equipment failure in their residences or businesses. There is a process of evaluating those, and approvals that are in place, but I'll get that policy and provide that to Members.

MR. JACOBSON: Can the Minister provide some background on the compensation policy? When it was started, how many times it's been used, what's the cost? How much money is it going to cost the Power Corporation to provide all the purchasing of all this stuff in Inuvik?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: As I said, I'll provide that claim process as well as get the update on the impact of the outage and the resulting overvoltage situation. I will provide that. The corporation holds an insurance package that allows for this to be dealt with in that manner as well.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can the Minister tell me, when something like this happens in small communities and the Power Corporation in Inuvik, what's the outreach that the Power Corporation Inuvik office is doing to help community members?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Again, I will provide that and it will all be spelled out in the policy what the members are able to claim for. The process that they go through when making a claim will be spelled out, we'll get that information.

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

QUESTION 241-16(5):
DRAFT DEVOLUTION
AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have some questions today I would like to address to the Premier. I have yet to weigh in to express an opinion on the devolution agreement-in-principle, which has been an issue for the last week or so. In general, I want to say that I agree with the agreement-in-principle, with the components, the

elements that are in there. I think we probably should move forward on this.

I listened with great interest to the CBC Morning Show this morning as a former Premier made some comments on the agreement-in-principle. His comments triggered a few questions in my mind and I'd like to look to the Premier for some clarification.

The first comment was that we should not agree to a cap of 5 percent as indicated in the agreement-in-principle, but we should look to a cap that is equal to our transfer payments from the federal government. I'd like to ask the Premier, off the bat, if he could comment on whether or not, what his opinion is on our waiting for an agreement to get a cap that's equal to our transfer payments.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. We're getting into the contents of the AIP here, which is a document that's not formally before the House. I'm going to caution Members to ask for details of the AIP. Mr. Roland, do you want to respond to Ms. Bisaro's question? Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I must say that I did not hear that interview, at least this morning when I was having my coffee, otherwise I might have burned myself, I guess, in the surprise that a former Premier would wade back into the political arena. I didn't know that the federal campaign for the Western Arctic had started yet, but maybe that's the case and he's priming for that or something. Simply the facts that were there, I guess that's the danger that we all face. When we leave this place our memories tend to lapse a bit.

The fact is the previous government put in place and signed off an agreement that got sent to Ottawa that had some support of aboriginal governments that laid out some parameters. I understand, in looking at that interview, that was done, there was some reflection on some of those numbers. The simple fact, as we talked about our process, what we've been presented with and what we have to look at is, is this the same as other agreements across the country? I can say, without a doubt, that the process we're in falls within what other provinces have signed through their programs within the government.

MS. BISARO: Thanks to the Premier. The other comment that was made in the interview this morning was the dollar value of the agreement, and I believe the former Premier mentioned \$85 million and that the agreement contains a figure of \$65.5 million. The former Premier seemed to indicate that we should be holding off on this agreement-in-principle because we're not making up that \$20 million difference. I'd like to ask the Premier if he could comment on that comment.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. I'd also like to remind Members not to be referring to

individuals who are not in the House to speak for themselves. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Believe me, over the life of this government I have tried to respect that process. We do need to be careful. At the same time, I think, I know in my time when I leave this Assembly, the new Assembly that comes to do their work, I'll leave them to do their work.

The numbers, unfortunately, that were used, again without the proper context, can spell a rather inflammatory process and response. As we have scheduled time with the committee around this, we hope that we'll be able to supply all that information for Members to be aware.

The unfortunate part is we've got to deal with the public now that have heard information that they have nothing to balance that with. I must say that as governments in the past and as we've looked at this, we know that the base case and the business case for negotiation was put in place and that's what the case was. What we're looking at now is the best negotiation that could come forward and we're faced with that work and need to make a decision on how we proceed.

MS. BISARO: It seems to me that we have reached this point or close to this point before where we seem to have an agreement. We seem to have an agreement here. We seem to have an agreement-in-principle that possibly could form the basis for us going forward and negotiating a final agreement. I'd like to ask the Premier, in the absence of... Sorry, there are some people who agree. There are other people who are quite negative about this agreement, that we should not go forward because we don't have everybody involved, we don't have the agreement of everybody. What is it about this particular situation where we are at this point in the evolution of the NWT and the evolution of our, sort of, life as a Territory, what is it that makes it so important that we go forward at this particular time? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, why is it so important that we proceed at this time? Well, I think there's a long history of talking about development and grabbing the authority from Ottawa and bring it to the North, and sharing the powers amongst northern governments has been discussed for decades and we've come to a place now where, in fact, as I was speaking earlier today, this is not the first occasion that the Government of the Northwest Territories faced a situation of making a decision if we go forward or not. In fact, the 15th Assembly was in a very similar place and had a number of the groups sign on with the Government of the Northwest Territories and sent that in. If that was accepted at the time, we would actually be negotiating a final agreement at this time. That wasn't done. In fact, I believe it allowed us more

time to improve on the package that was signed off back then by the 15th Assembly.

We have come to a place, a time in the history of the Northwest Territories, when we talk about the future and what that may mean. If we just look at the examples that have happened, for example the JRP process, when you look at decisions that have been made around the Mackenzie potential, Mackenzie Gas Pipeline, when you look at the conditions that are put in place, right now those decisions are being made by others outside of our Territory. We talk about having that control. This provides that kind of control. Even during our Creating Our Future Together roundtables, the youth of the Northwest Territories were saying we need to get that authority and we need to bring it home. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Premier. I'd like to play a bit of a devil's advocate, as I am wont to do sometimes, and if, as we get to the point of possibly signing this agreement-in-principle and we don't have all of our partners on side and with us, or in terms of what the federal government is willing to offer us, they're not offering us what we think we need and the amount of money that we need to go forward and manage ourselves from within, should we play hardball with the federal government in particular? Should we basically throw our hands up and walk away from the table? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Some might say, in fact, that has been done in the past in the Northwest Territories when people say no, that's not it, and walk away. We then talk about the revenues we left on the table, for example, as we have spoken with others in the past five years, we've left on the table \$200 million of potential revenues that could have been a net benefit to northern governments.

As we were talking about earlier, in fact, a report that we just read earlier today highlights there's going to be a need for more resources to implement any of those types of changes. In our environment today, we are unable to do those things within our own sources unless we take it from one department or one program to another. So that is the challenge we are faced with looking at that future of what can we do and make things happen in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 242-16(5):
DRAFT DEVOLUTION
AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are also for the Premier on the devolution

AIP. Without getting into specifics, I want to say at the out start that the Premier has brought forward this potential and I sense a stirring of some possible excitement out there. I think I'd like to be a part of that excitement. It's to that end that I am seeking to have some of my concerns elucidated or, hopefully, resolved.

