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The Honourable Paul Delorey, Speaker

Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

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YELLOWKNIFE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**Wednesday, November 3, 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. Sandy Lee, Hon. Bob McLeod, Hon. Michael McLeod, Hon. Robert McLeod, Mr. Menicoche, Hon. Michael Miltenberger, Mr. Ramsay, Hon. Floyd Roland, Mr. Yakeleya

The House met at 1:42 p.m.

Prayer

---Prayer

SPEAKER (Hon. Paul Delorey): Good afternoon, colleagues. Welcome back to the Chamber. Orders of the day. Item 2, Ministers' statements. The honourable Member for Environment and Natural Resources, Mr. Miltenberger.

Ministers' Statements

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 84-16(5):

BARREN-GROUND CARIBOU MANAGEMENT

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, barren-ground caribou management has been a major priority for the past five years. In a time when caribou herds around the circumpolar world are declining, we have spent considerable time, effort and resources to conserve our herds.

This work has been done over the years with our partners, including aboriginal governments and wildlife co-management boards. I want to commend all our partners and harvesters for their ongoing actions to help conserve these herds.

Last week Environment and Natural Resources staff participated in the 13th North American Caribou Workshop in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The workshop focussed on aboriginal issues and co-management as well as scientific and technical issues regarding caribou management. The experiences gained here will be useful as we prepare to host the 14th Arctic Ungulates Conference in Yellowknife in August 2011.

Recently we signed an agreement with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation on joint management actions to conserve the Bathurst caribou herd, including harvest limits. The Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board has released its recommendations on caribou management in Wek'eezhii.

Results from surveys last year confirmed that management actions taken from the Cape Bathurst and Bluenose-West herds seem to be working and both populations have stabilized.

Mr. Speaker, I have more encouraging news to report this year regarding the Bluenose-East herd.

Based on results from photo-census surveys done this past summer, this herd has stabilized and the population has recovered to 2000 levels at an estimated 98,600 animals.

Two different survey methods were used this summer to obtain the new estimate of the size of the Bluenose-East herd. The post-calving and calving ground surveys produced very similar estimates of the herd. The new herd estimate is based on the post-calving ground survey. The last survey was done in 2006.

The recovery of this herd is most likely due to good calf survival in the last four years and lower harvest pressure on the cows. The herd did not come close to winter roads or communities in the past several years.

Mr. Speaker, while the increase of the Bluenose-East herd is good news, this herd is shared with harvesters from many regions and we must still exercise caution when recommending management actions for the herd, so it can continue to increase.

The next step will be taken by the appropriate wildlife co-management boards and aboriginal governments. These groups will meet to discuss the harvest target proposed for the Bluenose-East caribou herd by the WRRB in its recommendations report. They will also determine what harvest limitations should be recommended, if any, and how these would be allocated before making recommendations to this government.

We are working with the Tlicho Government to develop a response to the WRRB recommendations. The response will be submitted to the board by the end of December.

With regards to other barren-ground herds, the Porcupine caribou herd, which was estimated to be 123,000 animals in 2001, has been slowly declining for the past 20 years. A new population estimate is expected in the next few weeks.

The Porcupine Caribou Management Board is implementing the management plan and the recently approved Harvest Management Strategy for this herd.

Recent surveys have indicated a rapid and massive decline in the Beverly caribou herd. Early

indications from surveys done this year seem to suggest the Ahiak herd is stabilizing. New estimate and trend analysis for both the Ahiak and Beverly herds will be available by the end of December and a joint Nunavut/Saskatchewan/NWT population survey of the Ahiak herd is planned for the summer of 2011.

Mr. Speaker, given the transboundary nature of these herds, management actions must be done in conjunction with a number of parties. The Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management, consisting of wildlife co-management boards established under the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu, Tlicho and Nunavut land claims agreements, is working on management plans for the Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst herds. These plans will be available in 2011.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources will release the 2011-2015 NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy for public review in the next few weeks.

Mr. Speaker, we have made progress in working together in conserving our barren-ground caribou herds during the past five years. This has not been without sacrifice. But the management actions and considerable investments are making a difference. However, we still have more work to do to build capacity for aboriginal involvement and to continue monitoring recovery. By continuing cooperative management approaches that respect and support traditional values, we will be able to make sure the herds are available for the use of current and future generations and can maximize benefits for everyone from this precious resource. Mahsi.

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

MINISTER'S STATEMENT 85-16(5):
LITERACY STRATEGY UPDATE 2009-2010

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment recognizes the importance of literacy in fulfilling our vision of healthy, educated citizens participating in a strong and prosperous society. In 2009, we renewed our commitment to literacy by implementing the second Northwest Territories Literacy Strategy. The strategy describes how we will increase the literacy levels of Northerners of all ages, in all official languages. Today I am pleased to provide you with highlights of the new strategy.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of early childhood literacy development, we support family literacy training for practitioners, numerous community-based family literacy workshops and programs, and the development of family literacy resources and promotional materials through a partnership with the NWT Literacy Council. We also funded 19 early

childhood programs to develop aboriginal language immersion settings.

In literacy development we funded the Northwest Territories Seniors' Society and youth centres to host 13 events that brought youth and seniors together to learn from each other. We also held a literacy proposal writing workshop for youth centre staff from 12 communities. In literacy development for seniors, Education Culture and Employment supported seven seniors' literacy projects in different regions of the Territory.

Mr. Speaker, in the area of literacy development for working-age adults, we funded learning supports for disabled adults, literacy outreach centres at Aurora College campuses, and numerous community-based projects and programs, such as drop-in classes in the Beaufort-Delta, one-on-one tutoring in the Deh Cho, and the development of audio books for the visually impaired in the North Slave.

We funded Aurora College to facilitate distance learning opportunities and to deliver adult basic education at college campuses and community learning centres throughout the Territory. The department also coordinated the ongoing development of adult basic education curricula and resources.

In the area of literacy in the official languages of the Northwest Territories, local organizations developed books and resources in South Slavey, Tlicho and North Slavey. As well, we supported an aboriginal language writers' workshop.

Finally, in the area of building community capacity to meet literacy needs, increased funding to community libraries permitted an increase in hours of service and the purchase of additional materials.

I want to acknowledge the important work of the Literacy Strategy Advisory Committee. The committee, which represents many of our literacy partners, meets annually to guide our staff in implementing the strategy.

The Northwest Territories faces many challenges in the area of literacy. We still have much work to do but we are on track this year to meet our objectives and carry out the actions of the Literacy Strategy according to the goals of this Assembly. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

Members' Statements

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF RESPITE CARE SERVICES

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I wish to talk about the importance of respite care in the small communities. Mr. Speaker, in many

instances, young couples often take the responsibility for caring for aged senior family members or an ailing family member. This is the same for many grandchildren who live with their grandparents. They too are given the responsibility of caring and doing everything for the aging grandparents.

Mr. Speaker, over the last few days of this sitting, we have heard the Minister talk about changes to the way the government delivers health care, including funding of health services. It is good to hear the Minister responding to feedback, but this has left some confusion with my constituents that I'm hoping to clear up today.

Mr. Speaker, I understand the Minister and her department are doing what they think is best for the interests of the Northwest Territories. However, I am here today to talk about the interests of the people in Lutselk'e and Fort Resolution. Mr. Speaker, we know caring for aged and disabled family members can be a tremendous burden on families and family members. Without the necessary supports, it's only a matter of time before family members are overcome with burnout or family resources are drained, and then ultimately the family members in need are placed in long-term care facilities and then become an added cost to the government.

Mr. Speaker, last year the Minister stated that we are expanding the program for children and youth through respite care in the communities outside of Yellowknife. Respite care provides planned relief for caregivers, families and people with disabilities. Relief is necessary to decrease burnout and stress and allow caregivers to provide the best possible support, and thereby the best quality of life for those with disabilities. This action focuses on improving outcomes and opportunities for children and youth. Mr. Speaker, my constituents want to know if the plans have changed or the funding for respite for communities outside of Yellowknife will also be cut.

Mr. Speaker, as I speak today, there are families that are doing what they can to ease the day-to-day living of disabled and aged family members in all the communities across the North. These families need parity on what this government is doing. These families need support. These families need help. Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF RESPITE CARE SERVICES

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be talking about respite services today as well.

Respite services are an incredibly valuable program through the Northwest Territories. Parents who are asking for respite help are not asking because they are incapable of caring for their children, but because while caring so much for their children, they are challenged to care for themselves.

This Assembly and previous Assemblies, the 14th and 15th, have acknowledged the importance of respite. So much so that in March 2005, the current Minister, while she was a Member, made a statement, and I quote directly from the March 2005 Hansard, where the Minister indicated:

"I would like to speak today in support of the Yellowknife Association for Community Living respite services currently funded by the GNWT Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Speaker, the goal of respite services is to provide safe individual lives and flexible respite support to disabilities, more opportunities for inclusion in community activities. It is an essential support service that provides planned relief for parents, families and the people with disabilities that they care for. Such relief is necessary in order to decrease burnout, stress and family breakdown. It also helps families provide the best possible support and care to their loved ones with disabilities, and it ensures that people with disabilities experience a high quality of life."

Mr. Speaker, the Member, at the time, went further to urge the Minister-of-the-day to not only maintain services but to expand those services to people on waiting lists as well as communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

I was pleased earlier in the year when I saw the report on the Foundation for Change, where the department indicated that respite services or respite care services for families with special needs and disabled children would be expanded through the Northwest Territories. This was fantastic news. Unfortunately, we all know now that the Yellowknife Association for Community Living program that was funded by Yellowknife Health and Social Services has been cancelled as of April 1, 2011. What I am concerned about, Mr. Speaker, is that the actions aren't consistent with the words.

Later today I will be asking the Minister of Health and Social Services some questions on respite and what we are going to do to expand as outlined in the Foundation for Change. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR
FORT LIARD RESIDENTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fort Liard medical needs. I have stood up many times in this House to request on behalf of the residents of Fort Liard to have their health needs taken care of in Fort Nelson, B.C. This makes sense to them as it is only a two hour drive for them.

In many previous negative responses from the Minister of Health and Social Services, the main reason for not allowing this is that we have a health agreement with the Capital Health Authority of Alberta. Now, recently, it was brought to my attention that there is no longer a Capital Health Authority in Alberta, so I believe that we now have a good opportunity to provide a better and more efficient health service to the residents of Fort Liard.

The way we can do this, Mr. Speaker, is by contacting the Province of British Columbia's ministry of Health to begin preliminary discussions with their northern health authority as how they can service the needs of the population of Fort Liard. The agreement does not have to be overly complicated. Residents are confused as to why they have to travel down Highway No. 7 for three hours then a one-and-a-half-hour plane ride to Yellowknife, overnight, and experience another lengthy trip home. These medical visits are for tests, exams and minor day surgery, if necessary. This can be accomplished, as I said, with a simple two hour drive on a very good road over to Fort Nelson and they can be home the same day.

Many of the travellers are elderly and youth that require escorts. I really feel that this will even be a cost savings for our health care system. Also with the implementation of the electronic health system, I would say it would be easier to share health records, thereby addressing another concern that the Minister of Health and Social Services has had with working with the B.C. ministry of Health.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to a discussion on this during question period later today. Mahsi cho.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE
SERVICES IN NUNAKPUT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We see some very sad things happening in our communities. Today I am going to talk about the young man in Tuktoyaktuk who suffered for no good reason.

A few weeks ago he was badly beaten, was taken to the nursing station complaining that he couldn't breathe, mainly because he was drinking, but they looked at him quickly and took him to the RCMP

cells. All night he begged for help and he was ignored. After he was released, he went back to the nursing station on his own and was flown to Inuvik. In the two days that he was in Inuvik, no X-rays were taken and he was flown back home to Tuk but he was still having trouble breathing. The nurse in Tuk sent him back into Inuvik. It turned out, Mr. Speaker, that he had a punctured lung. They had to put a tube in him to drain the blood from his lungs.

This young man is now recovering, but that is more good luck than good work by our health services. He should have not been put in police cells the first night. He could have died. His condition should also have been identified in the first visit to the hospital in Inuvik. Instead he endured five flights between Tuk and Inuvik in a week, Mr. Speaker, before he was properly cared for in the Inuvik hospital. I am not sure how this happened and how such bad decisions were made.

I will be helping this young man and his family to file written complaints to the appropriate authorities. In the meantime, I want to stress to the Ministers of Health and Justice that sometimes citizens are treated more like animals than people, Mr. Speaker. We are lucky to have this young man that lived through this ordeal. Instances like this should never happen again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON
PROPOSED CHANGES TO SUPPLEMENTARY
HEALTH BENEFITS POLICY

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last week the Minister of Health and Social Services indicated that the Executive Council agreed to rescind the 2007 policy changing supplementary health benefits. The House applauded this action. Today I wish to address next steps.

The Minister indicated in her statements that advancing work on revising elements of the Supp Health Policy will require varying levels of additional research and planning before implementation. This is a significant statement, one that reflects a longstanding message of many Members and committees that have dealt with this subject. I fully support this intent. The Minister said she will focus on modernization of the existing policy framework, develop policy proposals to require the use of third-party insurance and develop a pharmaceuticals strategy.