But as I said in my statement the other day, the creation of a new resource management regime for the Northwest Territories must be based upon broad and inclusive public consultations involving First Nations governments, stakeholders, including industry, environmental advocates, municipal governments, social development NGOs and the general public; a really thorough, comprehensive process.

Will the Premier commit to putting in place these consultations and having a finalized and explicit made-in-the-NWT vision and implementation plan on land and resource management before the final agreement is signed to be put into legislation as soon as logistically possible after the final agreement? Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess one way of looking at this as we talk about what the possibility is, the potential, right now an agreement-in-principle is a base document to begin serious negotiations on what authorities would be drawn from Ottawa, and it's, if I can, to try to compare it to what we would do, I'll use the house scenario, for example. Many potential homeowners, as you buy a new house or upgrade, you find you need to do some renovations and make some changes, but you can't do that until you actually buy the house. In a sense, we're negotiating this fixed piece of work and looking to those changes that need to occur as we take on that authority in the Northwest Territories.

So similar to what we would do in the case of the homeowner, the Government of the Northwest Territories, I believe we can, if we were to sign and decide to move forward on an agreement-in-principle, and as the negotiations started with all our partners including those that would join us from the aboriginal groups and governments, that we would be able to then move forward and start to identify those legislative changes that need to occur so that as we take it over it spells out a timeline initially. After that it becomes... We have to be prepared and ready to implement what we see as our programs and our changes in the North. I believe we can begin that work after the signing of an agreement-in-principle is made. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I appreciate the Premier's comments there. Of course, we can begin anything that we want. What I'm asking is can we complete this process? Can we get it done in the interim

between the AIP and the final agreement in terms of a vision and the sort of implementation plan that's explicit enough that we know the legislation we're going to want to develop right after the final agreement is done? I'm looking for something a little more than just, yeah, we can do that, we can do anything. Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: In the life left in this 16th Assembly and the timelines we are faced with and what decisions can be put in place and acted on, our window is shortening every day. On top of that, the fact that we're committed to working together with the aboriginal governments and the federal government on the process forward and that negotiation process would have to spell some of that out as to what we can start to look at and change and build into a work program that would go forward. It would be difficult to say that we could have it all done, wrapped up and ready to present.

What I could say is, depending on the will of the House and aboriginal and the federal government as the final set of negotiations begin, to highlight those changes that would need to be made to truly make it a northern piece of legislation, we'd have to start that process with our partners, and, of course, we can't dictate the timelines on that process. But I would say we can start it and get a plan in place. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: I like the last phrase there. The hope there's room for that if we do go forward with this AIP.

I guess I haven't quite developed the confidence I need to lay myself completely behind this yet, but the draft AIP lays out the financial provisions of the devolution transfer, including the transfer of funds currently devoted by the federal government's resource management in the NWT. As we all know, the funds currently devoted by Ottawa are inadequate for the job. Major holes exist, such as the lack of completed land use plans, underfunded or incomplete cumulative effect research and monitoring, other underfunded or temporarily funded programs, new software, et cetera. If we accept this transfer of resource management responsibilities on the basis of current expenditures, we'll be short-changing ourselves forever. The federal government cries poor, but has...

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have a question, Mr. Bromley?

MR. BROMLEY: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. The federal government has \$16 billion for fighter jets, but how will the Premier ensure a final financial agreement provides funding for the real cost of the sustainable, responsible and northern resource management regime for the future, or what options can be considered to address this cap just recognizing the value here, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: The caps that are talked about at times, if you look at, again, I go back to the scenario of a homeowner in the Northwest Territories, the fact that if we look at that house we want to buy and we know it's not going to fit our needs, we're going to have to make some changes. Now, that unit, as it stood, may have a dollar figure attached, but if we're going to expand it, build on it and strengthen it, we're going to go to the bank, or in this case the federal government, to say we believe it should be done this way. In fact, this AIP identifies that and has gone a long way to reducing the caps that were initially identified. Again, as we talked about creating that legislation in designing what we would have as our northern piece, we would be able to build what we want in the North and we'll have to use the budgets that we've negotiated. Thank you.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The recent rejection of Canada's bid for a temporary seat on the UN Security Council speaks volumes on the world's verdict on Canada's devotion to fundamental principles; tar sands to refusal for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and so on. We could look to the IGR, the interim government response to the Joint Review Panel as to why Northerners might say no to the GNWT. So there's still time to demonstrate responsible action here.

So my question -- Mr. Speaker, this may be the way the Government of Canada does business, but not us, hopefully -- before signing this AIP, will the Premier commit to refusing any devolution deal that does not meet this government's commitments for inclusion of aboriginal peoples and commitment to economically, socially and environmentally sustainable development? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: What the Member is requesting of me is one that the Executive Council will have to wrestle with as we hear the response back from the joint letter that went out to the negotiators as we hear back from Members of the Legislative Assembly on a decision forward. The fact that this agreement-in-principle highlights the working relationship government to government, After this, if a future government is to say yes, this agreement, the final agreement is done, we're going to accept it, what we need to do is decide how we're really going to negotiate. What we've talked about for almost three decades is a plan to negotiate. This would bring us to actual negotiations and I think that at that point and what we have now offers the aboriginal groups the opportunity to continue working as we progress. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 243-16(5):
DRAFT DEVOLUTION
AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, was very interested in the news report this morning that saw a former Premier question the AIP and the way forward for this government. Mr. Speaker, it came across as being negative and blatantly self-serving, if I can say so. It got me to thinking that here's a former Premier talking about a deal like this and where does that leave the public that's out there in the Northwest Territories? What are they to believe? So I guess the first question I have, Mr. Speaker, is I'd like to ask the Premier how he is going to take this deal out to the people of the Northwest Territories to show them that it's a good deal for the Government of the Northwest Territories and a good deal for the people of the Northwest Territories. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, it is disappointing to have the media jump on this before we've had an opportunity as governments that are directly involved to allow the process to flow. We are in a process where we have to evaluate how we now inform the public, but again I go back to the fact that this agreement-in-principle is a starting point if we decide it needs to go forward. It is a starting point to a series of negotiations that then we will be able to get out to the public and let them know what is on the table and what we're trying to do on that process. In the meantime, I've instructed the staff within the Executive to begin looking at our options of trying to get factual information out to the public and not just listen to the one-sided questions being put out there. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: I support the government, I support the Premier in their efforts, in his efforts to try to get signatories to that deal, to get it done for the people of the Northwest Territories. We need jobs, we need opportunities and we need some prosperity here in our Territory and I think this is a great way to kick-start that effort.

I'd like to ask the Premier, given the fact -- and I know, Mr. Speaker, you've cautioned some Members today about speaking about the specifics of the AIP -- I'm wondering if I could ask the Premier if his intention is to table that document in this House so that we can have a good, clear and frank discussion on its merits in Committee of the Whole? Thank you.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Although it's put out in the public, it's interesting, I believe, as it first went out, CBC said it's out there, but it's still a confidential document. I don't know how they could put that disclaimer in there. We have a process and we're trying to honour that process. There are other

partners involved in this and I want to respect them, being the aboriginal governments and the federal government. At some point we'll have to make a decision on how we go forward. The typical process we're involved in is laid out. It's the normal practice. We'll continue to use that.

I think the more important question becomes the time when an agreement, a final agreement is ready to be ratified. How then do you take it out and have that type of broad, overall debate?

I can recall in my previous years as a Member of the Legislative Assembly the Tliche act that came forward establishing the self-government and our role in that. That's when we had a debate in the House and motions were passed accepting that legislation. So I would see that being somewhat similar, when we actually have a document that we can ratify and decide if it's good enough to move forward on. At this point we are trying to get to a place where we start a final set of negotiations. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: In an effort to kind of clear things up, the Premier was the former Finance Minister in the last government and much has been made of the deal in '07 and the new one that is before us, the AIP. Can the Premier just elaborate a little bit on why the deal in 2007 was not signed and was not ratified? Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. That's actually a question asking a question of the former government. I don't know if the Premier wants to make any comment on it, but he doesn't have to answer that one on an initiative of the former government. Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I can't talk about what the result was or decisions made. All I can put out is the fact that in 2007 the Government of the Northwest Territories, along with four partners, signed an agreement, sent it in to Ottawa, and in fact I would say that the agreement that is before us today has improved upon that deal. Thank you.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll try to stay away from numbers, but obviously when you're looking at transferring, say, hundreds of jobs to the Northwest Territories, you're going to have to negotiate a number. Obviously our negotiators aren't going to be working with the federal government on some numbers that are woefully inadequate. I'd like to ask the Premier, on the 'A' Base, and that's the funding for programs, how was the proposed number substantiated in the AIP?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: That is a fair bit of detail that we'd go into, but the fact is we as a government have the work done to look at the delivery in today's environment. Leading up to

2007, the government-of-the-day did that work. We also looked at that work and the consideration of what really needs to be done in the North was also put in place, a business case, and the negotiations around the AIP began in that manner. We have looked at those jobs. We have looked at what needs to be delivered and built the negotiation based on that. As I pointed out, the chief negotiators of both sides have signed a letter now, saying they've hit their mandates and it's now time for a decision to be made.

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

QUESTION 244-16(5):
DRAFT DEVOLUTION
AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to weigh in on the devolution issue that's been raised by a number of my colleagues here today.

Firstly I'll say it's a real shame that it is now posted on the CBC website. I think that's caused real ripples out there in the community. That being said, some of the aboriginal groups aren't necessarily pleased. I know I had people looking at it and they're concerned. People are wondering if it's the real true document. It's kind of like negotiating in public here. It's really the future of the Northwest Territories and I think it's a real shame that this type of disruption has been put out there.

The question for the Premier really is, now that CBC has done what they have done, whether they legally had the right -- they may have, but they may not have had the moral responsibility to do it -- would the Premier consider the opportunity of maybe putting out a plain language document to help people understand what exactly is happening in this AIP agreement? The fact is, that is technical information and I think it's caused more confusion and frustration out there, and this may help clear some of this issue up so we can go forward.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would say it is a shame that it has come about in this manner. To think what may have happened if the first land claim was being negotiated and this type of document was put out before the groups had a chance to really look at it and make their decisions on that, we may never have had an agreement. I think that is, in fact, a concern.

More importantly, now that it is out there, we do need to look at how we inform the people of the North of what's there and clear the air. That's the confusion that's been caused. We are looking at

our options of trying to get that out and looking at what we can do.

MR. HAWKINS: Again, sort of just to narrow it down a little further to help clarify the confusion out there, I'd like to highlight again my concern, because it does seem insulting to many of the parties that are involved here in a very offensive type of way that it is now out there and the public are running around. It's an open negotiation and it really shouldn't be.

The reality here is, it's there and we have to sort of deal with it. The question really comes down to is a plain language document one of the options that the Premier could conceivably be working on when he says there's things they could look at.

Again, I'll say it quite clearly that we're now negotiating in public so we might as well, quite frankly, tell people what we're negotiating. That way we can clear up any misnomers that aboriginal groups may lose rights or they won't lose rights. That type of thing is protected, the type of money, the type of jobs. Like I say, if it's already out there, let's make sure it's in plain language so everyone sees exactly what's there.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: We will consider what can be done and if that is one of the better ways of clearing the air or if we just continue to respect the process and honour that.

MR. HAWKINS: The only ones that seem to have respect for the process are the Members around this room. I've listened to my colleagues very cautiously and asked questions about this, and it's a shame the agreement is out there. Does the Premier think he could maybe address the situation by the upcoming deadline when they're looking for feedback from the aboriginal organizations that perhaps at that stage with their agreement? I stress that it is a partnership, as he's well aware. Perhaps with the parties all in agreement they could work together with the plain language. Although technically it's a bilateral agreement with the GNWT and Canada, we have to respect our aboriginal partners. Would he consider that option once we've got our feedback and some support from the aboriginal groups to go towards the plain language?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: The issue is of trying to get that information and as we have, right through this process, had full working relationships, technical as well as through the negotiation sessions. Of course, as we've pointed out, we've had some groups or one group particularly stay away from the negotiations since it's been picked up again. The work throughout has continued to have that door open and invite all to continue to be part of the process. As we hear back from them, we will consider how we progress forward together.

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

QUESTION 245-16(5):
DRAFT DEVOLUTION
AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Since someone opened the barn door and let the horses out, I might as well get involved in this debate too.

I've had a discussion with the president of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and the vice-president and there has been an olive branch handed out to the Premier to meet with them in Inuvik, where they just happen to be in the Premier's riding. He has never once gone into the tribal council office to try to sit down and find a resolution to this problem. The letter that was sent to you clearly identified that they wanted to meet and discuss these issues. You have not at any time gone to the tribal council office to meet with the president or the Gwich'in Tribal Council vice-president. How can you sit here...

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Krutko, could you direct your questions to the Chair, please? Mr. Krutko.