Most importantly, there is a commitment to get in place supplementary health coverage for those working poor not currently covered, and an expectation of a federal cost analysis of all measures will reveal savings to cover the costs of ensuring the working poor are covered. I fully support all of these. Again, Mr. Speaker, I am with

the Minister on these fronts and will work to support advancing these goals. However, I wanted to offer some comments and cautions towards smooth and steady progress on these issues.

First, I want the Minister to recognize that when Members and committee offer comments and make recommendations, especially those made repeatedly, it will save time and energy to respond positively and thoroughly to that input. It may seem like causing a delay, but ultimately our goals are the same: timely implementation of cost-effective policy in this most important area of the health of our people and our families.

Secondly, bring proposals to committee for input as early as possible. We consider ourselves consensus partners here and a critical voice for the people. Committees will be meeting in the near future and should be considered as a first good opportunity to begin this process. When the Minister says she will move forward "as quickly as we can" or "immediately begin working with," I want the Minister to have Members and our committees in the front of her mind as an automatic go-to partner.

Mr. Speaker, I usually appreciate the Minister's decisions on supplementary health as recently elucidated and I look forward to a collaborative approach and making progress on this issue together, and, Mr. Speaker, I'll be speaking on the respite policy later today. Mahsi.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RESPIRE CARE PROGRAM FUNDING REDUCTIONS

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to again speak today about respite care and the decision to cut the \$250,000 required to fund the program.

Mr. Speaker, on Monday, after making a statement on respite care funding reductions, I had the opportunity to again question the Minister on how this decision was made, why this decision was made, where the money was going and ultimately who made the call to cut the funding. Judging by the response I received to my questions, the Minister seemed to have absolutely no clue in how to answer those questions about the cuts to respite care funding, except to say that health and social services is in a deficit situation.

Mr. Speaker, this is true. However, for the Minister to imply to me that this is the sole reason for the cut to respite care programming dollars is a solid indication that this Minister just does not seem to remember her solid support for respite care while a Regular Member, or her proposal to committee 18 months ago to fight deficits at our health authorities.

What has happened since then, Mr. Speaker? Nothing, zero, not a thing to address the deficits that, I'll remind the Minister, have been there since she became Minister in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, does the Minister not have a moral and ethical obligation to address the concerns like chronic underfunding, unfunded positions, medical travel deficits and the rising cost of equipment and supplies? These are not new issues. They need to be addressed, not used as a scapegoat to justify funding cuts to respite care programming. The bottom line is, is this a clear dereliction of duty by this Minister. The problems have not been addressed, they're not going to just go away, and in the case of the deficits at our health authorities, they're getting much worse as the days go by. If it's cuts to respite care today, Mr. Speaker, what is going to be coming tomorrow? Thank you.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE WITH AUTISM IN THE NWT

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today I want to talk about the benefits of early intervention with people with autism.

The Autism Society of Canada is leading a partnership with organizations, including the federal government, to develop a national autism strategy. The purpose is to address research, funding issues, raise awareness for autism, and certainly lay out best practices for those people who care for their children and family members with autism. The strategy, I believe, can eventually lead to strengthened support for those individuals and families dealing with autism in the NWT.

As many people know, autism covers a spectrum of disorders: social impairment, communication difficulties and/or restrictive, repetitive and stereotypical behaviour. As everyone knows, early diagnosis is critical. Not just important, Mr. Speaker, absolutely fundamental. Because, correspondingly, early intervention allows for assistance and support of the children who we wish to lead into good lives as they grow into adults.

There is no cure for autism yet, although interventions and medications can treat some of the symptoms. With good intervention and, certainly, support, many of the autistic children growing into adults are able to be full contributors in their independent lives as adults, and that's certainly a goal of many parents.

We must keep in mind every autistic child is different and needs different supports as they deem necessary. A child suffering from the symptoms of autism will likely need constant care, and lest we

forget the impacts it has on the whole family, that would be mom, dad and, of course, the brothers and sisters. Homes may require renovations or additional safety features to prevent accidents, and should we never forget about the much needed respite services many of these parents need to ensure that their health is top of the list as well.

Many good services have been provided to help families in the city and in our North to help care for our children and families with autism. Keep in mind that it's imperative that we do not neglect the parents again through the respite service process.

As always, more can be done, and I expect more should be done, for helping those families and individuals suffering with autism, because they need to be a full partner in the solution as we go forward.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to be an ardent supporter of families who are dealing with the autism challenge, and I think this government needs to stand up and clearly show them their support. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON ELDERS' CARE IN THE SAHTU

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have about 238 adults in the Sahtu region that are 60 years and older. Some of these adults are considered elders in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, elders' care in the Sahtu is severely lacking. Gone are the days of families taking care of their parents and grandparents on a full-time basis. Mr. Speaker, families need support to take care of their own in their own homes. However, this type of care puts a lot of pressure on families, because it speaks to the core values and beliefs of a family in our communities. It's stressful as families have to take care of their own families, go to work, and are expected to be on call 24/7.

Today in our communities we are experiencing more and more changes that show little support to our elders, the very elders that endured extreme hardship and suffering so we can enjoy the type of life we have today. They did not give up on us, Mr. Speaker, and we should return the full payment.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind the House that we have elders who need our care today. We have families who need our support. We have communities that want to keep their elders in their own homes.

Mr. Speaker, we need to have a special section within our health care system that meets the needs of our elders. The Foundation for Change document has several areas that should be implemented right away, Mr. Speaker. For example,

having traditional foods served at Stanton Hospital, strengthening language services for our elders so that word for word is understood between the doctors and the elders are very clear; no more guessing, Mr. Speaker. More importantly, we need to examine our own beliefs and values towards taking care of our elders from a cultural perspective.

Mr. Speaker, one day, God willing, we may also take on the elders' roles and hopefully not experience the types of issues that elders are facing today. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON RESPITE CARE PROGRAM FUNDING REDUCTIONS

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I again today want to talk about health care programs and funding.

We're all aware that funding for a valuable, well-used respite program is set to end next March. The impact has been discussed. It will adversely affect parents, but more so, in my mind, is the negative affect it will have on disabled children.

The respite program has provided socializing opportunities for these kids outside the home with their respite worker. They've been able to develop relationships with their worker and, more importantly perhaps, with other children.

Several parents have told me that advances in the social development of their child is absolutely because of the respite program. They have an opportunity to bond with and to relate to people who are not family members. The dynamic of such a relationship for an autistic child, for instance, cannot be underestimated.

The respite program run by the Yellowknife Association for Community Living has, to date, been funded by funds transferred to the GNWT by the Government of Canada. GNWT has provided the funds to the local health authority -- Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority in this case -- and they've chosen to have the program run by Yellowknife Association for Community Living.

I think we all understand at this point that the current federal funding used for this program was only intended to last until the end of March 2012. What is truly distressing, though, is the program funding is being discontinued one year short of that date. The Minister tells us the second year of the federal funding is to transition to a time when we will have no federal funding. Fair enough. But she has yet to show me a plan for the approximately \$7.5 million funding that we will receive next year for 2011-12. Just what is the Minister and the

department planning to use the 2011-12 federal funding for?

We hear much about the Foundation for Change but little on the detail of the changes being proposed. The Minister also seems to be telling us that most of the \$7.5 million will go to the Foundation for Change. For what, I have to ask.

The Minister cannot expect Members and the public to keep on believing and trusting in her vague statements. We deserve more respect than that. Show us how the 2011-12 money will be spent and if you can't do that soon, reinstate the measly \$250,000 that the Yellowknife Association for Community Living program needs to operate this necessary and valuable program.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON NWT ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE SERVICES

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you can probably tell, this is a bit of a health theme day today and it has a special focus on the issue of respite care, which I want to say I am also very supportive of and recognize the vast importance it is for families who are caring for family members with disabilities or those who are aged. But, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to speak to the health care in the Northwest Territories in a more general sense.

Mr. Speaker, I'm thankful that we live in a jurisdiction that although our systems may be under pressure like all other jurisdictions, we have a government that recognizes health and social services as a priority that consumes over 25 percent of our entire territorial budget for a total amount of over \$300 million. Although we attempted to address the needs of diverse communities in far-flung regions of our vast Territory, Mr. Speaker, we rise to those challenges.

Mr. Speaker, the North is a place where it is literally quite possible, when you have a need or an issue, to contact your elected representative or a health care provider at any time of the day or night, and that in many cases those people are not only known to you but you may also very well be known to them. This is an unusual and rare thing, Mr. Speaker, that no matter where you live, when you are in need of immediate or sustained care, no amount of cost will stand between you and the help that you need; that we have professional, responsive health care providers who are part of a network of services to address the health and social needs of Northerners; that we are not called upon to pay from our pockets when we are in need, nor is our need connected to our ability to pay or to our social condition.

Mr. Speaker, when we watch the news of the natural disasters, the wars, the poverty around our world, we see people with no access to health services or even the basic necessities of life. Some may say, well, big deal. This is Canada and we are not affected by such conditions. But, Mr. Speaker, the world is getting smaller all the time and as we see this, Mr. Speaker, although our jobs require us to raise issues in this House, of deficiency, I hope we never lose sight of how truly fortunate we are.

Mr. Speaker, closer to home in Hay River, I'm thankful that this government has seen fit to allocate funding for the start of a major project that will go to improve the quality of life for people in Hay River for many years to come in the form of a new health care facility.

Mr. Speaker, there's always room for improvement and how we allocate our resources and how we collectively look for the best way to deliver programs and services to our people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MEMBER'S STATEMENT ON IMPORTANCE OF RESPITE CARE SERVICES

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be talking about the delivery of care services in our communities.

Mr. Speaker, the Mackenzie Delta riding I represent has some 35 individuals who were identified as disabled. Mr. Speaker, the special needs individuals, persons with disabilities and, more importantly, the elderly should be receiving this important care. In Fort McPherson alone, I have some 223 elders over the age of 60. Of that, 66 elders are over the age of 70 to the age of 97.

Mr. Speaker, families in our communities are having to take care of their loved ones on their own. Mr. Speaker, that is not the way programs and services should be delivered. In most cases, the individuals have to look for support elsewhere or have their loved ones sent to regional health centres such as Inuvik and the Joe Greenland Centre in Aklavik, which they call respite care. Mr. Speaker, that is no way to deal with the individuals of our society who should be getting the attention they deserve and the programs and services they require.

Again, it's important to realize that the question of quality of life to all residents is critical to providing services throughout the Northwest Territories to ensure we are providing respite care services and other services in all our communities where people with disabilities and special needs are located and that they don't have to be removed from their home communities to receive that care.

Mr. Speaker, I will have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services on exactly what this government is doing to ensure we have adequate programs and services in all our communities. Mahsi.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Item 4, returns to oral questions. Item 5, recognition of visitors in the gallery. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

Recognitions of Visitors in the Gallery

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize some constituents of the Great Slave riding: Heather Oliver who is a constituency assistant for Dennis Bevington, the MP for Western Arctic; John Williston, Peggy Moorhouse, Shawna Stange-Brown, and Elizabeth Purchase. There's been a lot of turnover in the gallery, so if I missed anybody from the Great Slave riding, welcome, and enjoy the Legislature today.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Member for Monfwi, Mr. Lafferty.

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I'm pleased to recognize the following students in the gallery today who are here as part of the Bring Your Child to Work Day. Sydney Friesen is a Grade 9 student from St. Pat's and Cassidy Menard is a Grade 9 student from Sir John Franklin. Both are former Legislative Assembly Pages. Both are daughters of Legislative Assembly staff, Donna Friesen and Cheryl Menard.

Also in the gallery is Ryan Gould, who is a Grade 9 student from Sir John. He's accompanied by his mother Jackie Gould, who's here as a member of the Executive staff of the Legislative Assembly. Welcome to the gallery. Mahsi.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize a constituent of mine from Tu Nedhe, William Buggins.

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

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to recognize the following constituents from Yellowknife south: Anne-Elizabeth Fauvel, Annie Strus, Charlotte Curtis, Chris Strus, Lois Burns, Pat Strus, Peter Taptoona, Tammy Krivda, Keeton Hardisty and Samantha Bohnet. Welcome to the gallery.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome all of the guests that we have here in the gallery today. In particular, I have a number of

constituents that are in the gallery today that I'd like to recognize: Ms. Pamela Weeks-Beaton, president of the Yellowknife Association for Community Living; Anghus Beaton, Bridie Kennedy, Connor Beaton, Conrad Wright, Delaney Beaton, Erin Sawatzky, Gugan Sidhu, Mimi Kennedy, Narine Margaryan. As well, I've got other constituents I see up there; Joy Watt and Kerry King, as well I'd like to recognize city counsellor Lydia Bardak that's with us. Welcome to everybody else. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Ramsay. The honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Robert McLeod.

HON. ROBERT MCLEOD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to welcome as part of Bring Your Child to Work Day, Mr. Franklin Carpenter, formerly of Sachs Harbour, formerly of Inuvik and now living here in Yellowknife working for the NWT Housing Corporation. He's here along with his son Will. Welcome to the gallery.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: I'd like to recognize a constituent from Deline, Mr. Peter Bonnetrouge, and also I want to recognize some of the fine staff members who work here in the Leg. who are in the gallery with their children.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd also like to welcome everybody in the gallery and, in particular, I'd like to recognize my constituents from Range Lake: Camila Barros, Chelsey Adams and Kelly Handley. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to welcome everyone in the gallery. I'd like to specifically make note of a number of Yellowknife Centre constituents: Andrea Stewart, Keaton Hardisty, from the LeMay family I'd like to recognize James, Lisa, Jo-Jo and Ella. I'd like to recognize Kristy Samuelson and from the Kapolak family I'd like to recognize, Sam, Shayne and Susie. Finally, but not last, Billie-Rae Driscoll. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Welcome everyone.