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How can the Premier sit here and say that he's working in cooperation with the First Nations government and all the people here? The only people I see him working with is one office that he goes into and he gets them to ask his questions. I'd like to ask him, why you are not involved in the aboriginal leaders who are elected by their membership in a face-to-face meeting, one that requested it in a letter six months ago to which they haven't gotten a response or even a phone call? Is that the way that you operate?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll have to disagree with the Member, and strongly disagree. The fact is we've set up the regional leaders table and the regional leaders come to the table, bring the agenda items to the table, and at their request keep it as an agenda item moving forward. The fact is, and if you want to get out and start to put this out there... And this is the danger, Mr. Speaker, that the Member knows, as I have informed him the other day that, yes, Inuvik is my constituency and that tribal office is in my constituency. I, in fact, during the summer went in there and tried to have some meetings. Now, I won't say what happened and how come we couldn't get together, but the fact is I was in that office and tried to get a meeting. So before you start to sling mud, let's make sure we have all of this before we embarrass other leaders.

MR. KRUTKO: I spoke to the vice-president yesterday. There was a request put in. The letter is

still out there. They're waiting for a response. If anything, there's a phone number on the page. All you have to do is pick up the phone and make a phone call. So will you make a phone call to the Gwich'in Tribal Council vice-president or president and start the discussions on this matter, rather than simply put in the people that have made a little bit of waves, push them aside, and only deal with those people you think you can get support from?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: The record will show that we have tried to work with every regional government in the North. We have given dollars to be at the table, to help with the technical evaluations, to travel to our meetings, to put items on the meeting agenda. In fact, we'll have another one. We had one at the end of August, a regional leaders meeting in Inuvik, that all the parties were invited to. Unfortunately, sometimes their busy schedules mean they're unable to make it. On top of that, there are many calls made on the technical side to provide additional information.

We'll continue to work with all parties to provide the necessary information and the opportunities to sit down. In fact, I was hoping we could address that letter through one of our regional leaders meetings. I'm prepared to sit down with the president at any point, to sit down with him and go over some of these areas and see what their response is, although he's made it quite clear he's not willing to go forward on this AIP as it is structured.

MR. KRUTKO: I believe that the six points that are spelled out in the letter basically outline the areas of concern. It's not only the concern of the Gwich'in, it's the concern of the other regions in the Northwest Territories that do have land claims. They do have costs and administration systems in place. They do have management regimes that they want to make sure there is a working relationship between whatever government that provides government services regarding land management. I think it's important that we work with those land claims groups that have land claims settlements, more importantly because they do have responsibilities in the Northwest Territories by way of ownership and management responsibilities. I think it's critical if any agreement is made here, it should be done with those land claims groups that have those legal obligations spelled out in their agreement. Will the Premier commit to that?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: As I stated earlier, we have opened the doors to a continued working relationship on this file along with other files where we have continued and shown we're working in partnership. The Wildlife Act, the Species at Risk Act, the land use plans, the Water Strategy. We've had teams going out throughout the Territories and regions to get input and work with us on developing these strategies. This file is the same thing. At the regional leaders table, their technical staff, their

lawyers, their negotiators have been part of the process and are welcome to continue to be a part of the process. In fact, hoping that as we go through this next stage, more importantly that they continue on as we go forward together and iron out a final agreement. One of the things we need to do, and I'll commit again, we're ready to sit down and talk even where there may be disagreement.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to get some assurance from the Premier that there will be ongoing discussions with these groups, because we do have influence. We do have land claim agreements. We do have things that talk about the Norman Wells Proven Area Agreement. We do talk about the royalty regime throughout the Mackenzie Valley. In our land claims agreements, because of those things not being a part of this agreement, we have to clarify who we talk to in the future if it's not going to be part of this agreement-in-principle. I think it's critical that we cannot leave anything not in the legal binding agreement and leave it in the hands of someone else. I think at the end of the day if the federal government is not going to give up the Norman Wells arrangements to this government, they want to hang onto it, maybe they can also hang onto the lands in the settlement areas that would like to continue that relationship with the federal government.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Again, this AIP that's before all the partners in the North as well as the federal government spells out an ongoing government-to-government relationship between aboriginal governments and the public government. This agreement-in-principle that's before us as a government is one that recognizes the aboriginal rights. It does not take away from those. In fact, the language protects those rights in place of existing and future aboriginal governments.

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

QUESTION 246-16(5):
WINTER ROAD TO LUTSELK'E

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I talked about getting a winter road into the community of Lutselk'e from Yellowknife. I have questions for the Minister of Transportation. I spoke about low water levels throughout the North and some uncertainty with the barging system. For whatever reason if the barge is unable to get into Lutselk'e to deliver the goods this coming summer, does the Minister have any sort of backup plan in place in case there's anything wrong with the barges?

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

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, the Member for Tu Nedhe raises a serious issue. We have many communities across the Northwest Territories that are served by winter roads and barging systems. Low water has become an issue for many of these communities, and also the warmer winters are becoming a challenge to service some of the communities in getting the ice bridges and winter roads in place, namely on the Mackenzie/Fort Providence and also in the Tlicho communities.

Mr. Speaker, I point out that if there was a situation, and right now it's hypothetical, but if there was ever a situation and the barges couldn't make it into Lutselk'e, that would make it an emergency situation and that would fall under the Department of MACA to take the lead on it and find alternate solutions to get the material or the goods into that community.

Having said that, I would point out that of all the communities that are served by a barging system, the ones on the Mackenzie are probably most at risk. Lutselk'e is probably one of the safer communities because it is on a lake and the lake is quite deep and we don't expect there will be any challenges in that area. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I spoke about the approximately 125 kilometres of road that is usually in place to service the exploration at Thor Lake. I was wondering if the Minister will commit to work with the community and industry to complete the winter road from there to Lutselk'e, which has many benefits to the community: cost of living, stuff that they can't normally get in unless they are able to fly it, and that's the community members. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I think it was last year was the first time this road was constructed to Thor Lake and it's opening up an opportunity there that wasn't there historically. It's something I've asked my officials to look into, the possibilities that this new infrastructure or this new allowance has put before us. We'd certainly have to make sure of the intention of the company that's opening up the road, that it's going to be there for the long term. This development is still in the exploration stage and we would have to investigate the possibilities and the challenges that opening up a winter road for the final leg of this would bring forward.

Historically, there are only two occasions, I think, that we have seen a winter road. One was from Hay River to Yellowknife quite a while ago, and it brought huge challenges with pressure ridges. Talking to some of the people who were around during those days, they indicated we're never going to do that again. You would probably need to travel

with portable bridges because the pressure ridges opened up quite a gap. There was a time not too long ago when one of the companies that were working on the arena in Lutselk'e constructed a road and, of course, that posed a lot of challenges, too, and was fairly expensive. Those are things we'd have to consider and look at ways to move this forward, but we are exploring the possibilities. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: I'd like to thank the Minister for that response. Mr. Speaker, in the community of Lutselk'e, I have been advised that there are people in the community that know the lake very well and that they're able to assist in any such construction that this government or any industry was prepared to venture into. I was wondering if the Minister could commit his department to working with myself and members of Lutselk'e to maybe start to do some of the footwork that's necessary to develop a winter road on the ice across Great Slave Lake. Thank you.

HON. MICHAEL MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, as I indicated before, I have directed my officials to look into this issue. The Member for Tu Nedhe has raised this as a concern, as something he wanted to see move forward, and we are exploring the opportunities. Of course, as we do that, we will take into consideration comments from the community and certainly include that as part of the traditional knowledge and that we'd like to have that discussion with the people who are familiar with the lake, familiar with ice and things of that nature. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 247-16(5):
LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I talked about the Sahtu and talked about the remarkable harvesting that we had of spuds in our region, actually now unofficially the potato capital of the Northwest Territories. I want to ask the Minister in regard to this area here, in terms of on a going-forward basis, would the Minister look at ways, as he stated in his ministerial statement, in terms of creating more avenues to have food produced in the North that would be sold in the grocery stores and that, more importantly, the marketing should happen as soon as possible with these producers in the Northwest Territories.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Member for that important question, because everybody needs food to survive on, especially potatoes. I'm reminded of that Stompin'

Tom Connors song of ketchup loves potatoes, so... But this is an initiative of this government. We feel that we need to find ways to increase the production of food locally, and we feel that this is another way to reduce the cost of living and provide for more self-reliance. We are looking at a number of different ways, in partnership with the Government of Canada, to utilize local natural resources, and we are going to be looking at a number of different areas such as fish, muskox, other products, vegetables and so on so that we can find ways so people can use for themselves and also look for opportunities to market them commercially. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minister mentioned in his ministerial statement that there is no reason why we can't have food produced in the Northwest Territories and sold in grocery stores, hotels and restaurants. Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with the Minister in this statement here. I would ask the Minister, in terms of going ahead, in terms of making this a reality, what can the Minister do to advise his department, his council, in terms of making this a reality for the people in the Northwest Territories, people who are paying a high price for groceries in the Sahtu region, so they can certainly enjoy this initiative.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: I should point out that it wasn't that long ago, maybe 20 or 30 years ago, where because of our isolation in the Northwest Territories, that most, I'd say all of the communities were self-sufficient and self-reliant with regard to food production. We're now at the stage where we're starting to take baby steps and we're starting with the Small Scale Foods Program. We're starting to look at bigger ventures. I think that some Members have raised agriculture as an option, and that's something that we continue to look at. Even others as we get further into it, we could see how we can continue to provide incentives for local food production. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the Sahtu there are a high percentage of residents in the Sahtu that consume country foods in Norman Wells. The number of people that hunt and fish for foods is 45 percent, compared to the Northwest Territories at 36 percent. In Fort Good Hope, it is 47, 58 percent. In Colville Lake it is 88 percent, Tulita is 73 percent and Deline at 71 percent. Mr. Speaker, this is a natural fit for this Minister to start working with our people who can produce fish and meat and produce so that consumers can buy it in the grocery stores, restaurants and hotels. This is the perfect opportunity to go ahead with this type of initiative. I think that we would definitely meet our goals as healthy and educated people. I think that this Minister needs to jump on the bandwagon as soon as possible.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will jump on the wagon if I can find one. Seriously, this is an objective and a goal for us. There are some challenges that we will have to address. Anytime you serve food and you provide food, you have to deal with health guidelines and you have to make sure that the food is safe and fresh and so on. These are the kinds of challenges that we have to face, but I think on a go-forward basis we can begin to work at it and we can take small steps. The more successful we get as we go along, the bigger we can get. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Time for question period has expired. I will allow the Member a final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is no small potatoes initiative here going ahead in terms of this program.

Mr. Speaker, we in the communities have eaten off our land for many years; our food, our fish and vegetables. We are still here. My people are still in the Sahtu. It is the current policies and regulations that stop us. We need to change that. I want to ask this Minister in terms of changing these policies. You have to come down to realities of the communities to make this happen and always be beggars in terms of our being slaves to the current policies that prevent us from what is actually given to us by the good Lord. Again, with his forcefulness, can this Minister go to his counterparts and say, we are going to make changes? Let's shake this ground here. Thank you.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, yes, we are going to shake things up and especially now that we know they can grow one-pound potatoes in the Sahtu. This is an area that we are looking at and combined we have to also look at inter-settlement trade so that we can move the resources around and so on. I think this is a very important initiative for this government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. McLeod. Item 9, written questions. The honourable Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to return to item 8, oral questions, on the Order Paper. Thank you.

---Unanimous consent granted

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

**Oral Questions
(Reversion)**

QUESTION 248-16(5):
DRAFT DEVOLUTION
AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really had one question, Mr. Speaker. I want to follow up on a statement I made the other day and my questions earlier today. It is for the Premier. I just want to confirm that should the AIP be signed, the Premier is refusing, really, is unwilling to initiate a comprehensive and inclusive public consultation discussion on Northerners use for a new land and resource management regime towards sustainable development in the NWT. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am trying to figure out where that comes from in the sense that the process we are involved in, if we do agree to sign an agreement-in-principle, then we would begin a process of the final settled negotiations, and those negotiations are the questions about what the transition needs to be.

The AIP spells out a timeline right now for the existing structures. We would have to design with our partners, aboriginal governments, how we would then put our stamp and make it a northern process for ourselves. That work would be started as we begin the final set of negotiations identifying what things need to be done and the timeline of that. That would incorporate a comprehensive process as we begin that process of taking it over. Thank you.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, I will try and put this as plainly as can be. I am not talking about negotiations at all, Mr. Speaker, I am asking the Premier to commit to a comprehensive public consultation process, an inclusive one on what Northerners want for a northern land and resource management regime. I am sure it will be useful in negotiations, but I am simply asking for him to commit to putting that in place as soon as the AIP is signed, should it be within the life of this government, with a transition document for the next. Mahsi.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, I'm understanding a little more on the question. The approach is coming up with a process of informing people and coming up with what people would like to see in a final agreement and, as we implement that agreement, what it should look like. I think we can have a discussion and I will commit to sit down with Members and with this Assembly and let's talk about how we may be able to put that parallel to the work that we would take on. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 249-16(5):
DRAFT DEVOLUTION
AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to ask the Premier just on the draft AIP in regards to the signatories to the agreement. Right now we have a bilateral. It is the federal government and the territorial government. There are no lines there for any of the aboriginal governments to sign on. I understand that the aboriginal governments can sign on later on. Right now the parameters are being set between the federal government and the territorial government. There are some major issues with the aboriginal governments of being signatories of this. Why are the aboriginal governments not signatories to this agreement here in terms of our discussions on the government-to-government relationships?