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

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to recognize Allen Barret, David Ross, executive director of YKACL, Kiefer Dolphus, Lenora Barret, Michael and Shauna Henry, the Weledeh school student and all other members from the Weledeh riding. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wish to thank all the people for coming today and welcome them here. I have a number of Frame Lake residents I would like to recognize. Firstly, Dave and Maureen Miller, Dave of CBC fame; and Jessica and Vincent Casey; Katie Miller and my constituency assistant, Kerry King. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Bisaro. If we've missed anyone in the gallery today, welcome to the gallery. I hope you're enjoying the proceedings. It's always nice to have an audience in here.

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

Acknowledgements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT 9-16(5): PASSING OF MANSELL GRAY

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In life at times we are very fortunate to meet someone special who shows up in our life to either teach us, give us a push or just to listen. Well, Mr. Speaker, I had that experience in my life, as well as many others too. I recently heard a good friend, Mansell Gray, passed away on October 22, 2010, in Hay River. He was surrounded by many of those he helped and by clergy who prayed for him.

Mansell came north in 1988 and worked in Fort Providence, Fort McPherson and, finally, in Hay River. Later on, in the '90s, Mansell was joined by his wife, Elaine, who has since passed. Mansell had numerous jobs throughout his stay in the North, but as an alcohol and drug counsellor he is remembered by a lot of people for helping them get sober, stay sober and live one day at a time. He was very active in the self-help movement in Hay River and the world. He was on 24/7 365 days a year.

Mansell was also active in politics. As a matter of fact, his daughter Deb Gray was once a former member of the Reform Party. However, it was the work with alcohol addictions that always returned him to the people he loved and now we say thank you, Mansell. A memorial service will be held in Hay River on November 6th at the Roman Catholic Church.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. Item 7, oral questions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

Oral Questions

QUESTION 325-16(5): RESPITE CARE PROGRAM FUNDING REDUCTIONS

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions today are for the Minister responsible for Health and Social Services in follow up on my Member's statement.

I know the Minister is supportive of respite. Her message in the House has been clear, both as a Regular Member and as a Minister. The Foundation for Change is clear: we plan to expand respite services in the Northwest Territories. But then in early October we were sort of surprised, out in left field, when all of a sudden we learned that the Yellowknife Association for Community Living respite program is being discontinued.

I'm curious; can the Minister of Health and Social Services help me understand how the political message about supporting respite, the political support for respite has not trickled down to the department and the authority, where the authority, Yellowknife Health and Social Services, has decided to cancel an important respite program here in the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, I'd like to thank the Members for Great Slave and Kam Lake for looking back in the record and reading statements that I made. I was, and I continue to be, an advocate for supporting persons with disabilities. I fought for and got the respite care program and I was grateful that the government implemented. As a Minister, I have worked to expand the respite program to communities outside of Yellowknife, and it is part of the Foundation for Change Action Plan.

Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that there were some communications that really caused heartache to the families. I don't think that was necessary, but it has happened. I'd like to just state my commitment to continue to support the families who need the respite care program. It is the intention of the government to expand. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was listening to the radio and there was a report on and there was a representative from the Yellowknife Health and Social Services who indicated that, basically, they're offering families who need respite an opportunity to enter into a voluntary service agreement, a VSA. To me, this is an acknowledgement that respite services are needed here in the Northwest Territories. Even indirectly, Yellowknife Health and Social Services is recognizing that respite is required. Unfortunately, I

don't believe in any way, shape or form, requiring a family to enter into a VSA through the Child and Family Services Act, which is about child protection... These children aren't being neglected. They're not being abused. Their well-being isn't in question. We're talking about care of these children for short periods of time.

My question to the Minister is: Given that the authority has acknowledged the importance, can we get them to find some money within the authority or within the department to help actually fund a continuation of respite in this particular organization as well as the Territory as a whole?

HON. SANDY LEE: I have talked to the Member privately and I've responded to any parents that I've had a chance to talk to recently, and I say it again, that the Department of Health and Social Services considers the respite care program a very important service, and that I've stated in answering questions to the Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins, on Monday, that we have a resolution that we are working on. The important thing is that we work together to get the support that the families need. I intend to do that and the government intends to do that as well. Thank you.

MR. ABERNETHY: Sounds great. I'm happy to hear a resolution is in the works, but I obviously don't know the details of that resolution that's in the works. Does that mean that the Yellowknife Association for Community Living will continue to receive the \$250,000 that they need in 2011-12 and ongoing to run the respite care program here in Yellowknife? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Right now we have had, over the last number of years, two different care programs. We've had one in Yellowknife that the Member mentions and we have been running a pilot project outside of Yellowknife for smaller communities. The government would like to look at the whole program together, because the focus has to be in providing services to families who need the respite care program. I don't think there is any question here about the importance, and advantage, and the benefit that those programs bring to the children and adults with disabilities and their families. I say it once again, that we are committed to providing a respite care program in the Northwest Territories and we will use the money we have in the budget and look for additional resources to continue to do that. Thank you.

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

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I fully believe the Minister when she says she supports respite. I am happy to hear that they are planning to do something. I am going to continue to ask the Minister to commit to finding the \$250,000 for the Yellowknife Association for Community Living. Will the Minister commit the

\$250,000 to keep this particular respite that serves 29 families in Yellowknife and offers high-quality programming and services to help these children socialize and integrate into the community and provide the needed relief to the parents of these children? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, the Member sits on the Standing Committee on Social Programs. The way we fund money and extra resources is to work through that. I intend to come to the committee with the details of that. The focus is to help the families who need respite care not only in Yellowknife but across the communities. We need to look at this program comprehensively. I am willing to do that. I am committed to do that. We have, in fact, increased the money on respite care within the department budget. We do need to address the program with YACL, and I am committed to coming back to the committee with the plan and I am committed, and I say that with everybody in the gallery, that we will continue to provide services to families who need respite care. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 326-16(5):
PROVISION OF HEALTH CARE
SERVICES IN NUNAKPUT

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My questions are for the Minister of Health and Social Services. What is the process in investigating incidents involving inappropriate health treatment? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have a standardized process in addressing complaints and concerns from our residents. They are to speak to the authority management first and then sometimes, or oftentimes it works its way through, upward to the deputy minister level. Mr. Speaker, if it is a complaint about specific conduct of a health care professional, whether it be a nurse or a doctor or therapist or allied health care professions, all of the professional governing bodies have a process on how to address complaints. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, what is the protocol communication between nursing stations and the RCMP when an injured person is examined and released into police care? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I am not familiar with the detail of how that works out. I will undertake to get more detail on that. I would need

to consult with the Department of Justice. Thank you.

MR. JACOBSON: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned both with the quality of health care and the cost which should be looked at when it comes to the case described in my Member's statement. I believe the constituent didn't get timely care and had to fly around unnecessarily. Will the Minister order an investigation of this case? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, we could do that. I will undertake to look into that specific situation and get back to the Member. Thank you.

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

MR. JACOBSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I thank the Minister for that answer. So how long, Mr. Speaker, would the investigation likely take to be completed? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, there is no set time, but I will make the commitment to review the situation and get back to the Member as soon as possible. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 327-16(5):
ELDERS' CARE IN THE SAHTU

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In my Member's statement I indicated that there are about 238 adults 60 years and over in the Sahtu and most of these adults are determined by the communities as elders. I wanted to ask the Minister in terms of working with our elders in terms of how we close that gap in terms of providing adequate satisfactory services to our elders as there are some sections in the Foundation for Change that would speak to this issue in terms of programs and services that we could start implementing as soon as possible. Can the Minister give me an indication as to how soon we could start looking at programs and services for our elders in the Sahtu?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Foundation for Change is an action plan for the Department of Health and Social Services. It has a number of things that we need to undertake. But Members here know that we don't necessarily have the dollars attached to that. The action plan guides our budget planning, capital planning and other decisions we make. We are working to implement the action plan as soon as possible, but the speed and the accomplishment depends also on the money available. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, ever since I have been in the House, I have been asking for basic requests such as providing traditional foods at Stanton Hospital for our elders. Stanton Hospital is 65 percent of our aboriginal patients there. I ask the Minister again, what is she doing in terms of this simple request. I don't think it will cost too much to have it here at Stanton to provide traditional food for some of our elders that come here for some length of stay. When can the Minister give me a solid answer in terms of this simple request?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, on that issue, we have been seeking guidance from the Elders Council of the Stanton Territorial Health Authority. In fact, I talked to the chairperson at noon at an event. He has some proposals to make. We will work with them in where they want to go in terms of addressing better meeting the needs of a large number of aboriginal patients that we serve at Stanton. Thank you.

MR. YAKELEYA: Mr. Speaker, I have been here for seven years. It has been an issue ever since I became a Member of this House here to talk about some of the issues at Stanton in terms of traditional food. The Minister now is responding to the request. I hope that this request can be implemented by the time we finish our term here. The Minister is right in terms of elderly care in our region is costly because of the travel and the training and the dollars to go up there. I want to ask the Minister in terms of providing care in our communities in the Sahtu. Again, the example yesterday in Deline and other communities that I represent that need respite care, palliative care for our elders so they can stay in their communities. Can the Minister, through the assessment of the Foundation for Change, start implementing some programs that would give the support to the elders as soon as possible?

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, earlier today in Members' statements, almost every Member spoke about the need for respite care, whether it be for persons with disabilities or elders. We have a lot of people not just in Yellowknife as we know of, but we have a lot of individuals in our small communities who need assistance in a similar way. This is why the Department of Health and Social Services, over the last three years, has created and expanded a respite care program for communities outside of Yellowknife. What we propose to do is I would like to have one territorial respite care program. We are going to work in conjunction with our partners and we will work out the details and come to the Standing Committee on Social Programs. Dollars are limited. We need to maximize the use of our resources and I look forward to getting support from the Members on the other side as we move forward on a territorial respite care program. Thank you.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister talked about a territorial-wide approach to respite care. Would the Minister entertain with her Cabinet Members as to how we can support families that are on call 24/7 who are basically supporting their loved ones? How can we support them in terms of putting together a solid program that would see that they would get some relief and some support in our smaller communities where some of them have to go to work after a week of taking time off? We need to get some good support in our communities. I ask the Minister if she will look at all possibilities where we can get support for families.

HON. SANDY LEE: We should remember that our people are assisted in different ways and under different programs and by different professionals in varying degrees in our communities depending on their needs and the capacity in our communities. Respite care is not a solution to everything. There are some people who need more intense care than respite care. So we should remember that there are varying degrees of programs that are in line with the needs of the people.

Mr. Speaker, I state again to the Member that the department sees respite care and expanded home care as an important element in the delivery of our health and social services care. We want to enable our people to stay in our communities, be supported by their families with support from home care and respite care. We have a long way to go. We just began our three-year project outside of Yellowknife. We had a pilot project outside of Yellowknife and we've had a pilot project in Yellowknife. I believe it's time to put them together, look at it in a comprehensive approach, find efficiencies where we can, but we are committed to moving forward. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 328-16(5):
RESPITE CARE PROGRAM
FUNDING REDUCTIONS

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On Monday the Minister, in response to some questions that I had for her, was using the deficit as the reason why the respite care funding cut was made. Mr. Speaker, this is a very poor excuse, as I mentioned in my statement. Nothing's been done to address the root cause of these growing deficits in the seven years that I've been here, and certainly in the past three years that the Minister has been at the helm. I know in response to questions my colleague Mr. Abernethy had, the Minister said that moving forward we're going to work out some details on getting the \$250,000 reinstated and

trying to find a way forward to fund the program and the details would be coming. But, Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister is: How are we supposed to believe that when where were the details when it came to the funding cut? Mr. Speaker, we just had business plans and the Minister didn't mention anything to us about a funding cut to the respite care program. Thank you. Where were the details then?

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm not sure if I can convince him that the wall behind you is grey, I don't think any information I give him can convince him of anything, but let me say, and like I said today, and I've given a lot of information already, Mr. Speaker. We have had a two-track process when it comes to the respite care program. We've had a pilot project in YACL for Yellowknife only. We've had a three-year pilot project outside of Yellowknife. I am suggesting that it is time now for us to look a territorial respite care program. We have heard from families in Yellowknife who are saying that those programs are valuable and essential to their children's well-being, as well as their families' well-being and we have never questioned that. We support respite care for the families.

At the same time we have a lot of families in many different communities outside of Yellowknife with much less facilities and programming than Yellowknife, who are taking care of their families with limited resources. So we, as a government, are going to re-evaluate that program and we are going to come to the Standing Committee on Social Programs. That is the regular process and we are going to present a territorial respite care program. So it's not about \$250,000 and it's not about black and white simplistic answers. I am announcing today, and if the Member wants to receive that, it's up to him. We are working on a territorial respite care program. That's the way to go and I'm committed to that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. RAMSAY: I certainly don't need to be convinced of the value of respite care, whether it's here in Yellowknife or any of our communities, and I think that's a step in the right direction that the government is going towards.