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The honourable Premier, Mr. Roland.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The AIP spells out the involvement of the GNWT and the federal government. It also incorporates a forward-going involvement of aboriginal governments in the process. Through discussions with the leaders at the table, it was felt that they would have that opportunity to join on, but if they were to sign a document side by side and they may have some disputes on some of it or their claims processes, there was some unease there. But what is in place is a government-to-government relationship and a bilateral process government to government with the GNWT, and the door is open for ongoing negotiations to involve and have our partners at the table with us. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, was this a position that, as to the aboriginal government not being party to the negotiations as we have,... Sorry; the draft agreement as we seen as a signatory to the agreement. Was this the position of the federal government in terms of a divide and conquer tactic in the Northwest Territories?

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the process leading up to this has been inclusive of all those who wanted to be at the table, who chose to be at the table and were funded to be at the table. They have been part of the working group at both technical sessions and negotiation sessions up to where we are today. They were informed of the process and the document in whole. We are now waiting to see their response to that document. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you Mr. Speaker, I take this type of scenario, like Mr. Premier has indicated, as the house. I look inside the house, around the

kitchen table and see the father and mother and children there, they are talking and saying, okay, children, father and mother are going to negotiate a deal and whoever wants to sign on can be with us, depending on which side you want to go. This is in my sense that we need to look at the average. I want to ask the Premier in terms of between now and whenever we have a decision made as to sign or not sign, deal or no deal, how are we going to somehow include the average where they are satisfied.

I have documents in front of me that give me reasons why this is not a good deal for the average, especially for the land claim negotiations that are going in my region. I want to ask the Minister, do we have some time to have some discussion where we can all agree to move forward onto the next chapter of the history of the Northwest Territories.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: Mr. Speaker, the Member, having experience as a chief negotiator quite involved in the land claims process within the Northwest Territories in his past life, is quite familiar. Once the chief negotiators initialled off and sent it to the parties for decision, that document is then decided upon as it goes forward from that draft agreement-in-principle towards a formal set of negotiations. That incorporates a whole new level of talks and all the players at the table as full partners. This joint letter that has gone out has invited the groups to be a part of our table and be full partners. This is not adult to children, this is all adults and making a decision about should we be at the table or not. We will respect their decision as they make it, if they want to be a part of it or not and hopefully as they see that final set of negotiations being done, the interest is let's be at that table and let's influence the outcome. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Roland. Final, short supplementary, Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you Mr. Speaker. Certainly the Premier is correct in terms of my former role as chief negotiator. Also, when we did go through that process, when we did negotiate a document, we went to each household, we talked to each leader, we talked to everybody and said, now, do we want to initial to go ahead and do some further negotiations, that is another process. So, I mean, that is what I am asking about.

This government here, when...and thank God to CBC for publishing this important document so everybody could have a chance to read it. I made some phone calls, phone calls came to me, people in my riding did not know what was going on. Now they are reading and saying, what is going on? We need to have some time to get everyone on board. I am asking the Premier in terms of some flexibility, in terms of some leadership, in terms of how do we get the people to say yes, this is what we could do.

That is effective, strong, powerful government. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. FLOYD ROLAND: In my many years as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, I have heard about the fact that governments are not organizations, they are governments. Aboriginal governments are aboriginal governments. This government is treated and sat at a table in a scenario of government to government when it comes to aboriginal governments. We have helped fund those to be a part of our discussions as we go forward, helped influence what we should package together and how we go forward. Through this process and leading up to this, those that wanted to be at the table were at the table and influenced much of the work. In fact, Chapter 6 and Chapter 12 are much about the involvement from our aboriginal partners across the North that helped influence that document. As we go forward, as we decide we proceed to the next level, that opportunity to go out to the public and say, this is what it looks like and this is what we are starting our negotiations at, where do you think we are on this. At the same time, we have to be very careful of the processes that we are involved with and we will continue to do so in respect to all the partners that are involved in this. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you Mr. Roland. Item 9, written questions. The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to return to item 6 on the Order Paper.

---Unanimous consent granted

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

Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery (Reversion)

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. These people aren't in the gallery, but I want to take the opportunity to recognize two Pages from Lutselk'e, Helena Marlowe and Alex Rabesca, and also their chaperone, Evelyn Marlowe. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Item 10, returns to written questions. Item 11, replies to opening address. Item 12, petitions. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 88-16(5):
PHOTOGRAPHS OF NORMAN WELLS
POTATO HARVEST

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I have pictures of the potatoes that we had grown in Norman Wells here.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 15, notices of motion. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Frame Lake, Ms. Bisaro.

Motions

MOTION 18-16(5):
EXTENDED ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TO OCTOBER 25, 2010, CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Thursday, October 21, 2010, it shall be adjourned until Monday, October 25, 2010;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to October 25, 2010, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. 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; Tabled Document 62-16(5), Northwest Territories Water Stewardship Strategy; Tabled Document 66-16(5), NWT Capital Estimates 2011-2012; Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments' Interim Response to "Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future;" Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Bill

8, Social Work Profession Act; and Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Tourism Act, with Mr. Bromley in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): I would like to call Committee of the Whole to order. We have before us: Tabled Document 4-16(5), Tabled Document 30-16(5), Tabled Document 38-16(5), Tabled Document 62-16(5), Tabled Document 66-16(5), Tabled Document 75-16(5), and Bills 4, 8 and 9. What is the wish of committee? Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Committee wishes to consider Tabled Document 66-16(5), NWT Capital Estimates 2011-2012, and do the Department of Justice and Human Resources and, time permitting, Industry, Tourism and Investment.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you. We will continue with the Department of Justice and I will ask the Minister if he wishes to bring in witnesses. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

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

Okay, if I could ask the Minister to please introduce your witness.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. I have with me Bronwyn Watters, deputy minister of Justice. Mahsi.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, and welcome. We will continue on page 7-4, committee, Department of Justice, community justice and corrections. Questions? Mr. Yakeleya.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I wanted to ask the Minister about the infrastructure in connection to the federal government's new approach on getting tough on crime bill. That would possibly put some constraints on our capital infrastructure in terms of that bill and how the federal government sees programs or facilities right across the North. I want to know if we're prepared to handle some of the fallout of this approach by the federal government towards the Department of Justice in terms of corrections and infrastructure as it relates to the get tough on crime bill. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Minister Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chair. The new initiative on getting tough on crime has been talked about at the federal/provincial/territorial Ministers meeting as well. So we are closely monitoring the progress and we do have the capacity at this moment, but definitely this is an ongoing discussion that we will be having with the federal government.

At the same time, we're really focusing on the preventative measures, as well, because it was said yesterday that we would try and prevent people from going to prisons or institutions. So those are the areas that we are continually focusing and monitoring, the preventative measures. Also, we're working very closely with the federal Justice Minister and also Public Safety Ministers. Mr. Chair, Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: The questions I'm going to ask are on capital infrastructure. So they're going to skate in between a fine line in terms of how the programs are associated; it's a key component to my questions. So I want to ask the Minister, he said that they have the capacity and I know that there's a high population of aboriginal inmates at the centres here and that they are housed in these, what we call pods, and sometimes there's three inmates to a cell and these pods are beyond the capacity of holding the inmates in a safe manner. The Minister has indicated that they feel that they have the capacity, but for me it brings a safety concern in regard to the facility that they're housing them in and I think that there's other means or infrastructure that we could use, such as the wilderness camps and preventative camps, that would be more beneficial, I believe.

I want to know from the Minister about capacity and infrastructure in terms of what we have before us. It seems like we're just managing and hoping that it doesn't explode so that we might pay for it dearly in other areas. So can the Minister assure me that these pods in these facilities are not at critical mass in terms of safety reasons? Are we not looking at other infrastructure other than just housing them in a facility such as the North Slave or the South Slave institutions? Thank you.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We closely monitor our institutions in the Northwest Territories, especially when it comes to capacity within our institutions. There is room for growth, but at the same time we're trying to take inmates out to on-the-land programs in the Sahtu region in the Member's riding. Again, this has been very successful and we will continue to do so, and we're opening that up to other regions that are interested as well. So, Mr. Chair, this is an area that, again, we'll monitor. But I can assure the Member that there is room within our institutions and if we're at a

crunch, then definitely we'll get back to the standing committee members to say we're at a critical stage and we need to seriously look at these areas, but we aren't at that point yet. When it comes time, then we'll definitely give Members a heads up. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: I certainly hope that the Minister, when he presents the budgets on capital infrastructure that we'll see an increase in these wilderness camps, these so-called bush camps that would house inmates.

I understand that the facilities in the North are quite overcrowded and these wilderness camps don't happen as much as we would like them to. They're sporadic throughout the year and in the meantime we have capacity issues at these facilities.

Again, in these cells that these inmates are sharing, there are sometimes three inmates to a cell and there are different things that we need to ensure the safety of everybody in these facilities. So that's why I'm asking that the Minister, when he comes before the House to look at more focus on wilderness camps, infrastructure, capacity. He talks about the preventative measures and I think the Minister is on the right path when he has that type of language in going forward with his Department of Justice to look at situations that we are faced with now in our institutions, especially our correctional institutions. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: We're talking about programming that will go into further business planning detail. I can provide more detailed information at that point, but at the same time, just for the record, the stats that we have, as far as my knowledge, there hasn't been any three individuals in a cell, from the stats that we have in front of us. Also, there are talks of overcrowding. I did state that there is space available, but definitely we don't want to fill it with individuals, but we want to take individuals out on the land more.

Again, I'd like to refer to the Sahtu and the successful pilot project that we've done in the past on-the-land program, and we'll continue to do that and we'll continue to invest in those areas. We feel that it's important and we need to focus more on the preventative measures at the community level. Mahsi.

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you. I said, Mr. Chair, that when we talk about capacity and we talk about infrastructure, capital, sometimes you just need to wade a little bit into the program, and certainly I would welcome a sit down with the Minister to talk about programs; that's not an issue. The Minister is actually very good to me in terms of talking about program issues. I'm happy to sit down and talk with him.

I'm talking about facilities, capital infrastructure, when it comes before us, that programs like the

Sahtu, like he mentioned, is a great success and we wish it to be more successful by increasing the capital dollars into programs. I don't see anything right in front of me in terms of capital infrastructure. We're still at the same spot we were four years ago. Things change in the wilderness camps. Just like institutions, as he's indicated here, need fixing, so do our wilderness camps need fixing. The machinery needs fixing. Those are capital dollars just like they have in the system here. That's what I'm talking about. He can talk about this, but gee whiz, get some structured capital dollars into those camps. I haven't seen anything since those wilderness camps started up in the Sahtu. Same budget every year. That's what I'm talking about. That's what I want to let the Minister know. Programs we can talk about until the cows come home. But right here I want to see some changes. Hopefully the Minister will do that in the future.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Again the program in the Sahtu region under the leadership of the elders there has been very successful, but we haven't really seen or heard anything on the breakdown of the equipment to date. Definitely if there is a concern that may have been brought forward, I'd like to hear that concern or those suggestions. We're always open to improving our programming. If there are problems or issues with certain equipment, definitely we need to deal with that, because safety is the prime factor and we need to deal with that right away.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Lafferty. Next on my list I have Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to raise once again the issue of community policing, especially in the community of Wrigley in my riding. I know, of course, that the government supports two of the smaller communities getting a full RCMP detachment and it would, of course, have given me great pleasure to have seen that in our capital plan. I know that I spoke with the Minister in the House last week and he spoke about being at the Justice Ministers federal/provincial/territorial meeting. Maybe the Minister could just advise me of some of the deliberations that happened and speaking with the federal Justice Minister where exactly the detachments or the capital for the detachments would come from. I'm pretty sure it would be a federal responsibility there. What's the timing like? When can we expect, here in the North, fully operating detachments in the community of Wrigley and as well as I believe Gameti was the other one that this government certainly supports?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Couple questions there. Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Chairman. This particular subject, the two detachments that we've committed and we continue

to commit ourselves to as the GNWT, we provide policing already to Wrigley and Gameti, policing out of Simpson. To deal with Wrigley and Gameti is based out of Yellowknife, working closely with Behchoko detachment.

When it comes to a detachment, of course it's a federal responsibility. At the same time I did address that with two federal Ministers last week -- Minister of Justice and Minister of Public Safety -- the importance and how critical it is to have these two detachments as they've been slated for 2011. We want to proceed further. We want to follow through with it. We informed the two Ministers that we're already providing policing services but the detachment is still an obstacle in a way. Could the federal department fulfill their obligation?