Again, I'm having trouble understanding how it is the Minister could go through the business planning process and not advise the Standing Committee on Social Programs that this funding cut was coming. Again, where were the details then? She says she's coming forward to the Standing Committee on Social Programs with details on this new program. Eighteen months ago when I spoke about it, when I spoke about it in my statement, the same Minister came before the Standing Committee on Social

Programs with a deficit-fighting plan; a nice, glossy plan. It never saw the light of day, Mr. Speaker. So how we are we supposed to believe the Minister that this will actually happen? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: I don't think this is a question of lack of detail. I think that I can explain the details. I don't even know if I have enough time, Mr. Speaker. I have said it's already been said that THAF was until 2009-10. We were able, and we were lucky, to get an extension of two years. The budget for 2009-2010 does not include THSSI funding. This is why it's not called THSSI instead of THAF, and I keep telling the Member and he doesn't want to believe me. He says there's a lack of detail. He's not accepting the answers. We just approved a supplementary appropriation approving THSSI, so we have a different internal kind of budgeting processing going on here. We approved money for a respite care program outside of Yellowknife through the main budget and we approved THSSI and THAF funding under supplementary appropriations. Mr. Speaker, if he wants any more details on how we fund respite care program, I'd be happy to provide that, but just because he doesn't agree with it, it doesn't mean that the details are not there. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Again, I appreciate the Minister's response, but the Minister has been very evasive when it comes to actually answering questions about this funding cut. She won't tell us who ultimately made the decision to cut the \$250,000 or where the \$250,000 is going and what it's going to be spent on. Mr. Speaker, again, it's a fairly straightforward question. Who is responsible for cutting the \$250,000 out of the budget? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: With all due respect, that's a really irrelevant question. I am Minister of Health and Social Services. Whether I am involved directly or not, I am responsible for whatever happens in health and social services. That's the very reason why he asks me questions and it's my job to answer them. So what's the relevance of who cut it? What we know is the respite care program is important. I'm presenting to the Member that we want to go forward on this. The funding under THAF is sunsetted. It doesn't show up in future budgets. We were able to get extra money from the federal government, so we are putting it back in under supplementary appropriation. We use approved funding for 2010-2011 under a supplementary appropriation and the Member knows, and everybody here knows, that we fund various programs under 2010-2011 and we will go through the same process for 2011-2012. So that's a very esoteric internal budgeting process. Mr. Speaker, the Member also knows that we talked together and agreed on budget items as well.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the same Minister that on Monday, in response to a question that I had, she said we are not able to expand any programs. The respite care program was a pilot project and was time limited.

Mr. Speaker, again, I want to ask the Minister whether or not she herself knew that this was a proposed funding cut and when she found out about that cut. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yes, on Monday I said that because, as the Member knows, the funding has sunsetted. It's not in the books. It's not there. THAF funding ended as of '09-10.

We got extra money for two years for '10-11 and '11-12. We did planning for 2010-2011 through supplementary appropriation. The budget for 2011-12 has not been before this House. For the information of the public and everybody, when we go through the budgeting process, we work closely with the communities.

So, Mr. Speaker, I said what the Member said I said and those are accurate. The money has sunsetted. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

QUESTION 329-16(5):
RESPITE CARE SERVICES IN TU NEDHE

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. Today I talk about the importance of respite care in Tu Nedhe communities. I have questions for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, Tu Nedhe is a part of the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority. I want to ask the Minister what the plan is specific to communities in Tu Nedhe. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I stated, we have begun to have a respite care program outside of Yellowknife for the last three years. We are not in all of the communities yet. We have started in the Beaufort-Delta and Deline and I believe we have a couple of respite programs in Simpson. So we need to continue to work together to find respite care programming in communities across the Territories. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, I have a couple of situations in Tu Nedhe that need immediate assistance. I have a disabled couple taking care of an elderly uncle who's I believe in his nineties. Could the Minister tell me what kind of assistance would be available for family members caring for people today? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: In situations like that, the Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority, which is responsible for Tu Nedhe, would do an assessment on that individual and the family and provide either home care assistance, occupational therapy assistance, and work out a care plan for the family. Where there is a respite care program like Yellowknife, they could access those. But where there isn't, home care and local health and social authorities would look to assist the family. Thank you.

MR. BEAULIEU: Mr. Speaker, the situations in Tu Nedhe where individuals are being cared for by family, that's happening without any compensation to the family, and what's happening is the elders are now getting to a point where they feel that they've become a burden because they recognize that the family is doing this, taking shifts doing this on their own. Some seniors are even refusing care because there's no money to support the families that are trying to help them.

Does the Minister and the health authority, I suppose, acknowledge the fact that respite care would, in the long run, save a lot of money for the government? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: In the long run we will always need support of the families to take care of our elders and we'll always have to rely on the families who look after children with disabilities and all kinds of family members who need assistance, which is why respite care is important to these families. It gives them a little bit of breathing room and helps them cope with the challenge of the extra responsibilities that they have. So I don't think the government will ever be in a place where we could do 24-hour care for everybody.

We need to work together with the families. In cases of elders and persons with disabilities, government works to provide home care programming. Home care is very multi-faceted. Sometimes it's nursing coverage and sometimes it's light housework. So the program is different. Where there is a respite care program, it just gives the families a break while they take care of their loved ones.

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

MR. BEAULIEU: Mahsi cho, Mr. Speaker. In Tu Nedhe we still have more seniors in institutional care than we do in some sort of respite care, even though there is no money with the respite care. There are still individuals taking care of their aged and disabled family members. Does the Minister acknowledge that disabled and aged people have a better quality of life with family members under respite care rather than institutional care? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Absolutely. Institutional care is always more expensive, usually far away, it's less humane and less personal. So in all ways, we should, as a government, minimize that. We do also accept, though, there are situations where there is no choice but to give institutional care for some of our elderly and some of our residents because their needs are so acute and so expansive that no individual or families can provide that. This is why we have under the Foundation for Change action plan as a goal to enhance and expand home care and respite care. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 330-16(5):
RESPITE CARE PROGRAM
FUNDING REDUCTIONS

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Minister has put on record clearly that respite is a valuable and needed service. I thank her for that because it certainly makes some of these questions a lot easier.

She's told the House repeatedly that THAF was extended by two years, which carries this government into the budget years of 2011-12. So THAF funding -- which is the Territorial Health Access Fund, for anyone who doesn't know what THAF stands for -- started in 2009-2010 and is carried into the second year, which is the 2010-11 and, of course, now we are really coming down to what's happening in the third and final year.

Mr. Speaker, I thought the question as to who cut the money was very relevant because it goes simply to my question. Did the Minister of Health and Social Services provide direction, instructions, a directive or any message to cut, trim or change the scheduled funding for respite services at all in any form? If not, is she tracking the person down who did make this instructional choice to do this, to freeze any changes until we find a solution for this problem? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The fact is we are getting distracted by how this information was communicated. I would rather focus on moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, the federal government gave us \$50 million and we have to plan on budgeting accordingly. Both THAF and THSSI -- and Member Bisaro asked what are we going to do with that money -- it's important for everybody to know that that money is spent as part of our health care budget. We pay nurses, nurse practitioners, midwives, doctors, diagnostics, we pay for health

care out of that THAF funding. There is a two-year time limit. We need to find ways to change the way we deliver programs and that is why we need to use some of that money on the Foundation for Change action plan.

The reason why I say it's really unfortunate how this was communicated in that way is because if this government is going to provide a respite care program, it's going to provide a respite care program. We need to come up with the money to do that. Everybody knows we have limited resources, so this is why it is important for us to have a territorial respite care program. We need to use the resources of the department and find ways to continue to provide respite care programs for families in Yellowknife as well as outside of Yellowknife. This is why we need to do a territorial respite care program. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: I kind of find it unfortunate that the Minister keeps saying it's unfortunate that it was brought to us in this method. To be quite honest, Mr. Speaker, if this message of respite care wasn't brought to us by constituents, it would be so unfortunate it would have been long gone before we ever found out.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister keeps saying it's a distraction about trying to find out what happened. I think that's kind of the blueprint of finding out what we can do. Mr. Speaker, where is the money for the budget year 2011-12 going to be allocated to? In short, Mr. Speaker, it has been allocated to two years towards respite care. So we are trying to track down where this money is now going to. Why isn't the Minister agreeing in this House to stabilize the money for respite? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: The Member knows that in the February budget session we debate the 2011-2012 budget. Thank you.

MR. HAWKINS: It's really sad we can't debate this line item very clear here in the House, because it's unfortunate. It won't be tabled before the House until February. Mr. Speaker, how much has the Minister committed to respite services to date and how much will she be committing going forward to demonstrate respite services will be protected and enshrined in our health system? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: The Member knows that we will be debating the 2011-2012 budget. We just had a preview of that and there is a respite care program in there that we approved. The respite care program under THSSI is handled differently because it's federal funding and we did it through a supplementary appropriation. I look forward to the support of the Members on the other side when we work to develop a program on respite care. Thank you.

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

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't doubt that the Minister has a passion for this issue. I wouldn't doubt that the Minister cares about this particular issue, but everything seems to be hurry up, let's wait. Stop distracting the issue, just wait. Well, unfortunately, we've got a lot of families who can't wait and proceed on blind faith.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister has allowed -- and, as she said, she takes full responsibility for the department -- she has allowed this cut to be proposed and she is defending the cut. So what is her plan to bridge through this cut? She could make that very clear here, because we have four months until the February session to work through and we've got families waiting to find out what the plan is. Mr. Speaker, that is the question, to ensure that these families are protected. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Let's just be clear that this House will debate the budget for 2011-2012. I will include the money from the federal government.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear about one more thing, which is that we are committed, this government is committed to having one territorial respite care program for families in need of a respite care program, which would include Yellowknife families. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 331-16(5):
RESPITE CARE SERVICES
IN MACKENZIE DELTA

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regard to my Member's statement, I mentioned the lack of respite care services in a lot of our communities. In the communities I represent -- Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic -- in Aklavik alone I have 24 people identified as disabled; Fort McPherson, 10, and one individual in Tsiigehtchic. Mr. Speaker, that's 35 individuals in the Mackenzie Delta riding that are disabled. These individuals are asking for nothing less and nothing more than what's being provided in the larger centres.

I, for one, sit here listening to the discussions here in the House. Mr. Speaker, we have individuals in our communities that are stuck taking care of their elderly parents, people with disabilities, special needs in our communities that are 24-hour care, 365 days a year, and the only program we have for respite care is they'll take the elders out of our home communities and send them to the Inuvik hospital and put them in the long-term care facility or the Joe Greenland Centre.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask the Minister why we are having to send our elders away or individuals from our communities for respite care to the regional

hospitals and not assist them and keep them in our home communities and support the families.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member is absolutely right. He's talking about the situation that we deal with every day. We have unlimited demand for services in our communities. There are lots of program needs across the NWT, especially in small communities. This is the reason why the government has used the Strategic Initiatives committee Building Our Future funding to introduce and expand respite care programs in communities outside of Yellowknife for three years.

What I said this morning is that the government wants to keep moving forward with that and include Yellowknife programs into that program, and I would need support from the other side to institute this program. How far we expand and how much we can do would depend on the priorities we need to make on our budget, and everybody here knows that our budget is under pressure from all fronts. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, also in my statement I made reference to the elders in our communities. In Fort McPherson alone, I mentioned we have 66 elders over the age of 70 to 97 years old. Those elders we want to keep in our communities. The facility in Inuvik, the long-term care, is full. There are 25 beds. It's full. We have eight beds in the Joe Greenland Centre. The only place those individuals can go is either to Inuvik, but if it's full, they will have to send them to other facilities such as Yellowknife and elsewhere, and that's not what we want, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to ask the Minister exactly what are we doing to enhance the elder care programs in our communities such as home care, respite care and, more importantly, care facilities and care professions in our communities to take care of those most vulnerable in our communities.

HON. SANDY LEE: That is the challenge of this government and all governments across the Territories for the next 10 to 20 years. There is no simple one-word answer to that. We need to work on prevention. We need to work on a long-term care facility strategy so that we have the right facilities in all different regions. We need to enhance support in small communities, especially for home care and respite care while we wait and while we don't have all of the programs that are readily available in larger communities. This is why this department, and for the last three years I, as the Minister, have introduced and expanded respite care programs in small communities. But it's meeting very, very small needs right now, so we need to look at this program and the program in Yellowknife and programs outside of Yellowknife as

one program and find economy, find efficiencies, make our dollar stretch so that we can serve more communities and more families in need of respite care which is present everywhere in the Territories. Thank you.