I've got a lot of support from the small jurisdictions, as well, northern jurisdictions of the provinces. Our two territorial counterparts, Nunavut and Yukon, are very supportive as well. This is an area that we'll continue to follow through.

We're just drafting up a letter to Minister Vic Toews, Public Safety, and follow through with what we've discussed last week and with my two territorial counterparts. We're going to meet with them and discuss further the importance of having these two on the budget that was highlighted.

We are also, just for Members' information, looking at other options as well. We're waiting for the federal, but what can we do in the meantime? Those are options we are working on with the communities and we'll continue to do so.

I will be going to the Member's riding. We're still working on the dates, I believe in December. Those are the areas we'll continue to stress, and we're very passionate about that as the territorial government. The federal government is still discussing that.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Just for my reference, was there any indication from the federal Ministers as to the timing of the detachments? I understood, talking with our Member of Parliament, that it may actually be in the capital plan. Has the Minister seen anything like that? Is he able to at least give a round, an estimated date of when the federal government may seriously consider providing the capital dollars for the detachments in these communities?

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: There's been a lot of talk, whether it's with the MP or Ministers. We also asked specifically, too, if it was in their capital plans. All the information that was given to us was there, was money identified, but some are in future years. Until we see the actual confirmation from the federal Minister, we're at a stage where we want to get more detailed information, more concrete information from the Minister. That's why I want to follow through with the actual meeting, to meet with

him one on one. I'm hoping to get some sort of concrete answer from him on where it stands.

For Members' information, I'm also working with other colleagues within the federal government to push this further as well, other departments. I think we are making some progress, but our meeting coming up, hopefully in November, we'll find out more detailed information. As it stands, it just states future years.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I've got nothing further to add. I just urge the Minister and our government to continue to press the matter. I don't know, the Minister sounds like there's a meeting in November. I'd be pleased to be given notice about that.

The other one is, I don't know if and when we do our NWT Day it might be another opportunity to raise that issue as well.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. Just a comment there. Committee, we're on page 7-4, Department of Justice, activity summary, community justice and corrections, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$626,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): We have nothing in legal aid services. We're moving on to page 7-8 through page 7-10, the financial summary, financial details on page 7-9. Any questions? So, Department of Justice, activity summary, court services, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$200,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Under services to the public from pages 7-11 through 7-13. Committee, questions? Page 7-12, details. The Department of Justice, activity summary, services to the public, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$120,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Next we have services to government on page 7-14 through 7-16. Details, financial details on 7-15. Committee, we have the Department of Justice, activity summary, services to government, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$150,000.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. I believe that sends us back to the departmental summary on page 7-2. The Department of Justice, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$1.096 million

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Does committee agree that that concludes the capital estimates for the Department of Justice?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. Thanks very much to the Minister and to your witness, Ms. Watters. I would ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to escort Ms. Watters from the Chamber.

Committee, next on our list of departments is the Department of Human Resources. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): I will ask the Minister if he wishes to bring in witnesses. Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman.

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

Committee, we are going to proceed with the Department of Human Resources. I would like to call on Minister McLeod to introduce the witness.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. With me I have Tom Williams, deputy minister of Human Resources.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Minister. Welcome to the House, Mr. Williams. Committee, we have, to begin with, the department summary on page 2-2, which we will defer until we complete the detail. We're starting with human resource strategy and policy. It begins on page 2-3 and goes through 2-5. Financial details are on 2-4. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. There's one item here on shift scheduling software. I was wondering if I can get the Minister to just give me a quick update. I understand that primarily or initially this is going to be used for shift scheduling at Stanton, but I understand that in the future it will be available for other facilities like corrections facilities. Can you confirm that?

Also, has any analysis been done on how much we expect this could save us over time by way of scheduling more effectively with less redundancy and overlaps and double times and things like that? How much do you think we're going to save and is it going to be available to go into other areas other than health?

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Payback, Minister McLeod.

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Chair. What this project will do is it will allow us to streamline our administrative processes through fixing the foundation as part of our 20/20: A Brilliant North, the NWT Human Resources strategic plan. This will

allow us to reduce the significant inefficiencies of people and manual-based shift scheduling.

With the software based shift scheduling, services will be used to maximize resource usage. This will include having the right qualified staff in the right place at the right time, monitoring rules for overtime to maximize regular hours versus overtime, and utilizing existing staff to the maximum within collectively bargained working hours.

Now, our preliminary estimates indicate that we will save about \$550,000 per year in avoided overtime and third weekend time costs. As we go further into the process, it is our expectations that it will allow all departments and agencies that have shift workers... In addition to Health and Social Services, there is the Department of Justice, Environment and Natural Resources, and those departments will also be able to streamline shift scheduling, reduce administrative costs and make more time available for core services.

MR. ABERNETHY: That is really great news. It's nice to see us come forward with a program that is going to pay for itself in a year and a half, so I am quite happy with that and I look forward to you getting that implemented and utilized across the government. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Just a comment there and I think, committee, we are on page 2-4, Department of Human Resources, activity summary, human resource strategy and policy, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary, \$940,000. Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. That concludes the detail for the department and we will return to the departmental summary on page 2-2. Department of Human Resources, department summary, infrastructure investment summary, total infrastructure investment summary \$940,000. Agreed?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. Does committee agree that this concludes the Department of Human Resources 2011-2012 capital estimates?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Bromley): Thank you, committee. I would like to thank the Minister and his witness, Mr. Williams, and ask the Sergeant-at-Arms to please escort the witness from the Chamber.

Thank you. What is the wish of committee? As per committee's discussion this morning, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I move we report progress.

---Carried

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

DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr. Krutko): Can I have the report of Committee of the Whole, Mr. Bromley.

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, your committee has been considering Tabled Document 66-16(5), NWT Capital Estimates 2011-2012, and would like to report progress. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bromley. A motion is on the floor. Do you have a seconder? The honourable Member for Sahtu, Mr. Yakeleya.

---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, October 25, 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
19. Second Reading of Bills
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 62-16(5), Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy
 - Tabled Document 66-16(5), NWT Capital Estimates 2011-2012
 - Tabled Document 75-16(5), Response to the Joint Review Panel for the Mackenzie Gas Project on the Federal and Territorial Governments' Interim Response to "Foundation for a Sustainable Northern Future"
 - Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act
 - Bill 8, Social Work Profession Act
 - Bill 9, An Act to Amend the Tourism Act

21. Report of Committee of the Whole

22. Third Reading of Bills

23. Orders of the Day

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Accordingly, this House stands adjourned until Monday, October 25, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