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, I know the Minister is making reference to the territorial-wide program and expanding the program outside of Yellowknife to include all 33 communities in the Northwest Territories. I'd like to ask the Minister exactly when are you intending to roll out this program to all 33 communities in the Northwest Territories.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I don't believe we will be able to roll that out to all 33 communities. What we need to do is expand as much as possible to communities. We have begun that process three years ago. We have to do a lot of work to do that, but we have started that. We have about four or five communities outside of Yellowknife. So we're going to work in conjunction. We're going to provide it to communities outside of Yellowknife as well as Yellowknife. The important thing is we have begun the work and we have to move as quickly as possible. The resources are what are needed to do that. I look forward to coming to standing committee to see how we can move forward together, because I'm going to need the support of the Members on the other side to put this in. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. That wasn't too encouraging, the Minister's last answer there. I find it kind of hard to believe that you're not going to provide similar services throughout the Northwest Territories for people in the same situations, same status, and yet people are treated differently. I'd like to know, from the Mackenzie Delta riding, when can I see respite care being delivered in the communities in the Mackenzie Delta.

HON. SANDY LEE: One of the first expansions of respite care programs outside of Yellowknife was started in Inuvik. We have been working with the NWT Council of Persons with Disabilities to do that. We had to lay out the foundation to begin that work, Mr. Speaker. It is our desire and wish that we can have this program in all 33 communities. What I'm saying is, practicably, I would be... Well, I wouldn't be able to meet the commitment if I said we will do 33 communities next year. What's important is that we have it in our action plan. We have laid the foundation. We have staff at the department who have been designing the program. We will look to NGOs to help us to do that if that does get to go. I think, Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity for us to look at this comprehensively and try to be fair and equitable to all communities. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 332-16(5):
PROVIDING HEALTH CARE SERVICES
TO FORT LIARD RESIDENTS

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to follow up on my Fort Liard health care issues that I spoke about in my Member's statement. My question is for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I had previously raised the issue about how the residents of Fort Liard feel that their health needs would be best served if they were able to travel over to the Fort Nelson, B.C., hospital. Some of it, Mr. Speaker, is just for tests, exams, even minor day surgery. Right now, they currently have to spend two days travelling to get to Yellowknife and return home and have to throw in the travelling over Highway No. 7, of course, there, Mr. Speaker.

I'd like to ask the Minister, once again, one of the biggest reasons, over time, that they wouldn't look at it is because we had an agreement with the Capital Health Authority of Alberta. That's not in existence anymore. I don't know what the agreement is there. However, to me, and for my constituents, I think it's an opportunity for us to talk with the British Columbia Minister of Health on a similar agreement for services in Fort Nelson, B.C., Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoché. The honourable Minister responsible for Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue on this, I don't believe, has to do with an agreement with Capital Health necessarily. It is true that when NWT residents need health care not available in the Territories, we usually go to Alberta and Edmonton, and it used to be called Capital Health, which now is Alberta Health. The issue here about the residents of Liard wanting to go to Nelson instead of Simpson or Stanton and then Edmonton, if that's required, is that we already have a facility in Simpson and Stanton that we are paying for. If our residents are going to Nelson, then that's extra cost that we need to incur. I realize that it is much more convenient for them to go down the street, but from what we know of what's offered in Nelson is comparable, or it is not beyond what will be available either in our health centre in Simpson or at Stanton. It is a question of us having to use, or should use, our NWT resources first. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I certainly have the confidence and acknowledge the confidence of our health authority and staff. However, residents of Fort Liard feel they are better served if they can just make the two-hour drive over to Fort Nelson, B.C. for some of the minor things. I am not talking about a highly complex arrangement with the ministry of Health in B.C. or else their northern health authority, just the ability to go to quick exams, X-rays, et cetera. Anything major will certainly be

identified. Can the Minister at least analyze this? I am certain that there will be a cost savings, Mr. Speaker. Is the Minister at least willing to analyze it and see if it can indeed be a possibility? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I believe we did look into this, as the Member has brought this forward before. The variable in the cost that we need to look at is that we already pay for staffing the facility, the X-ray machine and we have just invested in DI/PACS and other electronic health equipment in Simpson, for example, for the entire Deh Cho region. Whether 10 people use it or 100 people use it in a month, there are fixed costs involved in this facility. It is the same with Stanton. If a number of residents decide to go down and use a B.C. facility, it results in us paying twice for the same service, so to speak. The second thing is that when you use out-of-town or out-of-jurisdiction service, the money B.C. charges us for same services are a lot higher than what they would charge their own residents.

Mr. Speaker, I would undertake to give the Member more information, but I just want the Member to know that there are many variables in doing the cost-benefit analysis. Thank you.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Speaker, I certainly would like to see some of the analysis that she is talking about, because I am not really convinced that a thorough analysis was done. If the Minister will share that with me, and also I would just let her know that that is something I would like to share with residents of Fort Liard and the band council, the Metis Council as well as the Hamlet Council and maybe advise me, too, what she doesn't want to share. I don't believe I have actually seen that analysis, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, I will undertake to do that. Thank you.

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

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As well, the Minister spoke about enhanced services and enhanced equipment. I know that those are just new to the Dehcho Health and Social Services, new to Fort Liard and new to Fort Simpson. What would be a good time period for her to assess how well the new equipment is working and helping with the services in the communities and regions? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, as the Member knows, we have busily rolled out the equipment into almost all communities in our Territories. We are training and we are introducing this new technology to staff and the residents because we need to get a buy-in from the people. I could assure the Member that we are evaluating the use of it. We are keeping track of data. I would be happy to share that with the Member in due course, hopefully three to six

months after that equipment comes into use. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 333-16(5):
PROCESS TO DETERMINE
RESPITE CARE PROGRAM FUNDING

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to follow up from my Member's statement earlier today when I talked about the relationship between the Minister and the standing committees on Social Programs and Priorities and Planning. How will the Minister include the Standing Committee on Social Programs? Perhaps, how is she including the committee and how will she include the committee in coming to a solution for priority funding and maintenance of respite services in Yellowknife and the Northwest Territories? Thank you.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Member knows that we just went through a preview of the business plan process for 2011-12. That is the normal process. We reviewed those with the Standing Committee on Social Programs. Mr. Speaker, I do admit that THAF and THSSI funding worked in a different process, because, as I said before, it is one large transfer from the federal government outside of the main budget, it had to come through supplementary appropriation.

With regard to going forward on this territorial respite care program, I would be happy to meet with the Members as soon as possible to discuss that further, because we need to add the money to next year's budget.

MR. BROMLEY: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the Minister's comments there. Just for confirmation, will the Minister recognize Members' advice on this, that it is clearly a priority and it needs to be treated as a priority, and will she commit to bringing some solutions forward when next we meet, I believe early in December? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Mr. Speaker, we always do and we will. I would be happy to appear before the committee in December. Thank you.

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

QUESTION 334-16(5):
RESPITE CARE PROGRAM
FUNDING REDUCTIONS

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to pick up where my colleague Mr. Bromley

left off, with some questions surrounding respite care again.

If you look at the Minister's intentions, they are good, expanding respite care around the Territory. Mr. Speaker and Members around this room and in this House will agree that is a noble goal to expand this respite program around the Territory. It was included in the business plans that the committee went through just about a month and a half ago, Mr. Speaker, but something happened between those business plans and a decision to get rid of the funding, the \$250,000.

I would like to ask the Minister, she mentioned THAF and THSSI funding being different, but did the department and did the authority not know during the business plans that the respite care program funding of \$250,000 was not a target when the committee met with the Minister back in September? Thank you.

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

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't want to be rude, but the way this Member keeps interpreting what I am saying and me answering, it makes everything so confusing. I will just try to clarify this. As the Member knows, it is true we just went through the business plan process. There was a budget there for respite care. Yes, of course, I knew what was in there. The department knows what was in there. Like I said before, that money has nothing to do with YAACL or respite care program for Yellowknife. I said that many times during the two weeks. That was money for respite care program for communities outside of Yellowknife. The money for YAACL comes through THAF or THSSI. We just approved that two days ago for year 2010-11. The reason why it didn't go through the main budget is because it is extra money we got from the federal government and they are being treated as a IV and V, which is accounting language that I don't want to get into, but we had to get it in as a supp. We approved that for \$250,000 for 2010-11. We just did that two days ago or whenever we did that, Mr. Speaker.

There is nothing confusing or unclear about this. We have two-year funding and we will work together, and I said that this morning, or this afternoon earlier, that we are going to come up with a territorial respite care program. We are going to combine the money we have. We are going to use the resources in the department to continue providing funding to the families. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: Yes, the Minister says \$250,000, there was two years of funding, but the reality is the respite care program for \$250,000 is only being funded for one year. I'd like to ask the Minister how she found out about the proposal to cut the \$250,000 out of that program. Mr. Speaker, she

talks about communication and coming back to the Standing Committee on Social Programs. I found out about this cut at my constituency meeting from a constituent. How did the Minister find out about it? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: The Member is right that we just approved \$250,000 under a supp appropriation for '10-11, because that's how we do our budgeting. We approve one year at a time. The budget for '11-12 has not been before this House. Now, because we have gotten money, on a time-limited basis for THSSI and we found, like I said before, we pay for doctors, nurse practitioners and everything else, all of the authorities are working together to see how we transition and we exit out of some of this funding. So that's under discussion and that hasn't been before this House, Mr. Speaker. The authorities are working together with the department on how we transition those. Thank you.

MR. RAMSAY: The Minister didn't answer the question I had. I mentioned in my previous question I found out about the funding cut at my constituency meeting. How did the Minister find out about it? Was it at her constituency meeting or did some of her staff actually tell her that this was in fact going to happen, Mr. Speaker? Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: As the Member knows, the authority communicated to YACL and said that this funding program was ending and they would like to work on a transition program and an exit strategy. They proposed to the association that we should work on doing an evaluation, which are all the things that the authority should be doing when a program is expiring. I have approached the association to see how we can work on this exit program and those kinds of discussions continue. The important point today is that we will continue to discuss with YACL on how we exit this Yellowknife program, because as a government we would like to work on one territorial respite care program and I will be coming forward with it to the standing committee on how we go about doing that. If we use THSSI money for '11-12, that's an option. The important thing is everybody has made it clear to us that this is an important program not only for Yellowknife but for everywhere and if we make that decision, then that has to come through the main budgeting process and it's a priority decision. That's something I can only do with the support of the Members from the other side. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Time for question period has expired. I'll allow the Member a final, short supplementary. Mr. Ramsay.

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The THSSI money that the Minister talks about, somebody somewhere made the decision to spend all that money on the Foundation for Change and, Mr. Speaker, I've spoken many times about the government's inability to deal with the root causes

that are plaguing the health care system in the Northwest Territories, the unfunded positions and the list goes on. I'd like to ask the Minister who made the decision to spend all the money on the Foundation for Change, because that discussion never took place with the Members of this House. That was a decision by somebody else, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you. The Member is once again mixing up the message, misinterpreting. Mr. Speaker, we've had detailed discussions, and the Members and standing committee know this. THSSI funding is a major initiative by the federal government. We've spent medical travel out of that, we pay for our doctors, we pay for specialists, we pay for midwives, we pay for dialysis, we pay for diagnostic imaging. Mr. Speaker, should I repeat that 10 more times? The Member will not hear this. We pay a lot of money on that. It's wrong when he says that we don't know how we are spending this money, you're spending on brick walls, you're spending on Foundation for Change. Mr. Speaker, he has a right to ask questions, but he has no right to misinterpret and spread myth out there, Mr. Speaker. He has to stop. That's just not helping the public.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Item 8, written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

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

---Unanimous consent denied

MR. SPEAKER: Item 9, returns to written questions. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

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

---Unanimous consent denied

MR. SPEAKER: Item 10, replies to opening address. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

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

---Unanimous consent denied

MR. SPEAKER: Item 11, petitions. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

Petitions

PETITION 8-16(5):
RESPITE SERVICES IN THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to present a petition dealing with the matter of respite services in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Speaker, the petition contains 1,255 handwritten signatures and 552 electronic signatures. Of those, 1,756 signatories identified themselves as residents of the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, the petitioners request that the Government of the Northwest Territories commit permanent funding for respite services across the Northwest Territories before the cancellation of any existing services. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. Item 12, reports of standing and special committees. Item 13, reports of committees on the review of bills. Item 14, tabling of documents. The honourable Minister responsible for Industry, Tourism and Investment, Mr. Bob McLeod.

Tabling of Documents

TABLED DOCUMENT 116-16(5):
2009-2010 RESULTS REPORT: GRANT AND
CONTRIBUTIONS PROGRAM

TABLED DOCUMENT 117-16(5):
GROWING FORWARD: REPORT ON
CONTRIBUTIONS 2009-2010

HON. BOB MCLEOD: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following two documents entitled 2009-2010 Results Report, Grant and Contributions Programs; and Growing Forward, Report on Contributions 2009-2010. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 118-16(5):
INTERIM REPORT ON THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST
TERRITORIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED
MARCH 31, 2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I wish to table the following document entitled Interim Report on the Public Accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories for the Year Ended March 31, 2010. Thank you.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 119-16(5):
AURORA COLLEGE
2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT

HON. JACKSON LAFFERTY: Mahsi, Mr. Speaker. I wish to table the following document entitled Aurora College, 2009-2010 Annual Report. Mahsi, Mr. Speaker.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 120-16(5):
OCTOBER 22, 2010, LETTER FROM RUTH
ADAMCHICK, PROGRAM COORDINATOR FOR
YELLOWKNIFE FAMILY CENTRE,
ON SUPPORT FOR YAACL'S FUNDING FOR
RESPITE CARE SERVICES

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a document from the program coordinator at the Yellowknife Family Centre in support of the Yellowknife Association for Community Living's existing respite program.

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

TABLED DOCUMENT 121-16(5):
"TOO MANY ESPRESSO BEANS"
BY B.T. HALL

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to table a document, or I should say it's actually a book. It's Too Many Espresso Beans and it's written by a constituent of mine, Brad Hall, and he is a young man who has autism and he's written a book to show the courage and strength he's had and abilities to deal with the autism. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins.

TABLED DOCUMENT 122-16(5):
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT
AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2010

Pursuant to Section 21 of the Human Rights Act, I wish to table the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission 2009-2010 Annual Report.

Pursuant to 100 of the Financial Administration Act, I wish to table the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Financial Statements at March 31, 2010.

Item 15, notices of motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

Notices of Motion

MOTION 28-16(5):

PROVISION OF RESPITE CARE SERVICES

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 5, 2010, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories commit permanent funding for respite care services across the Northwest Territories before the cancellation of any existing services.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you.

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

MOTION 29-16(5):

DISSOLUTION OF THE 16TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I give notice that on Friday, November 5, 2010, I will move the following motion: Now therefore I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Governor-in-Council to dissolve the 16th Legislative Assembly on September 4, 2011, to permit a general election for the 17th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to be held on October 3, 2011.

Mr. Speaker, at the appropriate time, I will be seeking unanimous consent to deal with this motion today. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Bisaro. Item 16, notices of motion for first reading of bills. Item 17, motions. The honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Mr. Krutko.

Motions

MOTION 24-16(5):

LOWER MAXIMUM UNIT RENTS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING, CARRIED

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS maximum unit rents for public housing are determined for each community and calculated by dividing the number of units in a community by the total operating and maintenance costs of the community housing organization;

AND WHEREAS maximum unit rents are often very high because the number of units in a community is small and operating costs are extremely high;

AND WHEREAS very high maximum unit rents are a substantial deterrent to tenants and often make earning increased income a very unattractive option which is inconsistent with the stated goals of the Housing Corporation;

AND WHEREAS the maximum unit rents could be lowered if unit rents were determined on a regional or even a territorial basis;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Nahendeh, that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the Minister responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation undertake the regional analysis and policy changes needed to establish a significantly lower maximum rent schedule for public housing units;

AND FURTHER, that the Minister provide the proposed changes to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure no later than April 1, 2011.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

---Unanimous consent granted

MOTION 28-16(5):

PROVISION OF RESPITE CARE SERVICES, CARRIED

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS the Department of Health and Social Services and the regional health and social services authorities currently provide respite care services;

AND WHEREAS respite care services support the goal of keeping families together by relieving stress on primary caregivers;

AND WHEREAS the cost of these respite care services is much less than the cost of institutional care for disabled children and adults;

AND WHEREAS without respite care services some of these individuals with disabilities might become institutionalized and the responsibility of the Department of Health and Social Services;

AND WHEREAS without respite care services these families may have to rely on more costly programs, such as Income Support, foster care,

health care and programs offered through child and family services;

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Health and Social Services stated in her report, "Foundation for Change," that respite care services for families with special needs and disabled children would be expanded;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories commit permanent funding for respite care services across the Northwest Territories before the cancellation of any existing services.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. The honourable Member for Great Slave, Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be quick. We've heard an awful lot today about the value of respite services. These services offer the families an opportunity to care for their children, and rest, and get their children socialized into society.

I attended a Yellowknife Association for Community Living meeting shortly after it came down that the program in Yellowknife had been cancelled. I was pleased at that meeting that I had the opportunity to listen to a young man with autism stand up and speak about how valuable this program is to him. At that time, he stood up and said respite workers helped him to socialize. They helped teach him social skills. They helped teach him how to build relationships. They go on visits in the community with him. They get him out into the community and provide opportunities in the community.

Not having respite would mean this individual would not learn these important skills, Mr. Speaker. He indicated that he would have a lonely life without respite.

I've talked with other individuals who have children with intellectual challenges. One family told me that they can't understand why some people are even thinking about removing this funding, especially when it's working to include their children into society. Losing this program tells them that the people around them, that society is turning their backs on these families and their children. They are concerned that they might have to go on antidepressants. They are concerned that their children will have to go into the hospital. They are concerned that they will have to use other aspects of the system, which will ultimately cost the entire system more money.

This is a cheaper way of providing support, important support to these families. I think it's

incredibly important that the department stand up, find the \$250,000 for the Yellowknife program but also, as promised in Foundation for Change, find ways to provide greater levels of respite service to persons with intellectual challenge in the communities throughout the Northwest Territories. That's what this motion talks to. Don't cut what we already have and find ways to support those programs in the communities. Frankly, I'm concerned that if we are willing to cut such a fantastic proven program in Yellowknife, the next step is to cut respite services in the communities.

So let's not make that mistake, let's get it right, let's find the funding, let's make sure that we continue to provide respite to those citizens in the Northwest Territories who need it.

I will, of course, be supporting the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. I will go to the seconder of the motion, the Member for Weledeh, Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to take a few minutes to really speak to the benefits of respite services in the words of the people themselves. I want to start with expressions of benefits about the family members who have disabilities. What are they gaining from the respite services we currently provide and are talking about discontinuing? A break from their families. That seems odd, but if you think about it, you can understand that pretty quickly: the opportunity to develop social skills and aptitudes, relationship building, concepts, learning opportunities, partnerships, new opportunities for all kinds of things, leadership and organizational skills, community membership, the opportunity to become more active, to increase their resilience.

Respite workers replace extended family members when none are present. We know the North has many families that have moved from their communities and don't have extended families present. Trust and undivided attention to family members with disabilities. Again, that's certainly understandable when the Member is from a large family.

Let me talk briefly about some of the benefits enjoyed by the parents and siblings of a family member with a disability. The opportunity to reboot or recharge. It's a vital break. It's my only break. Physical and emotional break. It's a chance to rebound. It's a chance to paint a room, to go grocery shopping or simply go for a walk. It's a chance for family or adult conversation. It's a chance to do homework in peace. It provides new hope. It's a time to remember who we are and reconnect with self. It helps with challenges. It's simply a godsend. Respite services make us better parents, provides the knowledge that family members with a disability are, indeed, safe during that time. It's a chance to

take a deep breath. It's a chance of a normal life in our abnormal circumstances. It's an opportunity for night classes, which would, of course, equal better employment opportunities and perhaps better care for their families.

Even respite services have benefits to share with us: ultimate joy, peaceful feeling of satisfaction. Their work is making a huge difference. They're providing a needed service. They feel fortunate. They're offering people an opportunity to be part of their community, and they have developed close relationships with families, including family members with disabilities.

These issues raised represent fundamental needs of families dealing with real situations. It's a chance to shop for groceries, to go for a walk, to look after the real basics. Failure to deal with this need could result in an escalation of related health and social issues with much greater but avoidable costs.

As legislators and representatives of the people, we face a continuing challenge on how to allocate our resources, on how to balance the many demands and needs with the realities of what is available. In the case of respite services, we have heard from people in a very personal way that provides the clarity needed for decision-making. It is clear today that the balance we seek includes the decision to put priority on funding respite services. The Minister has expressed an understanding of the situation.

Mr. Speaker, I support this motion and will expect to see this government give an appropriate and specific response in the budget presented this coming February with a clear solution to providing uninterrupted and ongoing respite services where cuts are currently planned and ongoing or enhanced support throughout the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

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

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the motion that's before us today for many of the reasons that have been articulated by my colleagues Mr. Bromley and Mr. Abernethy.

I, too, would just like to mention a few of the benefits of a strong respite care service in our community: integrated availability back into the community, social skills, relationship building, positive learning experiences, resiliency, helping families stay strong.

Mr. Speaker, a stated goal of this government is strong, vibrant communities. Mr. Speaker, respite care services are an integral part of us having strong, healthy communities.

Mr. Speaker, we didn't get a chance to communicate with the Minister on the funding cut to the respite care program and, Mr. Speaker, that's a real shame. It's a shame that we had to find out via

alternative means; like I mentioned earlier, my constituency meeting. That's not how things should work, Mr. Speaker. Things should work much more cohesively than that. We should be able to have a dialogue with the Minister and with the government when it comes to proposed funding cuts. We shouldn't have to learn at a constituency meeting, especially a service like the respite care program that is the target of a reduction.

Mr. Speaker, that's just not on with me. It does give the impression that decision-makers do not care about the program. I find it unfathomable that the government could not come up with a plan to deliver respite care service in the Northwest Territories prior to deciding to spend the \$250,000 somewhere else without even telling us. That's a shame, Mr. Speaker.

Again, this motion points us back in the right direction and hopefully we can start a new, better era of communications with the Minister on how we move this forward. I certainly, Mr. Speaker, want to work with my colleagues on this side of the House and the Minister and the government on making positive change in people's life, and I think respite care services and the respite care program certainly lead us in that direction.

I want to thank the mover of the motion and the seconder for bringing that forward today. And all the families and folks that were in the audience today, thank you very much for your support. Thank you.

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

MR. KRUTKO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be supporting the motion with the understanding that we will expand this program throughout the Northwest Territories. It's pretty hard to elaborate on a program that you can't see the benefit of because you don't have it. I think in a lot of our communities we don't have the luxury of having this program in our communities. The program we have is an elderly person, the family takes care of them day in and day out. They get stressed out. They can't take care of themselves and the elder. It comes to a point that the health provider will come in and say, okay, we're taking that person out of your home, we're taking them to Inuvik to the long-term care facility. That's the respite care service we've been provided. That should not be the case.

We have individuals in our communities, young individuals who are disabled, who have special needs. Again, the services they get are being provided by the family members in those communities, and that should not be the way that these programs are being delivered. We have to have a universal health care system in the Northwest Territories that accommodates all needs and users of these different programs regardless of where you live.

I was frustrated to hear the Minister say, well, we have a program in the Inuvik region. But it's in Inuvik. Mr. Speaker, I have 20, 35 individuals in my three communities I represent -- Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic -- who are disabled. What do we have there to offer those people? What's there to offer to assist the families so that they can also take advantage of those programs and be able to take some time out and also get some relief?

Mr. Speaker, it's critical that this government starts looking within the confines of the Northwest Territories that benefits all Northerners, that benefits 33 communities. Yes, it's a challenge, but the challenge of the Northwest Territories and the resilient people of the North, we are used to challenges and we are used to being able to help each other out and support each other, and more importantly, those people who are vulnerable individuals in our society because they have special needs or are disabled or the elderly.

Mr. Speaker, it's critical that this government puts the resources where they're needed to implement this program throughout the Northwest Territories, and because of that requirement of the motion, I will be supporting the motion with that understanding that this program will be expanded to include other communities in the Northwest Territories; not just the larger centres, not the regional centres: communities. And when I say communities, I mean 33 communities. I hope this government hears me loud and clear and let's expand this program to assist all people in need throughout the Northwest Territories. Thank you.

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this motion. For me, the preamble, the whereas clauses of this motion say it all. The government keeps saying that we value families, that we want to support families, but I find this is a very strange way of showing it by cutting a program of such value.

Further, this action flies in the face of the recently tabled report on the review of the Child and Family Services Act. Throughout that report there's a recurring theme of the need for provision of supports for families and communities. How can the Minister of Health and Social Services accept the Child and Family Services Act report, acknowledge the value of it, if the philosophy of these two actions are so totally different? On the one hand I feel she's saying rip the supports out from underneath our families in the NWT. On the other hand she's saying let's provide the supports needed.

For me it can't be said often enough that the effects of cancellation of this program will only add to our growing health care costs, care for the children and, potentially, care necessary for the parents when they reach the end of their rope. The Minister says

she is working to find a solution to keep the program going. That's very good to hear. But not all solutions that I've heard so far are okay. One suggestion has been for parents to use voluntary support agreements to get the respite care their child needs. Will that mean that the child will have a steady respite worker? Will there be a worker at all? How safe can the parent feel when, in the wisdom of Social Services and their assessment of the safety and security of the child in his or her own home, the child could be apprehended? There will always be that lurking thought in the mind of the parent. It is not an acceptable solution, Mr. Speaker. Yes, it provides access to dollars to get some respite for families, but it is stealing money from one pot to continue an essential service on the other hand.

I anticipate the plan that the Minister says she will bring to the committee in December. I certainly hope that it includes the recommendation of this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

MR. YAKELEYA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do thank the architects of this motion here. It is a very good motion. I will be supporting the motion.

Mr. Speaker, I want to speak in terms of the basic care of respite care in the Northwest Territories, mainly in terms of the second whereas in this motion is to support the goal of keeping families together, as the Member, my colleague, Ms. Bisaro has stated, we need to focus on this goal in terms of one of our supports for families and also support the communities to keep their children as close to home as possible.

Mr. Speaker, we also need to look at the high cost of this program in our smaller communities. I understand that there is a program in Deline that they are working on. Due to the high cost of travel, training and staff, it gets quite costly to have programs like this in our communities. However, we need to look beyond the cost of health care in some of our remote communities and look at a coordinated approach as the motion speaks to having permanent funding right across the whole Northwest Territories. That is the basis I look at this motion in my support for that.

Mr. Speaker, some of our health boards have to make some tough decisions in terms of services that we provide in our communities with the amount of limited dollars that we have, as Ms. Bisaro spoke about in terms of stealing from one pot to support another program. That isn't the way we should be looking at health care to our people in our communities.

I want to say, Mr. Speaker, that this program is dearly needed in our communities as in other

communities. I want to say that this program here certainly does help our families and our people in our communities, and that we need to look at this seriously and not have any programs cut to this program in terms of some have and some have not in terms of a health care system being developed.

Mr. Speaker, I will be supporting this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. To the motion. The honourable Member for Hay River South, Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, would like to speak in favour of this motion. I think that my colleagues have very clearly and well expressed the benefits of respite care for families that are caring for family members that may have special needs.

Mr. Speaker, I have actually been in a situation where I had an opportunity, really a privilege of caring for a couple of adults in my home that were intellectually challenged. Mr. Speaker, it is a very rewarding task but it can be very isolating. It wasn't long after I had these two individuals come into my home that I started to notice that my phone wasn't ringing so much anymore. People weren't inviting me over for dinner or inviting us over as a family. Sometimes people can become and can develop a sense of isolation. They feel that they are in this alone. That is a feeling that needs to be avoided at all costs.

Mr. Speaker, when I hear my colleagues speaking out what works here in Yellowknife and other colleagues speaking out what we need in the small communities, Mr. Speaker, I think we need to take a creative approach to this. I think we need to look at the family unit. I think we need to look at the individual that needs the care. We need to be creative in how we respond to that.

My colleague Mr. Yakeleya just referred to travel and training and staff. Maybe in some situations what is needed is for a caregiver to come into the home for a period of time so that the primary caregiver or family member can go out and do other things. Maybe it isn't about taking the family member with the challenges out of the home and taking them away someplace else. Maybe it is about bringing someone into the home, but in a sense I don't think that there is a one solution fits all scenarios approach that we can take to this.

When we do not have the same kind of critical base population, a formalized program may not be as easy to institute in a smaller community where we may be only talking about a few people. It may not be practical to take them away from their home communities. Maybe we need to be very sensitive to the individual circumstances and needs of families and individuals in crafting a program, but whatever we do, it will require money. It will require

resources. I am a very strong believer that sometimes very little by the way of support from our government can go a very long ways towards keeping the families together and allowing people to do what in their heart they really want to do, which is care for their loved ones, but at the same time, not end up burning themselves out or feeling like they have to give up their life to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I will support this. Again, I encourage our government as we go forward to adopt best practices, do what works for the individual clients and be there to support any way we can. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mrs. Groenewegen. To the motion. The honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Mr. Hawkins.

MR. HAWKINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In talking to parents about the change in programming with the deletion of the funding support for respite services, you can hear a parent tell me that respite has become a pillar in their family and their support mechanism. What has happened here is that pillar has held up many problems. It has provided them respite from stress. It has provided them respite from burnout. Mr. Speaker, the problem is that this pillar is now being chipped away and torn away. The family unit is feeling the pressure of that stress and they are approaching burnout.

Mr. Speaker, many families will tell you, as they have told me, that this is vital for the health of the family; not just health of their young adult that lives at home or the health of their child that lives at home, but it affects the full family. It affects the children that are being ignored because the priority of the family is always focused in on this one particular person. It affects the communication between two adults, the mom and the dad who try to find balance and a break and make sense of everything.

Could you imagine what this stress is like every day? Every single day. There are no holidays from having a child who has, for example, autism, or other developmental issues. There is no holiday. It is every day. You have to find ways to work through it and people have strength. I cannot imagine how they handle and manage it. I have seen individuals when it comes to families deal with these particular challenges in ways I have no way of comprehending, but respite services have provided them the much needed break to make sense of their world.

You will ask a lot of parents, and I have no doubt that people have, especially my colleagues on this side of the House, and the parents will tell you that many of them feel blessed to be given the chance to be the heroes of these children, to be blessed to be parents of these children who have problems. They are looking for this support and help.

Mr. Speaker, we are not talking about the little brothers or the sisters or the big brothers and sisters that get ignored in this process because the focus is typically on the one child, worrying about the day-to-day issues. Mr. Speaker, many people will tell you about the developmental and social skills that come forward through this program. You can hear stories and voices from parents and even the kids themselves of saying that they built a relationship. They learned to communicate better. They learned to have fun with the respite worker.

Mr. Speaker, this is not something we want to take away. Mr. Speaker, we have a program that is working and it is almost as if the government wants to sabotage that progress that government has made for these families by taking it away. Again, the struggle is turning back the clock. Where are we going next? People believe this was the next step and new hope for families, and yet taking respite away and providing no clear solution and no clear direction is not the way we should be communicating to our people.

Mr. Speaker, respite is a chance to have the normal moments in an un-normal day, where your normal day is full of stress and burden. It gives you that chance to take a deep breath and say what is important. I need to make sure that I am healthy so I can take care of the person that they love. Mr. Speaker, we often forget about the little things, but how many little things are forgotten in this equation? How easy is it to bring someone on an airplane? How easy is it to take someone to the movies? How easy is it to go to the playground? How easy it is to have, as Mrs. Groenewegen said, friends over? We forget about these little things these families are willing to sacrifice for the love of their children, for the love of their brothers and sisters who struggle every day.

Mr. Speaker, the government did the right thing through the THAF funding by supporting parents through the respite services. I believe strongly, and the voices of my constituents are correct, that the government is now doing the wrong thing by this approach. If we care as much as we say we do, we will show that deleting the line item of support for respite services is not the measured way to go.

Mr. Speaker, I will leave with this. If we can imagine our worst day when we are burnt out, whether it is due to arguments in the House or just silly things, and we go home and think about how life cannot get worse, all I can imagine is imagine what it is like to be a parent who struggles with these challenges day in and day out. Now double that stress. Triple that stress. That is probably considered a normal day. But yet they look forward to the ray of sunshine, the crack in the door of hope that has someone coming in and giving them a break so they can get the rest and take care of their own sanity at the same time, Mr. Speaker. It means they

do not love their child any less by having help, but they have the courage of reaching out and accepting that help. That help is being taken away, Mr. Speaker. That is what bothers me very much. That, I can tell you, bothers a lot of constituents. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Hawkins. To the motion. The honourable Member for Nahendeh, Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of the motion for the provision of respite care services. I would like to thank the Yellowknife Association for Community Living for their wonderful pamphlet they provided and I was able to read through it.

I do concur there are so many success stories for the 29 families here in Yellowknife. However, like my colleague Mr. Krutko had indicated, in the regions and communities, our stories are much different. We do have the same needs and our families do have needs. In one of my communities there was a disabled child that could not stay in that small community because the services did not exist. That child is being well taken care of now down south. However, had we had territorial-wide respite care services, I believe maybe that story could have been different too, Mr. Speaker.

But I am pleased with the debate and the discussion here today and a semi-commitment by the Minister of Health and Social Services to review the needs and review the respite program in the upcoming budget session. I, too, await the discussion and debate that she is going to have with the Standing Committee on Social Programs as we move forward for the rest of this year.

I do like to see that a motion of this nature is a united voice of all Regular Members on this side on the importance of this issue. Once again, I would just like to say what is important for me is to expand this successful program that is here in Yellowknife to the communities and regions. In terms of how government pursues cost savings, Mr. Speaker, cost savings are for getting rid of programs and services that do not work, Mr. Speaker, not for the ones that are achieving success and our people really like and it is kind of like...

---Applause

Thank you, colleagues. I offer that to government. Those are the ones you want to cut, the ones that don't work and not the ones that do work, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to, once again, standing in support of this motion. Thank you. Mahsi cho.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Menicoche. To the motion. The honourable Minister of Health and Social Services, Ms. Lee.

HON. SANDY LEE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank the Members for their comments

on the motion. I would also like to thank the respite care families and their children and clients who came to the gallery today. As this motion is a recommendation to the government, we will consider and respond to the motion accordingly.

Mr. Speaker, over the past two weeks there has been a great deal of concern regarding the Yellowknife Association for Community Living's respite care program funding. Respite for families with disabled children is important for many who are currently in the program and will continue to be in future for families in Yellowknife and in communities across the Northwest Territories.

Over the past three years the department supported, through the government's strategic investment initiative Building our Future funding, a piloted respite care program in a few communities outside of Yellowknife, communities with fewer support resources for families. We also have had a pilot program we had for the families in Yellowknife through YACL. YACL is funded until March 2011. The department will take this opportunity to work with YACL and Yellowknife Health and Social Services Authority to develop an exit strategy from a Yellowknife-specific program. Furthermore, the department will develop a proposal and implementation plan for a territorial-wide respite service program. This will ensure families in Yellowknife continue to have respite support while we expand the program to other NWT communities and families.

Mr. Speaker, as everyone knows, we are under a huge fiscal pressure. Options we will look at would include using and maximizing the existing resources in the department. Mr. Speaker, the department's work and oversight of a territorial respite program will be prepared for the next budget cycle. I will also seek support from all Members for inclusion in the future business plans. I look forward to coming to the Standing Committee on Social Programs to discuss the issue and this programming more in detail. Mr. Speaker, as we present and debate the next budget, we will have many difficult choices to make, choices over which programs to find alternative funding mechanisms for and which to stop will be ours collectively to make. We must also consider reasonable and fair program access for all communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms. Lee. I will go to the mover of the motion for closing comments. Mr. Abernethy.

MR. ABERNETHY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to thank all of my colleagues for their words. Clearly, respite services are important to the Members of this House. We need to continue to provide respite. I agree with the Minister; there are huge financial challenges, but we are talking about a couple of hours a week for these families. What is

the cost of a program like this when you factor in what it is costing for somebody like Yellowknife Association for Community Living to deliver those two or three hours as opposed to having the families work with other institutions like our hospitals, where I guarantee you those same hours are going to cost this system significantly more.

I am a little concerned by the reference to an exit strategy. We have an organization that has proven time and time again how to run a respite program for persons with intellectual challenges, for children and families.

In my opening or my Member's statement earlier today, I talked about the families a little bit. I talked about their desire for respite. They are not asking this government for help because they are incapable of caring for their children. They are capable. They are asking for some support to help them for short periods of time. This time will allow them to recharge so that they can care for themselves.

Mr. Speaker, in 2005, the current Minister asked the Minister-of-the-day to maintain the respite program delivered by the Yellowknife Association for Community Living and to expanding to communities outside of Yellowknife. That, Mr. Speaker, is what we are asking the Minister today to do. Keep YACL programs alive and expand respite to all the communities in the Northwest Territories. It is the right thing. The Minister already said she supports respite. Let's do the right thing, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to request a recorded vote on this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Abernethy. The Member is requesting a recorded vote.

RECORDED VOTE

Madam Clerk. All those in favour of the motion, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK OF COMMITTEES (Ms. Knowlan): Mr. Abernethy, Mr. Menicoche, Mr. Ramsay, Mrs. Groenewegen, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Hawkins, Mr. Jacobson, Ms. Bisaro, Mr. Yakeleya, Mr. Krutko, Mr. Bromley.

MR. SPEAKER: All those opposed to the motion, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

PRINCIPAL CLERK OF COMMITTEES (Ms. Knowlan): Mr. Lafferty; Ms. Lee; Mr. Miltenberger; Mr. Roland; Mr. McLeod, Deh Cho; Mr. McLeod, Yellowknife South.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Results of the motion: in favour, 11; opposed, 0; abstaining, 6. The motion is carried.

---Carried

---Applause

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

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I seek unanimous consent to deal with the motion I gave notice of earlier today.

---Unanimous consent granted

MOTION 29-16(5):
DISSOLUTION OF THE
16TH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
CARRIED

MS. BISARO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 2(3) of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and Section 9(3) of the Northwest Territories Act, every Legislative Assembly shall continue for four years after the day fixed for the return of the writ of election for the general election and no longer;

AND WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 39(5) of the Elections and Plebiscites Act, the Legislative Assembly has expressed a desire to have the general election held on the first Monday in October in the fourth calendar year following polling day for the last general election;

AND WHEREAS, under Section 9(3) of the Northwest Territories Act, the Governor-in-Council may at any time, after consultation with the Legislative Assembly, dissolve the Legislative Assembly thus causing a new Legislative Assembly to be elected;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Thebacha, that this Legislative Assembly requests the Governor-in-Council to dissolve the 16th Legislative Assembly on September 4, 2011, to permit a general election for the 17th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to be held on October 3, 2011.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

AN HON. MEMBER: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question is being called.

---Carried

Item 18, first reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

First Reading of Bills

BILL 21:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 4,
2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 21,

Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2009-2010, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. Bill 21 has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 22:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 5,
2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2009-2010, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. Bill 22 has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 23:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2,
2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2010-2011, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. Bill 23 has had first reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 24:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 4,
2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 24, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2010-2011, be read for the first time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. Bill 24 has had first reading.

---Carried

Item 19, second reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Second Reading of Bills

BILL 21:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 4,
2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2009-2010, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make operations expenditures for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Bill 21 has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 22:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES),
NO. 5, 2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2009-2010, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make infrastructure expenditures for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Bill 22 has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 23:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2,
2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2010-2011, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make operations expenditures for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Bill 23 has had second reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 24:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 4,
2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 24, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2010-2011, be read for the second time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes the Government of the Northwest Territories to make infrastructure expenditures for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. A motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the principle of the bill. Bill 24 has had second reading.

---Carried

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 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;" Table Document 103-16(5), GNWT Contracts Over \$5,000 Report, Year Ending March 31, 2010; Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Committee Report 3-16(5), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act; Committee Report 4-16(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories; Committee Report 5-16(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories; Committee Report 6-16(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General on

Education in the Northwest Territories; Minister's Statement 65-16(5), Devolution Agreement-in-Principle, Impact on Land Claims and Protection of Aboriginal Rights, with Mr. Krutko in the chair.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call the committee to order. We have several items to deal with: tabled documents 4, 30, 38, 62, 75, 103, Bill 4, committee reports 3, 4, 5, 6, Minister's Statement 65. What's the wish of the committee? Mrs. Groenewegen.

MRS. GROENEWEGEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The committee today would like to deal with committee reports 3, 4, 5, 6 and Tabled Document 30-16(5), time permitting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay, with that, we'll take a short break and get back with Committee Report 3-16(5).

---SHORT RECESS

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): I'd like to call Committee of the Whole back to order. Prior to the break we agreed we would begin with Committee Report 3-16(5), Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act. Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Social Programs presented its Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act: Building Stronger Families to this Assembly on October 21, 2010. Members had some opportunity for discussion earlier in this committee. I would now like to move the following motion: I move that this committee acknowledges...

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Thank you, Mr. Beaulieu. Are you making a motion?

MR. BEAULIEU: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): To the motion.

COMMITTEE MOTION 18-16(5):
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF
REPORT AND EXPRESSION OF SUPPORT IN
PRINCIPLE FOR FINDINGS AND
RECOMMENDATIONS IDENTIFIED,
CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: I move that this committee acknowledges the tremendous amount of time, effort and care that has gone into the development of the Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act: Building Stronger Families; and

further, that this committee wishes to express its support in principle for the findings and recommendations identified in the report.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Beaulieu.

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have another committee motion.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Beaulieu, go ahead with your motion.

COMMITTEE MOTION 19-16(5):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE
WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. BEAULIEU: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories table a comprehensive response to the Standing Committee on Social Programs Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act: Building Stronger Families within 120 days of its presentation to the House.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that concludes Committee Report 3-16(5)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Committee Report 3-16(5) is concluded.

We'll move on to Committee Report 4-16(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The Standing Committee on Government Operations presented its Report on the Review of the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to this House on Monday, November 1, 2010, and read it into the record. It contains five recommendations and if there are any general comments from Members, we can hear them now; otherwise, I would propose to move the following.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Any general comments to the report? No? Go ahead, Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 20-16(5):
IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS AND
DEPARTMENTAL FOLLOW-THROUGH
ON LANGUAGES BOARDS'
RECOMMENDATIONS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for Official Languages improves communications with the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board and the Official Languages Board or any future language board or committee, and provides written confirmation to the boards and to the Standing Committee on Government Operations with regard to departmental follow-through on the boards' recommendations.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 21-16(5):
SUPPORT FOR LANGUAGES BOARD AND
COMMITTEES REGARDING ROLES,
RESPONSIBILITIES AND INTERNAL ISSUES,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Minister responsible for Official Languages provides support to the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board and the Official Languages Board or any future languages boards or committees in regard to their roles and responsibilities and in dealing with issues internal to the board, such as attendance and quorum.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 22-16(5):
SERVICE-BASED MODEL,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories continues to move forward with the

concept of a service-based model as suggested in the proposed Official Languages Services Act.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 23-16(5):
FORMAL RESPONSE TO "SPEAKING OF
HEALTH: OFFICIAL LANGUAGES AS PART OF
QUALITY HEALTH CARE IN THE NWT"
TO LANGUAGES COMMISSIONER,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provides a formal, separate response to Speaking of Health: Official Languages as part of the quality health care in the Northwest Territories and that it also provides this response to the Languages Commissioner as soon as possible.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 24-16(5):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE
WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provides a comprehensive response to this report in 120 days.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that this concludes Committee Report 4-16(5)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Okay. We have concluded Committee Report 4-16(5).

With that, we'll move on to Committee Report 5-16(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2008-2009

Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations presented its Report on the Review of the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories to this House on Monday, November 1, 2010, and read into the record that it contains five recommendations. If there are any general comments from Members, we can hear them now; otherwise, I would propose to move the following.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Any general comments regarding the report? If not, Mr. Menicoche, go ahead with your motions.

COMMITTEE MOTION 25-16(5):
REVIEW OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION
AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY ACT,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories places a full review of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act on its legislative agenda.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 26-16(5):
ADDRESSING PRIVACY ISSUES AT
ORGANIZATIONAL DESIGN
STAGE AT PUBLIC BODIES,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that when the reorganization, amalgamation or formation of any public body is planned, that matters concerning privacy issues be considered and addressed at the organizational design stage.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 27-16(5):
ACCESS AND PRIVACY LEGISLATION,
ACCOUNTABILITY AND RULES
FOR USE AND DISCLOSURE OF
PERSONAL INFORMATION FOR
MUNICIPALITIES,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories enacts legislation that would make municipalities subject to access and privacy legislation would define accountability levels and would create practical rules regarding the gathering, use and disclosure of personal information about individuals by municipalities.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 28-16(5):
RECORDS MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES AND TRAINING,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories ensures that the same records management practices that are applied to paper records are applied to e-mail communications and that employees receive formal training and informal coaching on managing electronic records.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 29-16(5):
EDUCATING STUDENTS ON RISKS
ASSOCIATED WITH ON-LINE ACTIVITIES,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories give consideration to educating elementary and secondary students about the risks associated with on-line activities and that it provides specific information in school curricula about these risks and the precautions that should be taken in order for youth to reduce them.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 30-16(5):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE
WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provides a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does committee agree that we have concluded Committee Report 5-16(5)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We have concluded Committee Report 5-16(5).

With that, we'll move to Committee Report 6-16(5), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General on Education in the Northwest Territories. Mr. Menicoche.

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Chairman, the Standing Committee on Government Operations presented its Report on the Review of the Report of the Auditor General on Education in the Northwest Territories to the House on Monday, November 1, 2010, and read it into the record. It contains seven recommendations. If there are any general comments from Members, we can hear them now; otherwise, I would propose to move the following.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Any general comments regarding the report? No general comments. Mr. Menicoche, go ahead with your motions.

COMMITTEE MOTION 31-16(5):
DEPARTMENTAL ACTION PLAN
TO ADDRESS AUDITOR GENERAL'S
REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment accept all the recommendations contained in the Auditor

General's Report on Education in the Northwest Territories and proceed with an action plan to address these recommendations.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 32-16(5):
EVALUATION OF EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the planned evaluation of the Early Childhood Development Program includes a review of both strengths and weaknesses of the program outcomes; and further, that the evaluation also identifies performance indicators and a means to collect baseline information on children as they enter kindergarten; furthermore, that this information be used for ongoing monitoring and reporting to support and provide direction for the Early Childhood Development Program.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 33-16(5):
REVIEW OF ABORIGINAL LANGUAGE
AND CULTURE-BASED EDUCATION AND
INCLUSIVE SCHOOLING DIRECTIVES,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment reviews the Aboriginal Language and Culture-Based Education Directive as well as the Inclusive Schooling Directive in order to identify the strengths and weaknesses of both initiatives.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question has been called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 34-16(5):
REPORTING PERFORMANCE INDICATORS
BY CATEGORIES,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: I move that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment reports on performance indicators supporting the major categories such as education council, ethnicity and gender, with a recognition that it may sometimes be necessary to aggregate data to protect the privacy of individual students.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 35-16(5):
ASSESSING, MEASURING AND REPORTING ON
NEW PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Chair, I move that this committee recommends that when the Department of Education, Culture and Employment plans and designs a new program or initiative, that it identify the means to be used to assess, measure and report the program or initiative. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 36-16(5):
PROGRESS UPDATES ON IMPLEMENTATION
OF AUDITOR GENERAL'S RECOMMENDATIONS
TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SOCIAL PROGRAMS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Chair, I move that this committee recommends that the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment provide periodic updates on the progress of the implementation of the Auditor General's recommendations on education in the Northwest Territories through status reports to the Standing Committee on Social Programs. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Mr. Menicoche.

COMMITTEE MOTION 37-16(5):
COMPREHENSIVE RESPONSE
WITHIN 120 DAYS,
CARRIED

MR. MENICOCHÉ: Mr. Chair, I move that the committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this report within 120 days. Thank you.

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

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Question is being called.

---Carried

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): Does the committee agree that we have concluded Committee Report 6-16(5)?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Agreed.

CHAIRMAN (Mr. Krutko): We have concluded Committee Report 6-16(5).

We agreed, prior to this, that we would go to Tabled Document 30-16(5). Mr. Bromley.

MR. BROMLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to take a few moments today to discuss the process that will be followed to consider and debate the report of the Independent Commission to Review Members' Compensation and Benefits. I would be remiss if I didn't begin by thanking the commission members themselves for their detailed and thoughtful work.

The commission provided every Member of the House with opportunity to provide their thoughts and perspectives for the commission's consideration. Ample opportunity was also made for public participation. The commission members were Ed Gullberg, Leon Lafferty and Marion Burles. The commission was initially chaired by Mr. Garth Malakoe, prior to his appointment to the Territorial Court. It is obvious from the report that each of these individuals dedicated a great deal of time and effort to this work.

Mr. Chair, our Legislative Assembly has adopted a process for reviewing MLA compensation and benefits similar to that which exists in most Canadian and Commonwealth jurisdictions. Although the ultimate authority to enact legislation setting MLA compensation must rest with legislators themselves, those decisions are guided by review by an independent body at the beginning of every new Assembly. Our Assembly has also

adopted a custom whereby sitting MLAs never vote to change their own compensation. Changes to Members' compensation normally take effect at the commencement of the following Assembly. These two steps help lessen the necessary but unfortunate necessity of having MLAs determine their own compensation.

Mr. Chair, the report of the independent commission was tabled in this House on May 11, 2010. It was referred to Committee of the Whole on May 13, 2010, and has remained there since.

Mr. Chair, I think it's important that the public understand what the status of this report is. Following adjournment of the House this week, we will reconvene on February 8, 2011. At that time... Excuse me, Mr. Chair, we may convene on February 1, 2011. At that time, the report of the independent commission will remain on the orders of the day. In the intervening period, staff will complete their analysis of the commission's report and prepare draft legislation that can be considered in conjunction with the report. It makes sense to debate the report and any draft legislation falling out from the report at the same time, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Chair, I look forward to a full and thorough debate on the report of the independent commission when this House reconvenes in February. With that, Mr. Chair, I move that we report progress.

---Carried

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

Report of Committee of the Whole

MR. SPEAKER: Could I have the report of Committee of the Whole please, Mr. Krutko?

MR. KRUTKO: Mr. Speaker, committee has been considering Committee Report 3-16(5), Report on the Review of the Child and Family Services Act; Committee Report 4-16(5), Report on the Review of the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories; Committee Report 5-16(5), Report on the Review of the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Information Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories; Committee Report 6-16(5), Review of the Auditor General of Education in the Northwest Territories; and Tabled Document 30-16(5), 2010 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits, and would like to report progress with 20 motions being adopted and that committee reports 3, 4, 5 and 6 are concluded. Mr. Speaker, I move that the report of Committee of the Whole be concurred with.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Krutko. Motion is on the floor. Do you have a seconder? The honourable Member for Tu Nedhe, Mr. Beaulieu.

---Carried

Item 22, third reading of bills. The honourable Minister responsible for Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

Third Reading of Bills

BILL 21:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 4,
2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Range Lake, that Bill 21, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2009-2010, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. Bill 21 has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 22:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 5,
2009-2010

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Monfwi, that Bill 22, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 5, 2009-2010, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion. Bill 22 has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 23:
SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
(OPERATIONS EXPENDITURES), NO. 2,
2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Bill 23, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2010-2011, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. Bill 23 has had third reading.

---Carried

The honourable Minister of Finance, Mr. Miltenberger.

BILL 24:
 SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION ACT
 (INFRASTRUCTURE EXPENDITURES), NO. 4,
 2010-2011

HON. MICHAEL MILTENBERGER: I move, seconded by the honourable Member for Deh Cho, that Bill 24, Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 4, 2010-2011, be read for the third time. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Miltenberger. Motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. Bill 24 has had third reading.

---Carried

Mr. Clerk, orders of the day.

Orders of the Day

DEPUTY CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Schauerte): Mr. Speaker, orders of the day for Thursday, November 4, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Opening Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Tabling of Documents
15. Notices of Motion
16. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
17. Motions
 - Motion 25-16(5), Expanding Student Financial Assistance Program
 - Motion 26-16(5), Extended Adjournment of the House to February 2, 2010
 - Motion 27-16(5), Northern Management Regime for Land and Resources
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 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"
- Tabled Document 103-16(5), GNWT Contracts over \$5,000 Report, Year Ending March 31, 2010
- Bill 4, An Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act
- Minister's Statement 65-16(5), Devolution Agreement-in-Principle, Impact on Land Claims and Protection of Aboriginal Rights

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 Thursday, November 4, 2010, at 1:30 p.m.

---ADJOURNMENT

The House adjourned at 5:10 p.m.